



University of North Texas
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Anthropology Department
ANTH 3101.810/820: Am Cult & Soc
Canvas
Spring 2019

COURSE INFORMATION

Welcome! Many of us participate in and understand multiple facets of “American” culture; this semester, we’ll be exploring culture in the United States through the **holistic** lens of Anthropology. The four+ sub-fields of Anthropology, and its emphasis on **critical cultural relativism** and social equality offers us a multi-focal framework through which we can understand our sociohistorical past, clarify the continuity of cultural patterns into the present, and begin to delve into the intersectionality of the contemporary “American” experience.

Course Description: American Culture and Society. 3 hours. Basic concepts and theoretical models to approach the complexities embedded in the concepts of "culture," "diversity," and "values" as they are exercised in the American context. The diversity of cultural and historical processes from which these values emerged, and how they have been transformed and are expressed in contemporary times through different themes and media such as family, ethnic or cultural diversity, consumerism, entertainment, and technology.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe key anthropological terms and concepts as they relate to American culture and society.
- Explain the significance of United States sociohistorical events using key anthropological terms and concepts.
- Evaluate the significance of contemporary social movements and cultural phenomena in the United States using key anthropological terms and concepts.
- Establish connections between sociohistorical and contemporary “American” cultural themes using anthropological concepts.

Course designer: Dr. Alicia Re Cruz <http://anthropology.unt.edu/dr-alicia-re-cruz>

Teaching team:

Instructor: **Dr. April Bass**

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IA Office location: Anthropology Dept, 308 Chilton Hall (behind Front Desk to the right)

Contacting your teaching team:

If you want to:

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|---|--|
| Ask questions about an assignment | Email your IA |
| Ask questions about grades | Email your IA, cc Dr. Bass |
| Discuss a missed assignment/exam | Email your IA, cc Dr. Bass |
| Ask about the structure of the course | Email your IA, cc Dr. Bass |
| Discuss course material | Contact your IA or Dr. Bass |
| Discuss personal information (e.g., ODA, life issues) | Contact Dr. Bass |
| Figure out technical problems with email or Canvas | Contact UIT Student Help Desk: http://it.unt.edu/helpdesk or 940-565-2324 |

Dr. Bass' Teaching Philosophy: I view college classrooms as practice for your future career. I am interested in learning about you - what your career plans are, how I can support you in your pursuits, and how I can incorporate tools in the classroom that will give you practical application in the future.

One of my goals is to emphasize the strengths of collaborative learning between all of you, your IA, and me. In the real world, there isn't a monopoly on knowledge, but collaboration, dedication to life-long learning/innovation, and mutual encouragement. If this isn't the reality you've experienced so far, I think it's the most effective. What are your thoughts?

I understand working full-time while supporting yourself through college. I understand the first-generation college experience. I am here to offer and/or find support for any of you who chooses to seek it out. What I ask from all of you is early and genuine communication throughout the semester - the same that will be required of you in your careers - so that our course will run smoothly.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Textbook: We do *not* have a single textbook for this course. All required readings are embedded in Canvas.

Canvas: you will need to check Canvas regularly for class announcements, course updates, and fun supplemental material!

- **Trouble-shooting:** If you run into technical issues with Canvas, follow the procedures outlined under “Technical Issues” in the **Student Success Guide on Canvas**
 - Once you have a ticket number from the UIT Student HelpDesk, email your IA, and cc Dr. Bass. If you contact your Instructional Assistant and/or Dr. Bass without first completing this procedure, you will be kindly redirected to this section of the syllabus and the matter will remain unresolved.
- **Navigating Canvas:** If you’re just learning Canvas, no worries! Contact your IA with questions.

CLASSROOM STANDARDS

Expectations:

- **Be Engaged.** Asking questions is a great way to learn! If you have a question, you won’t be the only person with that same question, so help us support you by asking questions through email, office hours, phone calls – whatever you’re most comfortable with.
- **Be Prepared.** You have enrolled in an online course! We don’t have F2F time to engage in discussion, which means that you have autonomy to explore on your own. *Stay on top of course work, readings, announcements; this online semester moves quickly!*
- **Be Civil.** Thought-provoking discussions are essential at every stage in life. So is mutual respect for our fellow humans in our classroom and for the cultures we will be exploring.
- **Be Professional.** College is practice for your future career. Work hard, be curious, *earn* your grade, and take responsibility for it at the end of the semester.

