ANTH 3101.521 American Culture & Society | Syllabus | **Spring 2022**

Welcome to ANTH 3101 - American Culture & Society!

Class Meeting Time

This class meets on **Tuesdays 1:00-3:50 pm** on the UNT at Frisco campus.
- Hall Park A, Rm. 107

This section is a part of the [Project, Design, and Analysis](#) program (Cohort 2, Year 2).

Instructor

Name: Dr. Kara A. Fulton (**[she/her](#)**), *Clinical Professor*
Email: Kara.Fulton@unt.edu
Office: Hall Park A, Room 143
Office Hours are posted in Canvas.

Communication Expectations

Important: Only send email from your official UNT email address or using Canvas messages. Messages from other platforms are likely to go to my spam folder may not be answered.

Communication Resources
- [Online Communication Tips](#)
- [Advice for Emailing Professors](#)

I value the many perspectives students bring to our campus. Please work with me to create a classroom culture of open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion. All discussions should be respectful and civil. Although disagreements and debates are encouraged, personal attacks are unacceptable. Together, we can ensure a safe and welcoming classroom for all. If you ever feel like this is not the case, please let me know. **We are all learning together.**

Managing Life Crisis and Finding Support

Should you encounter an unexpected crisis during the semester (i.e., securing food or housing, addressing mental health concerns, managing a financial crisis, and/or dealing with a family emergency, etc.), I strongly encourage you to contact the Dean of Students by submitting a [CARE referral](#) for yourself or a peer in need of support. If you are uncomfortable doing so on your own, please know that I can submit a referral on your behalf--just email me or schedule a meeting with me. To learn more about the Dean of Students, please find their website [here](#).

Course Description

Culture, cultural diversity, and multiculturalism constitute some of the most significant social issues in America today. Oriented around the core concept of culture and cultural groups; designed to introduce the student to the basic concepts of culture and cultural diversity and develop an awareness and appreciation for the full range of diversity in the American (U.S.) culture. Special time and attention devoted to the origins, development and consequences of the diversity that plays such a central role in the lives of people in this nation-state culture.

Prerequisites: This is a 3000-level, intermediate Anthropology course. Although, there are no required prerequisites for this course, basic UNT Core requirements including, but not limited to, ANTH 1010 or ANTH 2300 are recommended.

Core Category: Language, Philosophy and Culture
Core Skills: Critical Thinking, Communication, Social Responsibility, and Personal Responsibility

Course Structure

This course takes place on Canvas and in the physical classroom. Required materials and assignments are housed in Canvas, while class time will focus on discussion and activities.

You are expected to come to class having:
- read/viewed the required materials,
- completed the pre-class assignment, and,
- prepared for meaningful class discussion about the week's topic.

The class is divided into 14 modules, each lasting one week. The modules are grouped into three (3) main themes:
1. What is America/n?
2. Identity and Culture Groups
3. Institutions and Social Structures

With those broader themes in mind, our task is to read and work through the content of that week's module. *Start early! Do not wait until the last minute, because there is A LOT of content.*

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. **Identify** introductory anthropological terms and concepts as they apply to culture and society in the United States.
2. **Evaluate** social tropes, normative assumptions, and multiple perspectives of culture and society in the U.S. using anthropological terms and concepts.
3. **Increase** sensitivity to major aspects and characteristics of social issues in the U.S., causal and correlative factors, associated issues, and the nature of public and private organization addressing these issues.
4. **Reflect** on relationships between small-scale and large-scale social organization in the U.S. using anthropological terms and concepts.
5. **Establish** skills in discussing controversial issues with course colleagues using contemporary issues in U.S. culture and anthropological terms and concepts.
6. **Illustrate** growth in written communication skills over the course of the semester.
7. **Demonstrate** improved critical thinking skills over the course of the semester.

