

ANTHROPOLOGY 3101 - AMERICAN CULTURE

SYLLABUS – Spring 2016

Please note: ALL TIMES IN THIS SYLLABUS ARE CENTRAL TIME

INSTRUCTOR:

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Office hours: Wednesdays 1:30pm-4:30pm, or by appointment

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INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANTS:

Sarah Ben-Ezra for last names ABBOTT to CHEUNG

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Virtual Office Hours means that your IA will be available to answer emails immediately during the specified time. At other times, emails will be responded to within 24 hours (48 hours on weekends)

CONTACTING US:

- **You must use your UNT Eagle Mail email account to email us.**
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- **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.
- **If you are having a technological difficulty, follow the protocol for “TECHNOLOGICAL DIFFICULTIES” outlined below.**
- **Please include your first and last name and ANTH 3101 in the subject line when you email any of us. Failure to include what class you are enrolled in may delay our 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. Davenport.
- If your email regards a personal matter or contains sensitive information, email Dr. Davenport.

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. Davenport will supervise their work and will make decisions about things that you may want to appeal. She will also answer any overall grade questions.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- All readings are embedded in the course material. These are REQUIRED.
- Films and video clips in the lessons are also REQUIRED. This visual material can be accessed through the links provided 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:

1. Learn basic anthropological concepts and theoretical models
2. Be able to apply basic anthropological concepts to the analysis and understanding of cultural processes in the past and present of the USA.
3. Be able to identify cultural characteristics and values of the USA culture
4. 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 lifestyles and social movements within any given population. To understand the present, we need to examine the past. The historical context is critical 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:

- 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.
Late assignments will not be accepted.
- All the content you need for this class is on the home page. Each lesson has its own folder.
- Read the lesson and any other assigned materials (book chapters, website links, etc.).
- If a video clip is part of the lesson, WATCH IT.
- Due dates for all assignments and exams are in this syllabus. See 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.
- 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. Davenport to assist your problem solving.

TECHNOLOGICAL DIFFICULTIES:

- 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:
 - Student EUID: *****
 - Name & Section of the Course: Anth 3101, Section 810, 820
 4. Get a ticket number from the Helpdesk.
 5. Once you have a ticket number, send it to your IA (not to your Instructor)
 6. Your IA will follow up with you once the Helpdesk confirms the situation.
- If you do not get a ticket number, your problem will remain unsolved.
- If you contact your Instructor without first contacting your IA, she will refer you to your IA.

GRADING:

Assignment	Entries	Points	Percent of Grade
Weekly Journals	11 x 10 points each	120	30%
Weekly Quizzes	11 x 5 points each	55	14%
Midterm Exam	45 questions	90	23%
Final Exam	45 questions	90	23%
Final Project	1	45	11%

TOTAL POINTS: 120 + 55 + 90 + 90 + 45 = 400 possible points

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

How to Calculate Your Grade:

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

Grading Scale (total points):

A: 400-360
 B: 359-320
 C: 319-280
 D: 279-240
 F: >240

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

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 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 **at any time before the due date**. You are encouraged to submit work early.
- **NO LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

WEEKLY JOURNAL ENTRIES

The weekly journal assignments are short essays written on topics specified in each lesson. The purpose of the journal is for you to critically reflect on the material you have covered in each lesson and the ways that material is related to your own experience. Assignments will only be accepted by submitting them through the course in BlackBoard. **We will not accept emailed assignments.** Please read AND FOLLOW instructions carefully. If you have questions regarding the assignment instructions, email your **Instructional Assistant**.

Grading Rubric

1. Each journal entry must be approximately 200 words.
2. You must respond to all questions posed in the instructions for the journal entry. Below are the two foundational questions that you will answer each week.
 - What is something you learned in this lesson, either something you did not know before or an area of knowledge that was expanded with new details?
 - What did you care about most in this lesson?
3. Additional questions may be posed to help focus your journal entry on a specific topic from the lesson/readings. If additional questions are posed, they will be posted on the Announcements page and the journal entry instructions will be updated a week before the journal entry is due.
4. Journal entries will be graded for grammar, spelling and organization so give yourself enough time to compose your essay and to edit it.
5. Finally, your essay must demonstrate knowledge of an engagement with the material, whether by referencing specific topics and details covered in the lesson or by referencing (and properly citing) readings.
6. You can expect to receive your essay's grade and feedback about a week and a half after its due date.

