

# ANTH 3101.810/820 AMERICAN CULTURE SPRING 2018 Syllabus

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## INSTRUCTOR AND INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANTS

### Instructor:

Beverly Ann Davenport, PhD (aka Dr. BAD)  
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### Instructional Assistants: To be assigned alphabetically by the middle of Week 1

Obas Atibaka (Last names: **ABRAHAM** to **CHO**)  
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Allyson Cornett (Last names **CHRISTIAN** to **GOMEZ**)  
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Elizabeth Miller (Last names: **GONZALES, V.** to **LARS**)  
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Kenneth Saintonge (Last names: **LAWSON** to **SCOTT**)  
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Taylor Shenberger (Last names: **SESSUMS** to **ZHAN**)  
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**CONTACTING US:**

- **You must use your UNT Eagle Mail email account to email us.**
- We are not responsible for any missed correspondence originating from a non-UNT email account.
- Please include “ANTH 3101” in the subject line. Failure to include what class you are enrolled in will delay our response.
- Check your Eagle Mail account frequently to stay current with course announcements
- EMAILS ARE NOT TEXT MESSAGES, even if they are sent from your mobile device. Be professional. Include a greeting (Dear Ms. Instructional Assistant ...) and signature line (Thanks, Your Student).

<b>If this is your problem:</b>	<b>You should contact:</b>
Assignment grades or a missed assignment	Instructional Assistant
Questions about the material	Instructional Assistant and/or Dr. BAD
ODA accommodation or a personal or sensitive matter	Dr. BAD
Problems with technology or Blackboard	<b>Please see below</b>

**TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES:**

The Blackboard Learn website automatically goes down at **11:59pm Central Time every Saturday night. It is down for 2 hours.** Never wait until the last minute to submit assignments or tests.

**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; Name & Section of the Course: Anth 3101.810 American Culture
4. Once you have a ticket number from the HelpDesk, **email your IA (not your Instructor).**

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

**OUR ROLES:**

The IAs are primarily responsible for grading your journal assignments and Final Reflection and Discussion. They are also available to answer questions you may have about the course material or individual assignment grades. Dr. BAD will supervise their work and will make decisions about appeals. She will also answer any overall grade questions.

If you have a problem, you or your representative must email one of us within 24 hours. Monday through Friday, you can expect a reply within 24 hours. As well, we expect your response to our communications within 24 hours. Over weekends and on holidays, we require 48 hours to respond.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

All readings are embedded in the course material. You are not required to purchase any books. 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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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course presents the what, how, and why US citizens and outsiders understand this thing we call “American culture”. Students are presented with basic anthropological concepts and theoretical models used to approach and understand cultural values and practices considered axiomatic of American culture. The anthropological lens reveals historical, political, and ideological processes from which these cultural values have emerged, and illustrates how these values have been transformed and expressed in contemporary times. An example of some the frameworks or “themes” students will learn include: indigeneity and expansion, immigration, ethnic and cultural diversity, family life, consumerism, entertainment and technology, and others. Learners in this course explore the complexities embedded in the concept of “culture” as it is exercised in the USA context. The use of popular culture in its multiple manifestations will become an important companion in the anthropological adventure through American culture.

**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 United States of America.
- Be able to identify cultural characteristics and values of American culture.
- Be able to use popular culture to analyze American cultural characteristics and values. Cultural phenomena for study includes: popular and ethnic music, sports, television, advertising and film.

**GUIDING ANTHROPOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES:**

- Culture is not static, it is in constant transformation. The core societal values are continuously negotiated to reflect life styles and social movements within any given population.
- To understand the present, we need to examine the past. The historical context is key to understanding the origins and transformations of core cultural characteristics and values.
- Just as important, the present political and ideological contexts influence 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 ACCESS LESSONS, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS:

- The “Course Content” 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 within the respective lesson folder. Click each page to view the content. Read all pages and related materials (articles, videos, etc.) embedded in the Lesson.
- The Journal Entry link and Quiz link can be found in the action menu on the left side of the page. Quizzes, Exams, and Journal Entry assignments will remain posted for one week only.
- 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.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

### WEEKLY JOURNAL ENTRIES (10pts each)

#### Comments and General Instructions

- The weekly journal assignments are short essays written on topics specified in each lesson.
- After completing the assigned week’s Lesson, click on the “Journal” tab in the action menu and complete the corresponding Journal assignment.
- Please read and follow instructions carefully. If you have questions regarding the assignment instructions, email your **Instructional Assistant**.
- Assignments will only be accepted by submitting them in Blackboard. Emailed assignments will NOT be accepted. Do not submit “attachments” for journals or discussion. Write (or copy & paste) your comments directly into Blackboard.
- We expect you to include Chicago Style for social science citations for any references. There is help on how to cite in the “Lessons” folder.
- Students have 5 full days to complete an assignment. **No make-up assignments** will 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.

