

ANTH 2300-810/820: Culture and Society

Spring 2015

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Course Description: “Think like an anthropologist”

This course introduces students to the field of Socio-cultural Anthropology—the study of human cultures in their diversity and variation. Rather than providing a collection of facts about other cultures, however, this class attempts to provide a sense of the general approach anthropologists take when they study another culture. In other words, it focuses on how to ask intelligent questions, rather than providing an inventory of answers. Its aim is to lead you to “think like an anthropologist” as you reflect on other cultures as well as your own.

Notes about BlackBoard Design:

- The content you need for this class is all located on the left Sidebar Menu, including:
 - Announcements, where you will find pertinent information for the class.
 - This syllabus – one you can open in BlackBoard and one for downloading to your computer.
 - Each week’s lesson is accessible under “Units and Lessons.” The lessons are organized into three units. Each unit has five lessons.
 - The Discussions tab is where you will find the discussion forums that you will post to weekly.
 - The Quizzes and Exams, which are posted according to the release date indicated on the syllabus.
- **DO NOT use the BlackBoard MESSAGE** system to send e-mails to your instructor or TA. Rather, use E-Mail found in the sidebar or use your preferred email account to send a message.
- You need to **check daily your unt.edu e-mail address** OR have your UNT e-mail forwarded to your preferred account (gmail, Hotmail, yahoo, etc.), which you will check daily.

Required Readings

1. Ember, Carol and Melvin Ember. 2015. Cultural Anthropology (14th edition), Prentice Hall: Boston.
2. Annual Editions 14/15 (AE): Anthropology. 2013.

Course Objectives

1. To introduce students to the basic concepts and methods of sociocultural anthropology
2. To expose students to the richness and diversity of human life as it has been lived in the past and present
3. To develop and encourage critical thinking skills, especially as related to living in a diverse and globalizing society
4. To make students aware of the contributions of anthropology to public discourse and public policy
5. To make students aware of the ethical dimensions of anthropology

Course Requirements

Each Week:

This course is divided into 16 weeks, with an associated lesson, readings, quizzes and assignments for each one. For this class, each “week” will run from Wednesday to Tuesday. Thus, although UNT’s official first day of classes for the Spring semester is January 20, this course’s first week will start on Wednesday, January 21. The second week will start on January 28, and so forth.

On most “weeks,” your lesson and related information will be available on Wednesday by mid-day. The quiz will be available on Wednesday and due on Sunday of most weeks. In addition, each week, you will be required to post to the discussion board, due on Monday of most weeks, and post a response by Tuesday of most weeks. Read the information below and see the schedule at the end of this syllabus for more information.

Introductory Exercise:

Follow the instructions given in the “Lesson One – Orientation” for the details on these assignments due your first class week.

- First, follow the instructions given in the “Class Map assignment.”
- Then, follow the instructions given in the “Class Roster assignment” to post a photo of yourself.
- Finally, create a discussion post for the Introductions – Lesson One discussion forum.
- You will earn two points for completing each assignment, for a total of 4 points possible.

Quizzes:

- You will have 13 quizzes this semester.
- The quizzes are comprised of eight true/false questions.
- The questions cover the two articles from your Annual Editions reader assigned for that week; four questions will come from each reading.
- Quizzes will be open and available to take starting on Wednesday of each week. On most weeks, quizzes will be due on Sunday. However, during Spring Break and weeks with exams, you will have a different due date. Be sure to read carefully the schedule at the end of this syllabus and also watch for announcements to tell you of a change in due date.
- You will have 15 minutes to take the quiz once you have started it.
- You won’t be able to submit any answers after the 15 minutes are up.

Exams:

- You will have three exams. Check the Schedule in this syllabus and note when each will be due.
- Once you start a test, you have 60 minutes to finish it. However, if you choose to wait until the last minute, the exam will automatically end at 11:59 PM.
- My advice: don’t start a test unless you’re SURE you can finish it. And DON’T wait until the last minute, as Blackboard often undergoes scheduled and unscheduled maintenance.
- If you wait until the last hour to take the test, AND your computer happens to crash at that same time, I won’t be sympathetic—in that case, you’ll have to miss that test.
- Test questions will consist of multiple choice questions.
- No exam will be cumulative.
- No study guides will be provided; however, a list of vocabulary terms for the online content will be provided. Vocabulary words for the textbook can be found at the back of each chapter.