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Required Materials

There is no textbook for this course. All required readings, films, and other media are embedded in Canvas. Assigned materials include, but are not limited to, book chapters, articles, websites, and videos. If you are reading this sentence before the second week of class, send me an email with the subject line "Water Bear, Don't Care"; in the body of the message include the name of this course and an image of a tardigrade. I will award you 10 points extra credit as a thank you for reading the syllabus.

Notes: Media-based course content boldly encounters realities of lived experience in the United States. Although we may participate in many facets of "American" culture, the ideal and the real America are drawn into sharp contrast by reconsidering culture and society in the United States through the holistic lens of Anthropology. To this end, emphasis on critical cultural relativism and social equality offers a multi-focal framework through which to situate America's sociohistorical past, recognize continuing cultural patterns of the present, and delve into interconnected social issues of the contemporary "American" experience.

Course Technology

You will be required to register for the Packback platform. This platform will be used to submit the **Module Discussion Question** pre-class assignments. Packback is embedded into Canvas and can be accessed via the Course Navigation menu or Module Discussion Question assignment links. More details are on Canvas.

Bringing a laptop to class is highly recommended. If you do not have one, you can check one out from Hall Park 166.

Additional Requirements
- an open mind
- willingness to meaningfully discuss topics (sometimes controversial ones)
- respect for other people and their viewpoints

Rules of Engagement

Rules of engagement refer to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors (online and in the classroom). Here are some general guidelines:

- While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law will not be tolerated.
- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in any communication online or face-to-face, even when their opinion differs from your own.
- Ask for and use the correct name and pronouns for your instructor and classmates.
- Always use your professors' proper title (Dr. [last name] or Prof. [last name]). Unless specifically invited, don't refer to your instructor by first name.
- Speak from personal experiences. Use "I" statements to share thoughts and feelings. Try not to speak on behalf of groups or other individual's experiences.
- Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people's ideas, instead of attacking individuals.
- Avoid using all caps while communicating digitally. This may be interpreted as "YELLING!"
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm in emails or discussion posts as tone can be difficult to interpret digitally.
- Avoid using "text-talk" unless explicitly permitted by your instructor.

- Proofread and fact-check your sources.
- Keep in mind that online posts can be permanent, so think first before you type.

See these Engagement Guidelines for more information.

Technical Requirements & Skills

Minimum Technology Requirements

- Computer
- Reliable internet access
- Speakers
- Microsoft Office Suite
- Web browser
- Canvas Technical Requirements

Computer Skills & Digital Literacy

- Using and navigating Canvas
- Sending and receiving email
- Downloading and installing software
- Creating, sending, and receiving Microsoft Word and Google Doc documents
- Opening PDF files

Course Assignments

Below is a brief overview of course assignments. See Canvas for specific details on due dates, requirements, and grading.

Assignment	Points Possible	Approx. percent of grade
1. **Introductory Reflection**	20	4%
2. **Class Participation*** (best 12 out of 13 @ 10 points each)	120	27%
3. **Module Discussion Questions*** (best 12 out of 13 @ 10 points each)	120	27%
4. **Discussion Lead** (2 @ 30 points each)	60	13%
5. **Project Context Analyses** (2 @ 40 points each)	80	18%
6. **Engaging Anthropology Final Essay**	50	11%
Total Points Possible	**450**	**100%**

*lowest score in this category is dropped

1. **Introductory Reflection:** This assignment will ask you to reflect on your expectations for the course.

2. **Class Participation:** Regular, active class participation is expected throughout the semester. M1 and M15 do not count toward this category. Class participation includes: 1) being present and engaged for the full class time, and 2) completing the Peer Feedback survey during each class period.

3. **Module Discussion Questions:** For M2-14, students will submit open-ended discussion questions that will form the basis of in-class discussions.

4. **Discussion Lead:** Students will take turns leading class discussion throughout the semester and be provided with feedback from their peers.

5. **Project Context Analyses (team-based assignments):** At the end of Theme 2 and 3 (see Course Structure section of the syllabus), project teams will submit an analysis of how class topics relate to their semester PDA project.

