

ANTHROPOLOGY 3101 - AMERICAN CULTURE

SYLLABUS

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INSTRUCTOR AND INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANTS:

Instructor:

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CONTACTING US:

- **You must use your UNT Eagle Mail email account to contact Dr. Johnson or your Instructional Assistant.** If you do not use your Eagle Mail account, you risk your email arriving as “Spam” and not being read. *We are not responsible for any missed correspondence originating from a non-UNT email account.
- Check your Eagle Mail account frequently to stay current with course announcements
- When you email Dr. Johnson, you **MUST** include “ANTH 3101” in the subject line. I have over 450 students this semester in five different classes. Failure to include what class you are enrolled in will result in a delay in response.
- If your email regards your **assignment grade** or a **missed assignment**, email your **Instructional Assistant**.

- If your email regards **questions about the material**, email your **Instructional Assistant** and “cc” **Dr. Johnson**.
- If your email regards a **personal matter** or contains **sensitive information**, email **Dr. Johnson**.
- If your email regards a **technological difficulty** – especially one which resulted in your inability to complete an assignment or test – **follow the protocol for “TECHNOLOGICAL DIFFICULTIES” outlined below**.

OUR ROLES:

The IAs are primarily responsible for grading your assignments and tests. They are also available to answer questions you may have about the course or your individual grade on an assignment. Your instructor will supervise their work and will make decisions about things that you may want to appeal. She will also answer any overall grade questions.

If you have a problem, PLEASE EMAIL one of us as soon as possible. Monday through Friday, you can expect a reply from one of us in NO LATER THAN 24 hours. As well, we expect a response to our communications within 24 hours. Over weekends and on holidays, we require 48 hours to respond. If you have an urgent matter, you may call Dr. Johnson at 940-369-5403. I will be checking my voicemail every M, W, F afternoon. In an **emergency**, you may call Melissa Tanner at 940-565-2200 and she can reach me directly.

We have set up a Discussion Forum called "Main" on which you can anonymously comment about anything that's on your mind -- click on "Discussions" in the course tool section to the left and take a look. BUT PLEASE DO NOT USE THIS FOR IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS; email or call one of us instead!!!

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

*****The Boulanger text is out-of-print and may be difficult to obtain.** The DeVita and Armstrong is still current. You may choose to order the books on your own, but it is not required. Inexpensive online book sellers include www.amazon.com and www.alibris.com . Otherwise, readings will be posted during the week in which they are assigned and will then be taken down. It is **your responsibility** to take notes on the reading material in order to complete your assignments and study for your exams.

Boulanger, C.L. (2008) Reflecting on America. Anthropological Views of U.S. Culture. Pearson: New York.

DeVita & Armstrong (2002) Distant Mirrors. America as a Foreign Culture. 3rd Edition. Wadsworth.

PLEASE NOTE:

Films and video clips in the lessons are required. This visual material is included in the lesson. The visual documentation throughout the course can be accessed through the links specified in the lesson.

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NUTS AND BOLTS OF THE COURSE

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course presents what people in the USA and from the outside perceive and encapsulate in the term “American culture.” Students are briefly exposed to basic concepts and theoretical models used in the anthropological discipline to approach the understanding of cultural values considered to be at the core

of American culture. The purpose is to show students the cultural historical processes from which these cultural values have emerged and how these values have been transformed and are expressed in contemporary times through different themes such as: family, ethnic and cultural diversity, consumerism, entertainment and technology, among others. Learners in this course explore the complexities embedded in the concept of “culture” as it is exercised in the USA context. A very important companion for learners in the adventure of looking at American culture through anthropological glasses is the use of popular culture in its multiple manifestations (cartoons, Disney movies, films, music, etc.).

GUIDING ANTHROPOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES:

- Culture is not static, it is in constant transformation. The core societal values constantly change and reflect life styles and social movements.
- To understand the present, we need to look and analyze the past. The historical past of cultures contains the key for understanding of the origin of core cultural characteristics and values.
- Just as important, the present political and ideological contexts shade our views of the past.
- Popular culture is expressed in objects, activities and communicative media. It offers significant insights for cultural understanding, history and humanity in general.

HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THIS COURSE:

- Read the lesson and any other assigned materials (book chapters, website links, etc.)
- If a video clip is part of the lesson, WATCH IT.
- All the content you need for this class is on the home page, in the folder labeled "LESSONS."
- Due dates for all assignments and exams are in this syllabus, below.
- Don't forget the GLOSSARY! This is a great tool for learning the language of anthropology, which is absolutely essential for getting the most out of this class.
- Participate fully in the course. Your ideas, comments and feedback expressed in your assignments and shared by faculty and classmates are important and valued.
- Log into online course **more than twice** during the week to check for updates, read announcements, work on assignments and submit them.
- Manage your time wisely in order to complete your assignments well before the last minute. WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE ON SUNDAYS AT 11:59 PM. BECAUSE THEY ARE DEPLOYED FOR AN ENTIRE WEEK, LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
- Seek assistance immediately if you are experiencing any difficulties. If it is technical, start with the Blackboard Help Desk. Otherwise, your teaching assistant and/or instructor can help you in solving the problem.
- Share what you have learned with others! Talking about what you are learning in the class is a great way to retain what you have learned and to think critically about others' perspectives!

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Learn basic anthropological concepts and theoretical models
- Be able to apply basic anthropological concepts to the analysis and understanding of cultural processes in the past and present of the USA.
- Be able to identify cultural characteristics and values of the USA culture
- Be able to use popular culture to analyze USA cultural characteristics and values. Cultural phenomena for study includes: popular and ethnic music, sports, television, advertising and film.

ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR:

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 classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities 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.unt.edu/csrr

GRADING: 300 possible points may be earned in this course by completing the assignments and exams. The points breakdown is below.

12 Weekly Assignments: 10 points each
120 possible points (40% of final grade)

Test 1 (Midterm exam): 40 questions worth two (2) points each
80 possible points (roughly 27% of final grade)

Test 2 (Final exam): 45 questions worth two (2) points each
90 possible points (roughly 30% of final grade)

*the final exam is not "cumulative" per se, but will contain questions over basic anthropological principles which you have learned throughout the semester.

1 CORE Assessment 10 possible points (roughly 3% of your grade, or equivalent to one weekly assignment)

Extra Credit Opportunity: To be announced after the Midterm

Grading Scale:

A: 270-300 total points

B: 240-269 total points

C: 210-239 total points

D: 180-209 total points

F: 0-179 total points

The grading scale MAY be adjusted downward if the class does not perform as well as usual.

How to Calculate Your Grade:

There will be a total of 300 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. Do not email your IA or your instructor for your overall grade. We will refer you to this section of the syllabus.

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

Comments and General Instructions

- The weekly assignments are short essays written on topics specified in each lesson. Assignments will only be accepted by submitting them using the Turnitin icon (also located within the lesson). Emailed assignments will NOT be accepted.
- Each essay should be 350 to 500 words. Longer papers will not be penalized.
- An "essay" is usually *at least* 5 paragraphs. This means that you should write an **introduction** AND a **conclusion** to your remarks.
- Essays must be double-spaced with 1 inch margins.
- Please read instructions carefully and answer all parts of the question.
- An essay that is well-written, comprehensive in its approach to the questions asked, and generally free of grammar or spelling errors will receive full credit.
- If you have questions regarding the assignment instructions, email your **Instructional Assistant**.

Grading Rubric

- Student does not follow instructions at all: 5 to 10 points deducted
- Student does not completely follow instructions: 2 points deducted
- Student makes no reference to the assigned readings and course materials in the body of the essay: 1 to 5 points deducted
- Grammatical errors: 1 to 5 points deducted, depending on seriousness. Use grammar check and spell check!! Use the UNT Writing Lab!! <https://tc.unt.edu/labs/unt-writing-lab-home> These resources are free and at your disposal!
- Spelling errors: 1 point deducted
- PLAGIARISM IS NOT TOLERATED. Any assignment with greater than 15% unoriginal content submitted in Turnitin will be reviewed for plagiarism. See the statement below on Academic Honesty.
- Questions about graded assignments – including grade appeals – must be presented to the Instructional Assistant within **1 WEEK** following the assignment due date.
 - For example: If you come to your IA or your Instructor at the end of the semester requesting to re-do or make-up missed assignments from the beginning of the semester, your request will be denied. This is in fairness to the other 299 students who are concurrently enrolled in ANTH 3101 this semester.
- **Students have 7 full days to complete an assignment. Make-up assignments will not be allowed unless the student or their representative emails and/or calls their instructor with a University-Approved excuse by 5:00pm CST BEFORE the assignment is due. No exceptions.**

You can expect to receive your essay's grade and feedback about a week and a half after its due date. Students will be notified by the Instructor that their grades have been posted.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

You will be part of an academic community so you are expected to exercise honesty and integrity. The Department of Anthropology does not tolerate plagiarism, cheating, or helping others to cheat.

