

**ANTH 2300-810/820 Culture and Society**  
**Fall 2014**

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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.

**Designer’s Notes:**

- The Syllabus is accessible on the Sidebar Menu.
- The Lessons are accessible under “Units and Lessons” located on Sidebar Menu. The class is organized into 3 Units and there are 5 Lessons per Unit.
- The Discussion Board is accessible on the Sidebar Menu.
- The Quizzes and Exams are accessible on the Sidebar Menu. These will be released according to the release date indicated on the syllabus.
- Do not use the MESSAGE system to send e-mails. Rather, use E-Mail found in the sidebar.
- Check your unt.edu e-mail address OR have your UNT e-mail forwarded to your preferred account (gmail, Hotmail, yahoo, etc.)

**Required Readings**

1. Ember, Carol and Melvin Ember. 2011. Cultural Anthropology (13th 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**

### **Introductory Exercise:**

Follow the instructions given in the Week One – Orientation lesson.

First, follow the instructions given in the “Class Roster assignment” to enter information about yourself.

Then follow the instructions given in the “Class Map assignment”.

You will earn two points for completing each assignment, for a total of 4 points possible.

### **Quizzes:**

- There are 13 quizzes this semester.
- The quizzes are comprised of eight true/false questions.
- The questions cover the two Annual Editions articles assigned for that week; four questions will come from each reading.
- Except for Week 14 and Week 15, the quizzes will be available for you to take between 12:00am Thursday and 10:59PM Saturday of each week. Week 14 is Thanksgiving break; thus the quiz and discussion will be available on Sunday and conclude on Wednesday. The final week’s quiz and discussion will be available on Sunday and conclude on Thursday.
- 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:**

- There will be three tests. The first two are scheduled between 12:00am Sunday and 10:59PM Saturday; the third exam is scheduled between 12:00am Saturday and 11:59PM Friday.
- Once you start a test, you have 60 minutes to finish it. For example, as long as you start the exam by 10:59 pm on the final day it is available online, you will be allowed the full 60 minutes to take it.
- 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 as such 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 reasonable excuse BEFORE the scheduled test. No exceptions.
- Students may not reschedule exams because of out-of-town trips and/or plane reservations.

**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, sent 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) book. 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 your fellow students over issues raised in the readings.
- You must submit your original post for each reading by Monday at 11:59 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 Wednesday at 11:59 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 Exercise	2 x 2 = 4 Points Total
Quizzes	8 points x 13 quizzes = 104 Points Total
Exams	3 exams x 80 points= 240 Points Total
Discussion Posts/Responses	4 points x 13 AE articles = 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 there have been the introductory exercise (4 points), 1 exam (80 points total), 3 quizzes (24 points total) and 6 AE articles covered in discussion posts/responses (12 points total), then there have been 120 points available 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 points 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 which 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. You will find me much less patient and able to help you at 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](http://www.deanofstudents.unt.edu)

2. EXTRA CREDIT: No extra credit opportunities will be given, under any circumstances. I am 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 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 have over 450 students, 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.

WEEK	TOPIC	READINGS	QUIZ/EXAM	DISCUSSION FORUMS
Week 1 August 25 - 30	Orientation	None	Class Roster and Class Map assignment due Sat., Aug 30	None
Week 2 August 31 – September 6	Intro to Anthropology	E&E Ch. 1 AE Readings: 1. Lee “Eating Christmas in the Kalahari 2. Bohannon “Shakespeare in the Bush”	Quiz 1 Thurs Sept 4 – Sat Sept 6	DISCUSSION 1 <b>LABOR DAY OFF</b> Reflection Tues Sept 2  Response Thurs Sept 4
Week 3 Sept 7 – Sept 13	Culture Concept	E&E Ch. 2 AE Articles: 1. Watters "The Americanization of Mental Illness" 2. Dettwyler “Breastfeeding and Culture”	Quiz 2 Thurs Sept 11 – Sat Sept 13	DISCUSSION 2 <b>REGULAR SCHEDULE RESUMES</b> Reflection Mon Sept 8  Response Wed Sept 10
Week 4 Sept 14 – Sept 20	Methods	E&E Ch. 4 AE Articles 1. Scheper-Hughes "Death Without Weeping" 2. Sterk "Tricking and Tripping: Fieldwork on Prostitution in the Era of Aids"	Quiz 3 Thurs Sept 18 – Sat Sept 20	DISCUSSION 3  Reflection Mon Sept 15  Response Wed Sept 17
Week 5 Sept 21 – 27	Theory	E&E Ch. 3	No Quiz <b>EXAM 1</b> <b>Sun Sept 21 – Sat Sept 27</b>	DISCUSSION None
Week 6 Sept 28 – Oct 4	Getting Food	E&E Ch. 6 AE Articles 1. Sameshima and Stannard “We Belong to the Land” 2. Gadsby "The Inuit Paradox"	Quiz 4 Thurs Oct 2 – Sat Oct 4	DISCUSSION 4  Reflection Mon Sept 29  Response Wed Oct 1
Week 7 Oct 5 – Oct 11	Ecosystems	E&E Ch. 7 AE Articles 1. Smith “Cell Phones, Sharing, and Social Status in an African Society” 2. Hitchcock "Rising Number if Dowry Deaths in India"	Quiz 5 Thurs. Oct 9 – Sat Oct 11	DISCUSSION 5  Reflection Mon Oct 6  Response Wed Oct 8

