

Anthropology 1150: World Cultures through Film

Fall 2015

ANTH 1150.810/820 3.0 Hours

Designer/Professor: Dr. Andrew Nelson

Office: Chilton Hall 330N

Email: andrew.nelson@unt.edu

Office hours: Tuesdays 12-2 pm; or by appointment

IA: Jessica MacKinnon

Email: jessicamakinnon@my.unt.edu;

(Virtual) Office Hours: Thursdays 3-5pm; or by appointment

IA: Elizabeth Miller

Email: elizabethmiller5@my.unt.edu

(Virtual) Office Hours: TBA

Nextgen Course: This class is a Next Generation (NextGen) course intended to promote higher-level learning with increased levels of student engagement. This means that the course employs the pedagogical goals of self-regulated, technologically-enriched, collaborative, and experiential learning in its lessons and approach. In other words, you will be asked to direct your own study, use new technological tools and methods, work in groups (but receive individual grades), and most importantly, apply the course to your life outside of the classroom.

Course Description

This course uses the discipline of anthropology to answer the question: How should one view cultural difference? We will explore this question through the theoretical prism of anthropology and case studies provided by ethnographic films. Specifically, we will discuss (a) the problems with ethnocentric portrayals of different cultures in mainstream cinema (ethnocentrism); (b) how cultures see themselves (the emic perspective); (c) whether we can compare cultures to each other (etic perspective); and finally, (d) what happens when different cultures interact with each other in a globalized world (globalization).

Learning Objectives

1. Students will be able to understand the anthropological conception of culture.
2. Students will be able to identify and challenge ethnocentric thinking.
3. Students will gain a working appreciation for the anthropological methods of cultural relativism and participant observation.

4. Students will be able to identify the emic concepts and categories significant to particular societies.
5. Students will be able to analyze the etic categories of cultural classification in anthropology.
6. Students will work in groups to apply anthropological theories to case studies of globalization.

Required Textbook

Cultural Anthropology: A Problem-Based Approach by Richard R. Robbins. Cengage Books, 6th Edition.

* All other readings will be offered as links on the Blackboard course website

Technical Requirements

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparation for the technological aspect of the course.

UIT Help Desk: <http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm>

Hardware and software necessary to use Bb Learn:

<http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/bblearn/>

Browser requirements:

<http://kb.blackboard.com/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=84639794>

Computer and Internet Literacy:

http://clt.odu.edu/oso/index.php?src=pe_comp_lit

Necessary plug-ins: <http://goo.gl/1lsVF>

Internet Access with [compatible web browser](#)

Microsoft Word Processor

Access & Navigation

This course was developed and will be facilitated utilizing the University of North Texas' Learning Management System, Blackboard Learn. To get started with the course, please go to: <https://learn.unt.edu>.

You will need your EUID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your EUID or have forgotten your password, please go to: <http://ams.unt.edu>.

Student Resources

As a student, you have access to:

- Student Orientation via Blackboard Learn. It is recommended that you become familiar with the tools and tutorials within the Orientation to better equip you

in navigating the course. Browser requirements:

<http://kb.blackboard.com/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=84639794>

- Blackboard's On Demand Learning Center for Students: It is recommended that you become familiar with the tools and tutorials to better equip you to navigate the course: <http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/bblearn/>
- From within Blackboard, you will have access to the "UNT Helpdesk" tab which provides student resources and Help Desk Information: <http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm> or find email assistance at: helpdesk@unt.edu; Phone: 940.565-2324; In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130; Regular hours are maintained to provide support to students. Please refer to the website (<http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/hours.htm>) for updated hours.

How the Course is Organized

This class consists of 4 units within which there are 14 lessons. We will cover one lesson per week, one unit per three or four weeks. For each lesson, students will be expected to click on the corresponding link and fulfill the requirements there within, such as: *listen to* a lecture, *read* from the assigned text, articles and websites, *view* a film, *discuss* key questions with classmates, *signup* for group projects, *submit* assignments, *complete* quizzes, *play* games, *do* exercises and *contribute to* blogs. All assignments, quizzes, and blogs will be due on the last day of each lesson at midnight. The one exception will be the final quiz 5, which is due on the last day of Final's week, Friday, December 11th at midnight. Discussions have an alternative schedule and will always be due in two parts: the first original post due on Thursday and two responses due on Sunday.