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6. **Engaging Anthropology Final Essay:** Rather than a final exam, students will submit a short essay reflecting on what they've learned this semester.

Getting Help (technology, personal, or academic)

Technical Assistance

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT, we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

UNT IT Help Desk

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu   Live Chat   Phone: 940-565-2324   In Person: Sage Hall, Room 330

Hours and Availability: Visit the UNT IT Helpdesk website for up-to-date hours and availability

UNT at Frisco Technology Services

UNT at Frisco's computer lab is Hall Park A room #111. Hall Park 166 is our local Library where you can check out a laptop. For help with Frisco technology, contact UNTFriscoHelpdesk@unt.edu.

Canvas

For additional support with Canvas, visit Canvas Technical Help

Packback

For help with **Packback**, please read their FAQ at help.packback.co. If you need more help, contact their customer support team directly at help@packback.co.

Student Support Services

Mental Health

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- Student Health and Wellness Center
- Counseling and Testing Services
- UNT Care Team
- UNT Psychiatric Services
- Individual Counseling

Chosen Names

A chosen name is a name that a person goes by that may or may not match their legal name. If you have a chosen name that is different from your legal name and would like that to be used in class, please let me know. Below is a list of resources for updating your chosen name at UNT.

- UNT Records
- UNT ID Card
- UNT Email Address
- Legal Name

*UNT euIDs cannot be changed at this time. The collaborating offices are working on a process to make this option accessible to UNT community members.

Pronouns

Pronouns (she/her, they/them, he/him, etc.) are a public way for people to address you, much like your name, and can be shared with a name when making an introduction, both virtually and in-person. Just as we ask and don't assume someone's name, we should also ask and not assume someone's pronouns.

You can add your pronouns to your Canvas account so that they follow your name when posting to discussion boards, submitting assignments, etc.

Below is a list of additional resources regarding pronouns and their usage:
- What are pronouns and why are they important?
- How do I use pronouns?
- How do I share my pronouns?
- How do I ask for another person's pronouns?
- How do I correct myself or others when the wrong pronoun is used?

Academic Support Services
- Academic Resource Center
- Academic Success Center
- UNT Libraries
- Writing Lab
- MathLab

Additional Student Support Services
- Registrar
- Financial Aid
- Student Legal Services
- Career Center
- Multicultural Center
- Counseling and Testing Services
- Pride Alliance
- UNT Food Pantry

UNT at Frisco Student Services

- Career Services
- Academic Support
- Financial Aid, Scholarships & Payments
- Student Organizations
- Health & Wellness
- Student Support Outside of the Classroom
- Technology Services

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Appendix 1: Course Policies

Face Coverings

UNT encourages everyone to wear a face covering when indoors, regardless of vaccination status, to protect yourself and others from COVID infection, as recommended by current CDC guidelines. Face covering guidelines could change based on community health conditions. If you are unable to wear a face covering due to a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Access to request an accommodation.

Class Attendance & Participation

Regular and punctual participation is an expectation of the course. Each class, there will be discussion and other activities that cannot be made up if you do not attend class. In class, you will be expected to discuss the topics covered in the modules and be able to develop your perspective or viewpoint. In addition, please be an active listener and facilitate questions. Coming to class late or leaving early will be considered a 0.5 absence.

Note: 3 or more missed classes in a row, or less than 75% attendance overall are both considered excessive absences. Students with excessive absences will lose additional points, which may result in a failing grade for the course.

If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Team at COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure.

Assignments

All assignment due dates and instructions are listed in Canvas. Assignments are submitted either in class or on Canvas – assignment instructions will explain how each assignment should be submitted.

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 may extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu or 940.565.2324 and obtain a ticket number. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

Late Work

No late work is accepted. All work turned in after the deadline will receive a grade of zero unless the student has a university-excused absence and provides documentation with 48 hours of the missed deadline.

Syllabus Changes

The syllabus and schedule are subject to change. Any changes will be announced on Canvas.

- **Resource:** How do I view Announcements as a student?