- Make-ups will not be given unless students approach their instructor with a University-excused absence BEFORE the scheduled test. No exceptions.
- Students may not reschedule exams because of out-of-town trips and/or plane reservations.

Tips on Taking an Exam in BlackBoard:

Per BlackBoard and the UNT IT support staff's recommendations, **when taking an online exam, you should:**

- **Avoid using WiFi** for exams unless you are absolutely certain of its reliability – AND, if using a public space, **ensure that it will be available for the entire time** that you have set aside to take the exam.
- **Take your exam using a supported web browser (Chrome is recommended) on a computer or laptop** rather than using an iPad.
- **Take your exam between 8 am and midnight when the UNT IT Helpdesk is open and available for assistance.**

Technical Issues during Exams or Quizzes:

If you have any technical difficulties during an exam or quiz, follow these procedures:

1. Take a print screen capture of the issue
2. Contact the Student Blackboard HelpDesk at 940-565-2324
3. Give them the following info:
Student EUID, Name & Section of the Course: Anth 2300 Culture & Society 810, 820
4. Once you have a ticket number from the HelpDesk, send it to your TA
5. Your TA will follow up with you once the HelpDesk confirms the situation.

Discussion posts:

- Each week, you will be assigned two readings from the Annual Editions (AE) reader. You will have to submit a one paragraph (at least three sentences) reflection on each reading and a one paragraph response to one other student's post (per reading). The idea is to create a dialog between you and your fellow students regarding issues raised in the readings.
- You must submit your original post for each reading by Monday at 11:30 pm. You will get one point per post, so two points are possible for posting each week with the 2 AE articles assigned.
- You must respond to another student's post for each reading by Tuesday at 11:30 pm. You will get one point per response, so two points are possible for responding each week with the 2 AE articles assigned.
- Try to "think like an anthropologist". Think about what stood out to you in the article. What aspects of the featured culture did you find interesting? Why? How did they relate to the readings or to the weekly course themes? Be specific. Don't just state facts from the articles - reflect on them. Quote from the readings to support what you are saying.
- For those who may not have participated in online discussions before, it's definitely okay to have different opinions from others; in fact, that's part of what can make online discussions so rich and vibrant. Just remember to address those differences in a professional manner. If you have a different opinion or idea about something, support what you are saying with evidence from the article or your own experiences.

Evaluation Summary

Introductory Exercises	1+1+2 = 4 Points Total
Quizzes	13 quizzes x 8 points = 104 Points Total
Exams	3 exams x 80 points= 240 Points Total
Discussion Posts/Responses	13 AE articles x 4 points = 52 Points Total

How to Calculate Your Grade:

There will be a total of 400 points available in this class. To calculate your grade, you divide the number of points you have received by the number of points possible at any given point in time.

For example, if you are at Week Six, then we have had: the introductory exercise (4 points), 1 exam (80 points total), 3 quizzes (24 points total) and 6 AE discussion posts/responses (12 points total), making for 120 points possible so far. If you received 4 points on the introductory exercise, 75 points on the exam; 8 points on quiz 1, 5 points on quiz 2, and 7 points on quiz 3; and 10 points for the discussion posts/responses, then you've accumulated 109 points. 109 divided by 120 is 91%, an A in the course so far.

Withdrawal:

If you can't complete the course, you have to withdraw by the University's deadline for a "W" (after this date, you'd receive either a "WP" or a "WF"). Withdrawing from a course is a formal procedure that YOU must initiate. I can't do it for you. If you simply stop attending and do not withdraw, you will receive a performance grade, usually an "F." The withdrawal deadlines can be found at: <http://registrar.unt.edu/regISTRATION/spring-registration-guide>

Your primary responsibility as a student is to master the material presented in Blackboard and in the readings and do well in the course. This is an easily achieved objective. Do the readings, participate in discussions, and take notes! At times concepts or issues raised in class might be unclear. Students come from a variety of backgrounds and have various strengths and weaknesses. **If you have any questions or feel unsure about any class material, see me during office hours as soon as you realize a problem.** We will work together to find a solution. DON'T wait until the end of the semester. Please realize that my goal as an instructor is not just to test, grade, and evaluate, but to help you gain a valuable life perspective to carry outside the class, into whatever you do.