What Should Students Do First?

Upon entering the Blackboard course website for the first time, students should:

1. Click on the Course Content tab in the left margin
2. Click on Course Introduction tab
3. Watch the introduction video
4. Take Course Survey
5. Download and read syllabus
6. Download and read course schedule
7. Take Quiz 1, which covers the syllabus and course schedule.

Upon entering the Blackboard course website for each new lesson, students should:

1. Locate the current Lesson via Course Content within the proper Unit:

Unit 1: Lessons 1-4

Unit 2: Lessons 5-7

Unit 3: Lessons 8-11

Unit 4: Lessons 12-14

2. Follow the instructions in each Lesson folder:

Listen to: Download the lecture/slideshow, listen to the audio recording of the lecture/slideshow. Occasionally, this link will include radio recordings and links to websites. **Please note that you may click on the cc tab in the lower right side of the screen to access the lecture's captions.**

Read: Read the required pages in the textbook; and any additional web articles or pdf files.

View: Follow the link to the Lesson's designated film. Login using your euid and password.

Discuss: Read the prompt and instructions, and follow the links to the Lesson's Discussion. Remember to post your first statement by Thursday, and then two responses by Sunday.

Complete: Follow the link to and take the Unit's quiz.

Submit: Read the instructions and follow the link to submit the Lesson's assignment.

Sign up for: In Lesson 5, students will sign up for groups according to different world regions.

Play: In Lessons 8, 9 & 10 you will play interactive exchange games on which those weeks discussion will be based.

Do: In Lessons 12-14, you will do short exercises that require applying your understanding of theories to case studies.

Contribute to: In Lesson 5, students will contribute to blog A (area culture profile), and then blog B (colonial history) in Lesson 12, blog C (policy paper) in Lesson 13 and blog D (diaspora description) in Lesson 14.

Course Requirements

1. The student will access and follow all course instructions found in the Unit/Lesson Course Content area of the Blackboard course.
2. The student will listen to all online lectures provided in *Listen to* files in lessons found in the Course Content area.
3. The student will read all required text readings, pdf files and web articles in the *Read* files in lessons found in the Course Content area.

4. The student will view all required films which can be accessed in the *View* files in lessons found in the Course content area.
5. The student will complete the assigned 'online' quizzes by accessing the *complete* files in lessons found in Course Content area.
6. The student will respond to posted online course discussion questions using the Blackboard discussion tool found under the *discuss* tabs in lessons found in the Course Content area.
7. The student will complete and submit assignments electronically using the turnitin function in the *submit* assignments tabs in lessons found in Course Content area.
8. The student will *contribute to* a 4-part group blog project in accordance with the instructions given in this syllabus and found within Lessons 5, 12-14.

Grading

Grades will be determined according to the following weighted categories:

Category	% of final grade	Final grade % per graded submission
7 Discussions	15	2.14
5 Quizzes	35	7
3 Assignments	30	10
4 Part Blog Project	20	5

Students can learn their current grade in the course by going to My Grades and looking at the percentage score in the Weighted Total column.

Grading Scale

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
Below 60	F

A. Discussions (7 Forums worth 5 points each for 15% of final grade)

Throughout the course, there will be 7 Discussions in which students are required to participate. Upon completion of the assigned readings, lectures and viewings, students are expected to engage in an ongoing discussion with their classmates. Students will respond to the Discussion prompts or questions with one original response. To post an original response, students will click on the 'Create Thread' tab. This original response will be due by **Thursday (at midnight)** of weeks when a discussion is due. After

submitting the original response, students will then respond to *at least two* responses from other students. Remember to click on **'Quote'** tab when responding. The two responses will be due before **Sunday (at midnight)** of weeks when discussions are due. Discussion posts will be graded for originality and thoughtfulness. Out of the 5 points possible for each Discussion, the original post will be graded out of 3 points, and the additional two responses will be worth one point each.