#### Grading Rubric

- Respond to prompts in approximately 200 words. Stay on topic and incorporate material covered in class.
- **Journal entries are NOT political platforms.** They are to demonstrate that you *understand* anthropological concepts and facts and can effectively *communicate* what you have learned. You can certainly incorporate personal anecdotes provided they are relevant to the Lesson.
- To earn full credit (10pts), students will be evaluated by the following criteria:
  - Following instructions
  - Mechanics
  - Content
  - Critical thinking
- Students may refer to the rubric, below, for clarification in these four areas (see next page):

Criteria	Levels of Achievement			
	MAJOR IMPROVEMENT NEEDED	SOME IMPROVEMENT NEEDED	MEETS PROFICIENCY	EXCEEDS PROFICIENCY
<b>FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS</b>  2pts	Neither prompt addressed.	One prompt not addressed.	Both prompts addressed.	Both prompts addressed fully.
<b>MECHANICS</b>  2pts	More than two grammar, spelling or mechanics errors.	Two grammar, spelling or mechanics errors.	One grammar, spelling or mechanics error.	No grammar, spelling or mechanics errors.
<b>CONTENT</b>  3pts	Does not demonstrate understanding about Lesson concepts and facts.	Demonstrates some confusion about Lesson concepts and facts.	Demonstrates basic understanding of Lesson concepts and facts.	Demonstrates advanced understanding of Lesson concepts and facts.
<b>CRITICAL THINKING</b>  3pts	Summarizes Lesson material only.	Demonstrates one of the following: creative and innovative thinking, inquiry and analysis, and synthesis of information.	Demonstrates two of the following: creative and innovative thinking, inquiry and analysis, and synthesis of information.	Demonstrates all of the following: creative and innovative thinking, inquiry and analysis, and synthesis of information.

**You can expect to receive your essay's grade and feedback within one week after its due date.**

**QUIZZES:** (5pts each)

You are required to take 11 short quizzes over the semester. Each quiz contains five questions. You will have 30 minutes to take the quiz. Quizzes will be due by 11:59pm every Sunday night.

**EXAMS:** (90pts each)

- You will take two exams. The first – your Midterm Exam, is scheduled in Week 7. The second – your Final Exam, is scheduled in Week 15. You will have access to the Exam Reviews at least one week before the exam is due.

- Note: the final exam is not “cumulative” per se, but will contain questions over basic anthropological principles which you learned throughout the semester.
- 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 BOTH 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 allows 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 **three days** 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.**

#### FINAL COURSE REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION PROJECT: (50pts)

On the 14<sup>th</sup> Week of class, you will engage in a final project with your classmates. This assignment will take place within the course Discussion Board, and will ask you for a personal reflection on the course and a thoughtful response to one of your classmates’ reflections. Instructions and rubric will be posted at least one week prior to the assignment.

#### GRADING:

400 possible points may be earned in this course by completing the assignments and exams. The point distribution is listed below.

##### Weekly Journal Entries:

11 entries	10 points each=	110 possible points	27.5% of final grade
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##### Weekly Quizzes:

11 quizzes	5 points each=	55 possible points	13.75%% of final grade
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##### Midterm Exam:

45 questions	2 points each=	90 possible points	22.5% of final grade
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- Seek assistance immediately if you are experiencing any difficulties. If it is technical, start with the Blackboard Help Desk (see instructions below). If it is conceptual or practical, contact your IA or Dr. BAD to assist your problem solving.
- Share what you have learned with others! Talking about what you are learning in class is a great way to retain what you have learned and to think critically about others' perspectives!

#### 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](http://www.unt.edu/csrr)

#### 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. **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/> .