All work that you submit should be your own. When your ideas and comments are inspired by or based on another's work, **make sure to cite references appropriately** (see <http://www.library.unt.edu/citations-style-guides> for help in citing appropriately). Plagiarism is not tolerated. Plagiarism is using another's words or paraphrasing another's work without giving proper credit through the use of citations. Turnitin detects internet content, articles and submissions from prior courses. **You MAY NOT SUBMIT all or any portion of an assignment which you have submitted in the past, for this or for any other class.** Once again, **do not copy from any source.** Copying from any source will result in a failing grade for the assignment.

Students suspected of plagiarism will be provided the opportunity for a hearing; a guilty finding may merit an automatic "F" in the course. The instructor has the right to pursue further disciplinary action within the UNT legal system, which may result in dismissal from the university. For more information on paper writing, including how to avoid plagiarism, and how to use citations, see <http://www.unt.edu/anthropology/writing.htm> . 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/>.

We take cheating, copying, and plagiarism VERY seriously – so should you!

EXAMS:

- You will take two exams. The first – your Midterm Exam – is scheduled between Friday, March 13 at 12:00am and Sunday, March 22 11:59pm. The second – your Final Exam – is scheduled between Monday, May 11 at 12:00am and Friday, May 15 at 11:59pm.
- Once you begin a test, you have 90 minutes to complete it. However, if you choose to wait until the last minute, the test will automatically end at 11:59 PM and you will earn the grade you received for the answers you have completed up to that point.
- Do not begin an exam unless you are certain you can finish it. Make sure you have a reliable Internet connection. Avoid carelessness when selecting your answers. **DO NOT** wait until the last minute, as Blackboard often undergoes scheduled and unscheduled maintenance.
 - For example: If you wait until Sunday at 10:29pm to take the test, and you experience a computer-related technical difficulty, you will **NOT** be allowed to retake the test. Blackboard allow us to see what time you logged into the class and what functions you completed while you were logged in. There is no getting around this.
- Tests will consist of multiple choice and true false questions which are derived from readings, assignments and information found within the Learning Modules.
- Reviews will be provided one week in advance of the exam. Aside from the terms presented in the Lessons, a "Glossary" link can also be found within the Blackboard action menu. These are great study tools!
- Questions about the exams – including grade appeals – must be presented to the Instructor within **1 WEEK** following the exam.
- **Make-up exams will not be given unless the student or their representative emails and/or calls their instructor with a University-Approved excuse by 5:00pm CST BEFORE the scheduled test is due. No exceptions.**

TECHNOLOGICAL DIFFICULTIES:

The Blackboard Learn website automatically goes down at **11:59pm Central Time every Saturday night. It is down for 2 hours.** Don't get caught completing assignments and tests at the very last moment as your clock may be different from the university computer clock. Never wait until the last minute to submit assignments or tests. This is your responsibility!

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

1. Take a print screen capture of the issue
2. Contact the Student Blackboard HelpDesk at 940-565-2324 or visit <http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/bblearn/>
3. Give them the following info:
 - o Student EUID: *****
 - o Name & Section of the Course: Anth 3101 Culture & Society 810, 820
4. Once you have a ticket number from the HelpDesk, send it to your IA (**not to your Instructor**)
5. Your IA will follow up with you once the HelpDesk confirms the situation.

If you contact your IA without having completed these steps, she will refer you to this section of the syllabus and the matter will remain unresolved.

If you contact your Instructor without first contacting your IA, she will refer you to this section of the syllabus and the matter will remain unresolved.

HOW TO ACCESS LESSONS, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS:

- The “Learning Module” link within the action menu located on the left hand side of the Blackboard screen will take you to the weekly Lessons.
- Weekly reading requirements for each lesson are located in a “Readings for Assignment” folder within the respective lesson. They will remain posted for one week only.
- The assignment instructions and assignment link can be found at the end of each lesson.
- All written assignments can be turned in ANY TIME BEFORE THE DUE DATE. You are encouraged to work ahead, as, once again, NO LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

WEEK	DATE	LESSON	ASSIGNMENT READINGS	ASSIGNMENT DUE DATE
WEEK 1	1/20 – 1/25	See: “Start here” folder in Learning Modules	Familiarize yourself with syllabus and course. Introduce yourself to IA and peers.	Sunday, 1/25 11:59pm
WEEK 2	1/26 - 2/1	ONE (1)	Distant Mirrors: "Body Ritual Among the Nacirema" by Horace Miner. Chapter 3, pgs 27-31	Sunday, 2/1 11:59pm