How to succeed: UNT endeavors to offer you a high-quality education and to provide a supportive environment to help you learn and grow. And, as a faculty member, I am committed to helping you be successful as a student. Here’s how to succeed at UNT: *Show up. Find support. Get advised. Be prepared. Get involved. Stay focused.*

- For specific tips about success in this class, I have prepared a **Student Success Guide** for you, which you can access on **Canvas**.

ASSESSMENT & GRADING

For information about late work, extra credit opportunities, early exams, and instructor feedback, see the **Student Success Guide on Canvas**.

Syllabus changes: assignments, schedule, and points outlined below may change to meet the needs of our class and the semester. *Stay tuned to Canvas often for any updates.*

Course Assignments: This class will require you to complete 1-2 short written assignments each week, as well as a semester project video presentation (Three-minute Message). We also offer an additional, *optional* Final Exam that you can choose to take to replace your two lowest (or missed) weekly assignments. There are specific rubrics in each assignment detailing point breakdowns.

1. **Journals:** You will have **six (6)** journal entries – offered every other week – that ask you to thoughtfully respond to a module-related topic. Each discussion will be scored out of **40 points**. For each discussion, you will be expected to post one short but substantial paragraph that fully answers the prompt. By *substantial* we mean that you say more than just “I agree” or “great article”. You must explain yourself by referring back to the corresponding topic, module and/or film. NOTE ABOUT DISCUSSIONS: Discussions are NOT political/religious platforms. They are designed to demonstrate that you understand and can clearly and effectively articulate anthropological concepts and facts. You may certainly incorporate outside reading material or anecdotal information provided it is relevant to the prompt. Only relay personal *beliefs* or *opinions* if prompted by assignment instructions.
2. **Interacts:** You will have **six (6)** opportunities – every other week and alternating with journal weeks – to step outside our course and dig into current news pieces, articles, documentaries, etc. related to a particular part of the week’s module that peaks your interest. These Interacts will be scored out of **40 points**; to earn full points, you will write a short paragraph summarizing your selection, and then write a short critical reflection of that same selection. By *critical reflection*, we mean that you should be able to discuss the main point(s) of your selection from an anthropological perspective, whether those points were well-supported in your selection, and what questions you still have after interacting with your selection.
3. **Just 50 Words: Five (5)** of the six weeks you write Interacts, you’ll also be answering a critical thinking question about the modules you’re learning, *because* Interacts support your curiosity for application of the material, and Just 50 Words supports your engagement with course material itself. Answering a big question in a small space takes planning and practice with analysis, argumentation, and clarity. These 50-word assignments will be scored out of **40 points** and will prepare you for the Three-minute Message assignment. Here, I’ve written double the words you’re allowed – not a lot of space to make deeper connections!
4. **Three-minute Message:** This assignment is modelled on the 3MT (3-Minute Thesis: <https://vimeo.com/threeminutethesis>), where competitors are given just three minutes to present a compelling argument with substantial supporting evidence/details that are both visually (or aurally) and verbally convincing. For this assignment, you will be tying together one topic from the American sociohistorical modules with one topic from the modules on American social movements or contemporary American culture. You will make an anthropologically-based argument, support your argument with evidence/details that you have discovered through guided research, and upload your recorded three-minute presentation to Canvas. After your

own project is completed, you'll have a chance to review your course colleague's videos and vote for "best in class"!

5. **OPTIONAL *comprehensive* final exam:** We're exploring new ways of engaging with course material this semester! Just in case something unforeseen happens, and you miss a couple of assignments, or you're used to standard assessments and want to give it a try, we **do** have the option of a traditional comprehensive final if you'd like to take it. If you take the final, and you score lower than on weekly assignments, your final exam score won't count against you, so it can't hurt to try if you think you're stuck at the end of the semester. The *comprehensive* final exam will be scored out of **80 points**, and will be a combination of *critical-thinking* multiple-choice questions and short answer questions.

