

ANTHROPOLOGY 3101 - AMERICAN CULTURE

SYLLABUS

* * * * *

INSTRUCTOR AND INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANTS:

Instructor:

Dr. Jamie K. Johnson

Jamie.Johnson@unt.edu

Summer office hours: **Wednesday by appointment only**

Office location: Chilton Hall, Room 330-J

Anthropology Department, 3rd fl. (located at Ave C and Chestnut)

Office phone: 940-369-5403

Instructional Assistants: To be assigned alphabetically by the end of Week 1

Last name: Joshua P. Banis
Email: joshua.banis@unt.edu
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 3:30 - 5:00 pm via Skype or by appointment
Office Location: email/Skype
Skype ID: Joshua.Banis

Last name: Alex Hickling
Email:
Office Hours:
Office Location: email/Skype
Skype ID:

Last name: Elizabeth Sidler
Email:
Office Hours:
Office Location: email/Skype
Skype ID:

Last name: Logan McLaughlin
Email:
Office Hours:
Office Location: email/Skype
Skype ID:

CONTACTING US:

- **You must use your UNT Eagle Mail email account to email us.**
- **You must use your UNT Eagle Mail email account to email us.**
- **You must use your UNT Eagle Mail email account to email us.** 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 nearly 600 students this semester in four 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 journal assignments and Final Projects. They are also available to answer questions you may have about the course material or your individual grade on an assignment. Dr. Johnson 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, you or your representative must email one of us within 24 hours. 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 and leave a voicemail. 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.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

*****All readings are embedded in the course material. You are not required to purchase any books. Repeat: no books are required (hip hip hooraaaay!!).**

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.

* * * * *

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.

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.

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 of the origin 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 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.
- We recommend logging into the course at least **every other day** 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. REPEAT: 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 (see instructions below). If it is conceptual or practical, contact your IA or Dr. Johnson 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

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/>.

GRADING: *350 possible points may be earned in this course by completing the assignments and exams. The point distribution is listed below.

Weekly Journal Entries:	12 entries	10 points each
	120 possible points	% of final grade
Midterm exam:	45 questions	2 points each
	90 possible points	% of final grade

Final exam:	45 questions	2 points each
	90 possible points	% of final grade

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

Final project:	Course Reflections: Class Discussion Board	
	1 personal reflection	20 points
	2 thoughtful responses	15 points each
	50 possible points	% of final grade

TOTAL POINTS: 120 + 90 + 90 + 50 = 350 possible points

350 is the score *your* total earned points will be measured against.

How to Calculate Your Grade:

There will be a total of 350 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.

PLUS!

Extra Credit #1	PACS “Fall Forum” Talk	10 possible points
	Summary: 300 - 500 words	
Extra Credit #2	End-of-Year Course Evaluation	3 possible points

Grading Scale:

- A: 350- total points
- B: total points
- C: total points
- D: total points
- F: total points

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

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

WEEKLY JOURNAL ENTRIES

Comments and General Instructions

- The weekly journal assignments are short essays written on topics specified in each lesson. Assignments will only be accepted by submitting them

- Emailed assignments will NOT be accepted.
- Please read AND FOLLOW instructions carefully.
- If you have questions regarding the assignment instructions, email your **Instructional Assistant**.

Grading Rubric

- **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.

EXAMS:

- You will take two exams. The first – your Midterm Exam – is scheduled between.... The second – your Final Exam – is scheduled between....
- 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.**

JOURNAL ENTRIES – Elizabeth: can you please provide the instruction text here?

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 “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 at the end of each lesson Lessons, Quizzes, 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 SCHEDULE

WEEK	DATE	LESSON	ASSIGNMENT READINGS	JOURNAL ASSIGNMENT AND WEEKLY QUIZ DUE DATE
WEEK 1	8/24 – 8/30	1	Introduction	Sunday 11:59pm
WEEK 2	8/31 – 9/6	2	The Anthropological Perspective	Sunday 11:59pm

WEEK 3	9/7 – 9/13	3	American Indians 9/8 Students must drop w/ approval	Sunday 11:59pm
WEEK 4	9/14 – 9/20	4	The Western Frontier and Expansion	Sunday 11:59pm
WEEK 5	9/21 – 9/27	5	The Civil War and South	Sunday 11:59pm
WEEK 6	9/28 – 10/4	6	Ingredients of “The Melting Pot”	Sunday 11:59pm
WEEK 7	10/5 – 10/11		Midterm Exam	Sunday 11:59pm
WEEK 8	10/12 – 10/18	7	American Social Movements in the 20th Century	Sunday 11:59pm
WEEK 9	10/19 – 10/25	8	Race, Ethnicity and Social Class	Sunday 11:59pm
WEEK 10	10/26 – 11/1	9	American Language, Culture and Thought	Sunday 11:59pm
WEEK 11	11/2 – 11/8	10	Life Cycle, Family, and Gender Dynamics in American Culture 11/2 Last day to drop with W/WF	Sunday 11:59pm
WEEK 12	11/9 – 11/15	11	Religion in America	Sunday 11:59pm
WEEK 13	11/16 – 11/22	12	Digital Technology, Mass Media, and Consumerism	Sunday 11:59pm
WEEK 14	11/23 – 11/29	Final Project	Discussion Board Final Project will open 11/23 11/26 – 11/27 Thanksgiving Holiday	No assignments due
WEEK 15	11/30 – 12/6	Final Project	Discussion Board Final Project Due Friday 12/4	Friday 12/4 at 11:59pm
WEEK 16	12/7 – 12/11	Final Exam	Final Exam will open Thursday 12/3 and will close Thursday 12/10	Thursday 12/10 at 11:59pm