			(Chapter 3). "Professor Widjojo Goes to a Koktel Parti" by Weston LaBarre pgs 32-36 (Chapter 4). "An Outsider's View of American Culture," 37-43 (Chapter 5). "My American Glasses," Francisco Martins Ramos, 50-58 (Chapter 7).	
WEEK 3	2/2 – 2/8	TWO (2)	Reflecting on America: "We Have Met the Nacirema, and They are Us(ans)," pgs 3-8 (Introduction). "Usans: 'The Real People' Confront Globalization," pgs 9-11 (Chapter 1). Distant Mirrors "One Hundred Percent American," pgs 1-3 (Chapter 1). "The American Cultural Configuration," pgs 4-26 (Chapter 2).	Sunday, 2/8 11:59pm
WEEK 4	2/9 – 2/15	THREE (3)	Distant Mirrors "A European Anthropologist's Personal and Ethnographic Impressions of the United States," pgs 177-197 (Chapter 19).	Sunday, 2/15 11:59pm
WEEK 5	2/16 – 2/22	FOUR (4)	Based off of material in modules.	Sunday, 2/22 11:59pm
WEEK 6	2/23 – 3/1	FIVE (5)	Reflecting on America "A Pilgrimage to the Past: Civil War Reenactors at Gettysburg," pgs 15-27 (Chapter 2)	Sunday, 3/1 11:59pm
WEEK 7	3/2 – 3/8	SIX (6)	Distant Mirrors "Growing Up American: 'Doing the Right Thing,'" pgs 44-49 (Chapter 6). "Neighborly Strangers," pgs 95-101 (Chapter 12)	Sunday, 3/8 11:59pm
WEEK 8	3/9 – 3/15	REVIEW	TEST 1: MIDTERM OPENS Friday, 3/15	12:00am
WEEK 9	3/16 – 3/22	SPRING BREAK	TEST 1: MIDTERM DUE Sunday, 3/22	11:59pm
WEEK 10	3/23 – 3/29	SEVEN (7)	Based off the links in the Assignment page	Sunday, 3/29 11:59pm
WEEK 11	3/30 – 4/5	EIGHT (8)	Reflecting on America "Explorations of Class and Consciousness in the United States," pgs 129-147 (Chapter 12) "Welcome to an East Harlem Shooting Gallery," pgs 148-161 (Chapter 13) Distant Mirrors "First Impressions: Diary of a French	Sunday, 4/5 11:59pm

			Anthropologist in New York City," pgs 139-147 (Chapter 16) "Pais de mis Suenos: Reflections on Ethnic Labels, Dichotomies, and Ritual Interactions," pgs 102-109 (Ch 13)	
WEEK 12	4/6 – 4/12	NINE (9)	Reflecting on America "Nuf and E-Nuf Among the Nacirema," pgs 175-184 (Chapter 15) "Gunspeak: The Influence of America's Gun Culture on Everyday Communication," pgs 185-194 (Chapter 16) "American Cultural Denial: the CAT's Compass," pgs 195-206 (Chapter 17) "Fort Bragg on the Verge of a New Century: Military Restructuring, Civilian Camouflage, and Hot Peace," pgs 119-128 (Chapter 11).	Sunday, 4/12 11:59pm
WEEK 13	4/13 – 4/19	TEN (10)	Reflecting on America "The Female World of Cards and Holidays: Women, Families, and the Work of Kinship," pgs 107-118 (Chapter 10). "Mickey, Nicky, and Barbie: Kinderculture in America," pgs 162-172 (Chapter 14). Distant Mirrors "Encounters with the Elderly in America," pgs 84-94 (Chapter 11).	Sunday, 4/19 11:59pm
WEEK 14	4/20 – 4/26	ELEVEN (11)	<i>Reflecting on America</i> "Metakinesis: How God Becomes Intimate in Contemporary U.S. Christianity," pgs 36-54 (Chapter 4) "Paradise is for Pussies: <i>Star Trek</i> and the Myth of the Bad Mother," pgs 55-63 (Chapter 5). "Being vs. Doing in International Sports," pgs 64-76 (Chapter 6)	Sunday, 4/26 11:59pm
WEEK 15	4/27 – 5/3	TWELVE (12)	Reflecting on America "Consuming America," pgs 79-84 (Chapter 7) "Consuming New Hampshire's Nature: Changing Views of the White Mountains," pgs 94-106 (Chapter 9).	Sunday, 5/3 11:59pm
WEEK 16	5/4 – 5/10	REVIEW	Test 2 <i>Reflecting on America</i> "Dangerous Assumptions of American	NO ASSIGNMENT

			Culture," pgs 207-221 (Chapter 18)	
WEEK 17	5/11 – 5/17	FINAL EXAM	OPENS: SATURDAY 5/9, 12:00am DUE: FRIDAY 5/15, 11:59pm	