Two issues to consider when doing Discussions:

- For Discussion #4 (Lesson 6), students will discuss a given film in smaller groups. During Lesson 5, students will select a region on which to focus. This region will determine which films they view for Lessons 5, 6, 7, and 13, as well as their discussion group for Discussion #4 and blog projects for Lessons 5, 12-14. The regions are: Oceania, Southeast Asia, South Asia, West Africa, Latin America.
- When writing discussion posts, keep courtesy in mind: Please be courteous to the other students in the class. You might find it helpful to read your posting out loud before you submit it: the "tone" is a very important part of electronic communication. When you read your message out loud does it sound the way you would speak to another student in the classroom? If not, you should rewrite it.

2. Online Quizzes (5 worth 20 points each for 35% of final grade)

There will be five quizzes throughout this course that cover online lectures and reading material (**with the exception of the first quiz which will cover this syllabus and schedule!**). Students can access quizzes by clicking on the *Complete* file in the designated Lesson. Each quiz will consist of **15-20 questions** worth 1-3 points each (for total of 20 points) and will consist of multiple choice questions. After completing quizzes, students can see which questions they got wrong and be directed to sections in the reading/lecture where the correct answer can be found. Then, students are allowed to **re-take** each quiz for one additional attempt. The final score will be calculated by taking the average of the two attempts (thus, giving you the possibility of gaining back 50% of missed points on the first attempt).

Students will have **30 minutes** to complete each quiz and it can be accessed only **one time** once started. Save answers often (every 5-10 minutes). If a student experiences any computer problems while taking the exam, he or she must contact the Helpdesk immediately so that the issue is documented with a helpdesk ticket number. Without a ticket number, the instructor will not be able to help. Considerations regarding exam issues will be made by the instructor on an individual basis based on the documentation. After each quiz is graded and released, students may check answers via the My Grades tab.

Quizzes will cover the following material:

Quiz 1: The Syllabus & Schedule

Quiz 2: Unit 1

Quiz 3: Unit 2

Quiz 4: Unit 3

Quiz 5: Unit 4

3. Assignments (3 worth 20 points each for 30% of final grade)

There will be three writing assignments throughout the term. For each assignment, students will submit a short piece of writing that builds on course material. The assignments will be submitted via Turnitin, which is an internet-based academic writing service. Assignments submitted via any other medium (e.g.-email) will not be accepted. Additionally, late work will not be accepted. If students provide medical documentation (signed by a medical professional) of an inability to complete the assignment by the deadline, they will be allowed to submit at a later date. The assignments will be graded out of 20 points. Grading rubrics for each assignment will be made available to students. After assignments are graded, students will be able to view the grader's comments and rationale for assigning the grade. To do so, click on My Grades, then the assignment, then the particular paper, and once within the assignment make sure to click on the Grademark tab in the upper bar (middle option).

4. 4-Part Blog Project (Worth 25 points each/100 in total for 20% of final grade)

During Lesson 5, students will select a region on which to focus during Lessons 5-7, 12-14. By doing so, they will enter groups that will determine which films they view for Lessons 5, 6, 7 & 13. These groups (of three students) will also serve as their Discussion group for Discussion 4 (Lesson 6) and blog project groups for Lessons 5, 12-14. The objective of this project is for students to think critically about the class with a given cultural context.

Cultural area	Film	Country
Oceania	Disappearing Tuvalu	Tuvalu
Southeast Asia	B.A.T.A.M.	Indonesia
South Asia	Trekking on Tradition	Nepal
West Africa	Abloni	Togo
Latin America	The Way Home	Guatemala

Each group will produce one *blog* (provided within the course website) to which each member will make individual contributions to four different parts:

Blog A: Cultural Area Profile. In Lesson 5, students will watch the film for their selected cultural area (see above). Then, they will sign-up for a role to discuss one aspect of the cultural area in which that film takes place (see above). Each student will then provide a short (10-15 sentences) synopsis in response to a set of questions for each role.

- a. Language
- b. Social groups
- e. Religion

Blog B: Colonial History. For this section, each student will sign-up for one of the following three roles (during Lesson 12) and conduct independent research on the colonial history of the **country** featured in the film in regards to the selected role. Each student will then provide a short (10-15 sentences) synopsis in response to a set of questions for each role.

- a. Pre-Colonial Historian
- b. Colonial Historian
- c. Post-Colonial Historian

Blog C: Policy Paper. In Lesson 13, each student will write a policy paper that uses globalization theories to the case study problems raised in the films. Each post should be at least two paragraphs of 10 sentences each.