Week 8 Oct 12 – Oct 18	Political Organization	E&E Ch. 14 AE Articles 1. Rogers "The Evolution of Inequality" 2. Lappe and Collins "Why Can't People Feed Themselves?"	Quiz 6 Thurs Oct 16 – Sat Oct 18	DISCUSSION 6  Reflection Mon Oct 13  Response Wed Oct 15
Week 9 Oct 19 – Oct 25	Religion and Magic	E&E Ch. 15 AE Articles 1. Jost "Understanding Islam" 2. Del Guercio "The Secrets of Haiti's Living Dead"	Quiz 7 Thurs Oct 23 – Sat Oct 25	DISCUSSION 7  Reflection Mon Oct 20  Response Wed Oct 22
Week 10 Oct 26 – Nov 1	Marriage and Family	E&E Ch. 11 AE Articles 1. Coontz "The Invention of Marriage" 2. Kristof "Who Needs Love!"	Quiz 8 Thurs Oct 30 – Sat Nov 1 <b>EXAM 2</b> <b>Sun Oct 26 – Sat Nov 1</b>	DISCUSSION 8  Reflection Mon Oct 27  Response Wed Oct 29
Week 11 Nov 2 – Nov 8	Kinship and Residence Patterns	E&E Ch. 12 AE Articles: 1. Goldstein "When Brothers Share a Wife" 2. Nanda "Arranging a Marriage in India"	Quiz 9 Thurs. Nov 6 – Sat Nov 8	DISCUSSION 9  Reflection Mon Nov 3  Response Wed Nov 5
Week 12 Nov 9 – Nov 15	Sex and Gender	E&E Ch. 10 AE Articles: 1. Williams "The Berdache Tradition" 2. Nanda "The Hijras: An Alternative Gender in India"	Quiz 10 Thurs. Nov 13 – Sat Nov 15	DISCUSSION 10  Reflection Mon Nov 10  Response Wed Nov 12
Week 13 Nov 16 – Nov 22	Culture and Art	E&E Ch. 16 AE Articles 1. Simmons "Where Fat is a Mark of Beauty" 2. Miner "Body Ritual of the Nacirema"	Quiz 11 Thurs. Nov 20 – Sat Nov 22	DISCUSSION 11  Reflection Mon Nov 17  Response Wed Nov 19
Week 14 Nov 23 – Nov 29	Language and Communication	E&E Ch. 5 AE Articles: 1. Boroditsky "How Language Shapes Thought" 2. Pagel "War of Words"	<b>THANKSGIVING BREAK</b> <b>Note Quiz 12 Dates:</b> <b>Sun Nov 23 – Sat Nov 29</b>	DISCUSSION 12  Reflection Mon Nov 24  Response Wed Nov 26

<p>Week 15 Nov 30 – Dec 4</p>	<p>Applied Anthropology</p>	<p>E&amp;E Ch. 17 AE Articles 1. Keating "Spirits of the Forest" 2. Kunzig "Population Seven Billion"</p>	<p>Quiz 13 <b>Sun</b> Nov 30 – <b>Thurs</b> Dec 4</p>	<p>DISCUSSION 13 Reflection Mon Dec 1  Response Wed Dec 3</p>
<p><b>DEC 6 – 12 EXAM 3</b></p>			<p><b>EXAM 3 Sat Dec 6 – Friday Dec 12</b></p>	