Canvas Calendar

While the Canvas calendar with alerts is an additional organizational tool, it is not always accurate. In other words, students should not rely solely on the Canvas calendar and/or alerts to complete assignments. Rather, students are expected to meet deadlines according to the provided course schedule.

Extra Credit

If an opportunity for extra credit presents itself, it will be announced and available to the entire class at the discretion of the instructor. There will be no individual opportunities for extra credit.

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Appendix 2: UNT Policies

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

ADA Policy

UNT 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 a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students 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 ODA website. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004)

The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Retention of Student Records

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

Undocumented Students

Please see UNT'S Resources for DACA Students web page for more information.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail Eagle Connect.

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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 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 Dean of Students Office enforces the Code of Student Conduct. The Code explains what conduct is prohibited, the process the DOS uses to review reports of alleged misconduct by students, and the sanctions that can be assigned. When students may have violated the Code they meet with a representative from the Dean of Students Office to discuss the alleged misconduct in an educational process.

Student Evaluation Administration Dates

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website or email spot@unt.edu.

Survivor Advocacy

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-5652648.

Use of Student Work

A student owns the copyright for all work (e.g., software, photographs, reports, presentations, and email postings) he or she creates within a class and the University is not entitled to use any student work without the student's permission unless all of the following criteria are met:

- The work is used only once.
- The work is not used in its entirety.
- Use of the work does not affect any potential profits from the work.
- The student is not identified.
- The work is identified as student work.

If the use of the work does not meet all of the above criteria, then the University office or department using the work must obtain the student's written permission.

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Appendix 3: Course Schedule

The course schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be posted on Canvas.

DATE	MODULE WITH TOPIC	DUE TUE. (before class)	DUE SUN.
THEME 1: WHAT IS "AMERICA(N)"?			
WEEK 1 Jan. 18-23	**M1:** Introduction & Defining America/n		**Introductory Reflection**
WEEK 2 Jan. 24-30	**M2:** Culture & Society	**M2 Discussion Question**	
WEEK 3 Jan. 31-Feb.6	**M3:** The "American Spirit"	**M3 Discussion Question**	
WEEK 4 Feb. 7-13	**M4:** Characterizing Diversity	**M4 Discussion Question**	
THEME 2: IDENTITY AND CULTURAL GROUPS			
WEEK 5 Feb. 14-20	**Theme 2 Overview & Background** **M5:** Family & Community	**M5 Discussion Question**	
WEEK 6 Feb. 21-27	**M6:** Sexes & Genders	**M6 Discussion Question**	
WEEK 7 Feb. 28-Mar. 6	**M7:** Sexuality & Sexual Orientation	**M7 Discussion Question**	
WEEK 8 Mar. 7-13	**M8:** Race & Racialization	**M8 Discussion Question**	
Mar. 14-20	🌴 *Spring Break – no classes* 🌴		
WEEK 9 Mar. 21-27	**M9:** Class & Status	**M9 Discussion Question**	**Theme 1 & 2 Project Context Analysis**
THEME 3: INSTITUTIONS AND SOCIAL STRUCTURES			
WEEK 10 Mar. 28-Apr. 3	**Theme 3 Overview & Background** **M10:** Governmentality	**M10 Discussion Question**	
WEEK 11 Apr. 4-10	**M11:** Economics	**M11 Discussion Question**	
WEEK 12 Apr. 11-17	**M12:** Media/Social Media	**M12 Discussion Question**	
WEEK 13 Apr. 18-24	**M13:** Education	**M13 Discussion Question**	
WEEK 14 Apr. 25-May 1	**M14:** Crime & Punishment	**M14 Discussion Question**	**Theme 3 Project Context Analysis**
WRAPPING UP			
WEEK 15 May 2-8	**M15:** Final Reflections on American Culture and Society	**NO CLASS** – work on your final essays	**Engaged Anthropology Final Essay**
WEEK 16 **Finals Week**	*Congratulations – you made it!*		

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