You have 7 full days to complete an assignment. Make-up assignments will not be allowed unless the you or your representative emails presents Dr. Davenport with a University-Approved excuse within no more than 24 hours after the assignment is due. No exceptions.

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. When in doubt, CITE!** For more information on paper writing, including how to avoid plagiarism, and how to use citations, see <http://www.unt.edu/anthropology/writing.htm> . See <http://www.library.unt.edu/citations-style-guides> for help in citing appropriately.

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. Do not copy from any source. Copying from any source will result in a failing grade for the assignment. This is called PLAGIARISM. 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. 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 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/> .

EXAMS:

- 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!
- You will take two exams. The first – your Midterm Exam – is scheduled between 2/29 and 3/6. It is due 3/6 by 11:59 pm. The second – your Final Exam – is scheduled between Thursday 5/5 and Thursday 5/9 and will be due 5/9 by 11:59pm.
- **Once you begin an exam you have 90 minutes to complete it. DO NOT wait until the last minute, as Blackboard often undergoes scheduled and unscheduled maintenance.**
 - **As an 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.
- **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.**
- 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 Dr. Davenport with a University-Approved excuse no later than within 24 hours after the scheduled test date. No exceptions.**

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.

DROP FOR NON-ATTENDANCE

Completion of assignments will be the primary means of determining "attendance" in this course. When you log in, read lessons, and complete quizzes and journals you are attending class. Engaging with the course material in this way is essential to your success in this class, thus any student who fails to show up during the first month of class, or who fails to regular participate in the activities of the class **will be dropped for non-attendance. This drop will be counted as a “withdraw failing (WF).”** **If you do not wish to have a WF on your record, you must initiate withdrawal procedures before April 5, 2016. This cannot be done on line.** You must get a drop form from the Registrar’s Office, bring it to the Anthropology Department, and get my (Dr. Davenport’s) signature on it. If you do this, I will not give you a grade of WF. There are consequences to dropping classes, so consider your options carefully and make sure you ask for help. Here is a link to the Registrar’s Office with information about the UNT Drop Policy: <http://registrar.unt.edu/registration/dropping-class>.

COURSE SCHEDULE

(Course week goes from Monday to Sunday)

WEEK	DATE	LESSON	LESSON DESCRIPTION	JOURNAL ASSIGNMENT AND WEEKLY QUIZ DUE DATE
1	1/19-1/24	1	Introduction	Sunday 11:59pm
2	1/25-1/31	2	The Anthropological Perspective	Sunday 11:59pm
3	2/1-2/7	3	American Indians	Sunday 11:59pm
4	2/8-2/14	4	The Western Frontier and Expansion	Sunday 11:59pm
5	2/15-2/21	5	The Civil War and South	Sunday 11:59pm
6	2/22-2/28	6	Ingredients of "The Melting Pot"	Sunday 11:59pm
7	2/29-3/6	n/a	Midterm Exam will open 2/29 and will close 3/6	Sunday 11:59pm
8	3/7-3/13	7	American Social Movements in the 20 th Century	Sunday 11:59pm
Spring Break until 3/20				
9	3/21-3/27	8	Race, Ethnicity and Social Class	Sunday 11:59pm
10	3/28-4/3	9	American Language, Culture and Thought	Sunday 11:59pm
11	4/4-4/10	10	Life Cycle, Family, and Gender Dynamics in American Culture Last day to drop class is Tuesday, April 5	Sunday 11:59pm
12	4/11-4/17	11	Religion in America	Sunday 11:59pm
13	4/18-4/24	12	Digital Technology, Mass Media, and Consumerism	Sunday 11:59pm
14	4/25-5/1	Final Project	Discussion Board Final Project will open 4/25	No assignments due
15	5/2-5/6	Final Project	Discussion Board Final Project Due Sunday 5/8	Sunday 5/8 at 11:59pm
Finals	5/7-5/13	Final Exam	Final Exam will open Thursday 5/5 and will close Thursday 5/12	Thursday 5/12 at 11:59pm