Blog D: Diaspora Description. In the final lesson 14, each student will identify a particular example of a diaspora from their given region living in the United States. Each post should be in between 10-15 sentences.

*** Despite being a group project, each student will receive an individual grade based solely on what he or she did (other group members' work or lack of work WILL NOT affect you!).**

Course Schedule

A schedule of the course's lessons and due dates is available on the course website under the tab: Course Content/Course Introduction and within the Essential Documents tab.

COURSE POLICIES

1. Assignment Policy

Assignments will be due three times throughout the course at midnight on the following dates: **September 20th, October 18th, and November 15th**. Students are required to submit written assignments for this class to Turnitin, a web-based submission system. After submitting via turnitin, students should receive an email documentation of their submission. **IF YOU DIDN'T RECEIVE AN EMAIL FROM TURNITIN, YOU DIDN'T TURN IN THE PAPER!!!** All works submitted for credit must

be **original works** created by the scholar uniquely for the class (trust me: it is easy to detect plagiarism). Papers submitted via any other medium (e.g.-email) will not be accepted. If students provide medical documentation (signed by a medical professional) of an inability to complete the assignment by the deadline, they will be allowed to submit at a later date.

2. Quiz Policy

Quizzes will be due at 11pm on the following dates: **August 30th, September 27th, October 18th, November 15th, and December 11th**. For each quiz, students are allowed one retake before the due date, but never **after** the deadline as make-up quizzes will not be allowed UNLESS the student provides the instructor with medical documentation (signed by medical professional) that attests to his/her inability to complete the quiz by the given time deadline. If the student loses an internet connection while taking the exam, 1) the student is to call the student IT help desk, explain the situation and receive a ticket number; 2) then write the instructor with the IT ticket # (the instructor will not respond to your request without a ticket #).

3. Blog Projects

Although the blogs will be organized in terms of groups, each individual will be evaluated and graded over his/her specific contribution. Each group will watch the same film, discuss the same areas and countries, and contribute to the same blog. However, **since individuals will be responsible for specific sections, individual contributions will be identifiable to the grader and assessed on only their merit, not the work of other group members.**

4. Extra Credit

There will be two opportunities for students to earn extra credit. Students will receive one percentage extra credit for completing the IAS course evaluation at the end of the term. Additionally, on quiz 5 there will be two core course evaluation questions that will be counted as extra credit.

5. Instructor Communication

- a) The instructor will be happy to answer questions regarding lectures, grades, discussions, assignments, quizzes, projects or any anything covered in the course.
- b) Students can expect to hear back from the instructor within 24 hours of the initial email (48 hours on the weekend).
- c) Students are expected to state their name and course number in the subject line of emails.

d) **Please use a respectful and polite tone in emails.** Do NOT ask questions covered in this syllabus! And if using a mobile device, remember to proofread your message before sending!

6. Class Participation

Students are required to login regularly to the online class site. The instructor will use the tracking feature in Blackboard to monitor student activity. Students are also required to participate in all class activities such as discussion board and group projects.

7. Virtual Classroom Citizenship

The same guidelines that apply to traditional classes should be observed in the virtual classroom environment. Please use proper *netiquette* when interacting with class members and the professor.

8. Copyright Notice

Some or all of the materials on this course Web site may be protected by copyright. Federal copyright law prohibits the reproduction, distribution, public performance, or public display of copyrighted materials without the express and written permission of the copyright owner, unless fair use or another exemption under copyright law applies.

9. Administrative Withdrawal

If the student is unable to complete this course, the student must officially withdraw by the University-designated date (for a “W” with instructor approval) or contact the instructor in request of an incomplete. Withdrawing from a course is a formal procedure that the student must initiate. I cannot do it for you. If you simply stop attending and do not withdraw, you will receive a performance grade, usually an “F.”

10. Policy on Server Unavailability or Other Technical Difficulties

The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and also contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu or 940.565.2324. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

11. Academic Honesty Policy

The Department of Anthropology does not tolerate plagiarism, cheating, or helping others to cheat. 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/>.

12. ADA Policy

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://disability.unt.edu/>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

13. Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses:

For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken on-line or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to completion of the class. An on-line or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

University of North Texas Compliance

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

(1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.

(2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.