All grades will be assigned based on the following grading scale:

90-100% = A

80-89% = B

70-79% = C

60-69% = D

59-under = F

"Classroom" Policies

1. APPROPRIATE INTERACTION: Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the electronic classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.deanofstudents.unt.edu

2. EXTRA CREDIT: Bonus point opportunities MAY be offered if appropriate events or material is made available and relevant to this class. These bonus points will be added to all your other points at the end of the semester. These will NOT be offered on an individual basis, but will only be offered to the entire class. Remember, your instructors are not responsible for making sure that you receive a desired grade, even if you need that grade to maintain

financial aid, health insurance, university enrollment, etc. If this is the position you are in, communicate with the TA regularly to make sure that you are taking solid notes, understand all the material and know how to study.

3. REACHING ME: The best way to reach me is via email, and I require 24 hours to respond to any emails sent between Monday and Friday. Over the weekends and on holidays I require 48 hours to respond. Please include the name of the course you are taking with me in the body of your email. I typically have hundreds of students each semester and cannot remember which class each individual student is in. If you do not include your course information in your email, my response to you will be delayed because I have to take extra time finding out what class you are in, and uncovering more information about your situation/your request, etc.

4. ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT: The Department of Anthropology does not tolerate plagiarism, cheating, or helping others to cheat. I am furthermore of a mind that your integrity as a person is ALWAYS worth more than getting an “A” in one course – choosing to not cheat and perhaps get a lower grade is choosing to be a person of whom you can be proud. Students suspected of any of these will be provided the opportunity for a hearing; a guilty finding will merit an automatic “F” in the course. For information on the University’s policies regarding academic integrity and dishonesty, see the UNT Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities: <http://www.unt.edu/csrr/>

5. ADA: The Anthropology Department does not discriminate based on an individual’s disability, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Our program provides academic adjustments or help to individuals with disabilities, and attempts will be made to meet all certified requirements. Please see me if you have a documented disability so that appropriate arrangements can be made to help you get the most out of this class.

Tentative Schedule

NOTE: The instructor reserves the right to add, delete, or revise segments of the syllabus.

WEEK	TOPIC	READINGS	QUIZ/EXAM DUE DATE	DISCUSSION FORUMS DUE DATE
Week 1 January 20-27	Lesson 1: Orientation	None	Class Roster/Class Map assignment due Sunday, Jan. 25	Introductions Post Monday, Jan. 26
Week 2 Jan. 28-Feb 3	Lesson 2: Introduction to Anthropology	E&E Ch. 1 AE Readings: 1. Lee "Eating Christmas in the Kalahari" 2. Bohannan "Shakespeare in the Bush"	Quiz 1 Sunday, Feb. 1	Reflection Post Monday, Feb. 2 Response Post Tuesday, Feb. 3
Week 3 Feb. 4-10	Lesson 3: The Concept of Culture	E&E Ch. 2 AE Articles: 1. Watters "The Americanization of Mental Illness" 2. Dettwyler "Breastfeeding and Culture"	Quiz 2 Sunday, Feb. 8	Reflection Post Monday, Feb. 9 Response Post Tuesday, Feb. 10
Week 4 Feb. 11-17	Lesson 4: Anthropological Research Methods	E&E Ch. 4 pp. 85-99 AE Articles 1. Scheper-Hughes "Death Without Weeping" 2. Sterk "Tricking and Tripping: Fieldwork on Prostitution in the Era of Aids"	Quiz 3 Sunday, Feb. 15	Reflection Post Lesson 4 Monday, Feb. 16 Response Post Lesson 4 Tuesday, Feb. 17
Week 5 Feb. 18-24	Lesson 5: Anthropological Theory	E&E Ch. 4, pp. 78-84 & 97-98	No Quiz EXAM 1 Tuesday, Feb. 24	No Discussion Posts
Week 6 Feb. 25-March 3	Lesson 6: Getting Food	E&E Ch. 6 AE Articles 1. Sameshima and Stannard "We Belong to the Land" 2. Gadsby "The Inuit Paradox"	Quiz 4 Sunday, March 1	Reflection Post Monday, March 2 Response Post Tuesday, March 3

Week 7 March 4-10	Lesson 7: Economic Systems	E&E Ch. 7 AE Articles 1. Smith "Cell Phones, Sharing, and Social Status in an African Society" 2. Hitchcock "Rising Number of Dowry Deaths in India"	Quiz 5 Sunday, March 8	Reflection Post Monday, March 9 Response Post Tuesday, March 10
Week 8 March 11-17	Lesson 8: Political Organization – part 1	E&E Ch. 13 AE Articles 1. Rogers "The Evolution of Inequality" 2. Lappe and Collins "Why Can't People Feed Themselves?"	Quiz 6 Due: Sunday, March 15	Discussion Forum Due Next Week
Week 9 March 18-24	Lesson 8: Political Organization – part 2	E&E Ch. 13 AE Articles 1. Rogers "The Evolution of Inequality" 2. Lappe and Collins "Why Can't People Feed Themselves?"	No quiz this week	Reflection Post Monday, March 23 Response Tuesday, March 24
Week 10 March 25-31	Lesson 9: Religion and Magic	E&E Ch. 14 AE Articles 1. Jost "Understanding Islam" 2. Del Guercio "The Secrets of Haiti's Living Dead"	Quiz 7 Sunday, March 29	Reflection Post Monday, March 30 Response Post Tuesday, March 31
Week 11 April 1-7	Lesson 10: Marriage and Family	E&E Ch. 10 AE Articles 1. Coontz "The Invention of Marriage" 2. Kristof "Who Needs Love!"	Quiz 8 Friday, April 3 EXAM 2 Tuesday, April 7	Reflection Post Saturday, April 4 Response Post Sunday, April 5
Week 12 April 8-14	Lesson 11: Kinship and Residence Patterns	E&E Ch. 11 AE Articles: 1. Goldstein "When Brothers Share a Wife" 2. Nanda "Arranging a Marriage in India"	Quiz 9 Sunday, April 12	Reflection Post Monday, April 13 Response Post Tuesday, April 14
Week 13 April 15-21	Lesson 12: Sex and Gender	E&E Ch. 9 AE Articles: 1. Williams "The Berdache Tradition" 2. Nanda "The Hijras: An Alternative Gender in India"	Quiz 10 Sunday, April 19	Reflection Post Monday, April 20 Response Post Tuesday, April 21

<p>Week 14 April 22-28</p>	<p>Lesson 13: Culture and Art</p>	<p>E&E Ch. 15 AE Articles 1. Simmons "Where Fat is a Mark of Beauty" 2. Miner "Body Ritual of the Nacirema"</p>	<p>Quiz 11 Sunday, April 26</p>	<p>Reflection Post Monday, April 27 Response Post Tuesday, April 28</p>
<p>Week 15 April 29-May 5</p>	<p>Lesson 14: Language and Communication</p>	<p>E&E Ch. 5 AE Articles: 1. Boroditsky "How Language Shapes Thought" 2. Pagel "War of Words"</p>	<p>Quiz 12: Sunday, May 3</p>	<p>Reflection Post Monday, May 4 Response Post Tuesday, May 5</p>
<p>Week 16 May 6-13</p>	<p>Lesson 15: Applied Anthropology</p>	<p>E&E Ch. 16 AE Articles 1. Keating "Spirits of the Forest" 2. Kunzig "Population Seven Billion"</p>	<p>Quiz 13 Friday, May 8</p>	<p>Reflection Post Saturday, May 9 Response Post Sunday, May 10</p>
<p>EXAM 3 (Final Exam)</p>			<p>Due: Wednesday, May 13</p>	