Points Distribution and Grading Scale:

| Assignments | Possible Points | Percentage |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Discussion boards (Journals) | 240 (6 X 40) | 24% |
| Interacts | 240 (6 X 40) | 24% |
| Just 50 Words | 200 (5 X 40) | 20% |
| Three-minute message | 320 | 32% |
| Total | 1000 | 100% |

Calculating your grade: You can calculate your grade at any time by dividing the total number of points you have earned by the total number of points possible and multiplying by 100. *Do not email your instructor or your IA asking what your grade is.* We will refer you to this section of the syllabus.

| Point conversion to letter grade |
|----------------------------------|
| 1000-900 Points (90-100%) = A |
| 899-800 Points (80-89%) = B |
| 799-700 Points (70-79%) = C |
| 699-600 Points (60-69%) = D |
| 599-0 Points (Under 59%) = F |

TENTATIVE Schedule

| Week | Dates | Unit topics | Readings, films & assignments | Due dates |
|------|-------|-------------|-------------------------------|-----------|
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|--------------|-------------|---|---|--|
| Wk 1 | 1.14 - 1.20 | Module 1: An Introduction and Overview | Reading: Module 1 Assignment: Module 1 Interact Extra credit (EC): EC Quiz! | Interact & EC Quiz DUE BY Sunday, 1.20 at 11:59pm |
| Wk 2 | 1.22 - 1.27 | Module 2: The Anthropological Perspective | Reading: Module 2 Assignment: Module 2 Journal | Module 2 Journal DUE BY Sunday, 1.27 at 11:59pm |
| Wk 3 | 1.28 - 2.3 | Module 3: Native Americans | Reading: Module 3 INCLUDING Nakano Glen: Settler colonialism as structure Video: Reel Injun Assignment: Week 3 Interact & Just 50 Words | Interact & Just 50 Words DUE BY Sunday, 2.3 at 11:59pm |
| Wk 4 | 2.4 - 2.10 | Module 4: Western Frontier & Expansion | Reading: Module 4 INCLUDING Max Weber: The Protestant Ethic Assignment: Week 4 Journal | Module 4 Journal DUE BY Sunday, 2.10 at 11:59pm |
| Wk 5 | 2.11 - 2.17 | Module 5: Civil War & the South | Reading: Module 5 INCLUDING Omi & Winant: Racial Formations Assignment: Module 5 Interact & Just 50 Words | Interact & Just 50 Words DUE BY Sunday, 2.17 at 11:59pm |
| Wk 6 | 2.18 - 2.24 | Module 6: The Ideology of the Melting Pot | Reading: Module 6 INCLUDING Ong: Racial & cultural formations in the U.S. Assignment: Week 6 Journal | Module 6 Journal DUE BY Sunday, 2.24 at 11:59pm |
| Wk 7 | 2.25 - 3.3 | Module 7: American Social Movements | Reading: Module 7 Film: Stonewall Uprising Assignment: Module 7 Interact & Just 50 Words | Interact & Just 50 Words DUE BY Sunday, 3.3 at 11:59pm |
| Wk 8 | 3.4 - 3.10 | Module 8: Race, Ethnicity & Social Class | Reading: Module 8 INCLUDING Cohen et al: Defining social class Videos: Ted Talk: Kimberle Crenshaw "Intersectionality" Assignment: Module 8 Journal | Module 8 Journal DUE BY Sunday, 3.10 at 11:59pm |
| Wk 9 | 3.11 - 3.17 | SPRING BREAK! | | |
| Wk 10 | 3.18 - 3.24 | Module 9: Life Cycle, Family & Gender Dynamics | Reading: Module 9 INCLUDING Cott: Public Vows AND Fausto-Sterling: The five sexes revisited Assignment: Module 9 Interact & Just 50 Words | Interact & Just 50 Words DUE BY Sunday, 3.24 at 11:59pm |
| Wk 11 | 3.25 - 3.31 | Module 10: Religion in the U.S. | Reading: Module 10 INCLUDING Zelinsky: Uniqueness of the American religious landscape Assignment: Module 10 Journal | Module 10 Journal DUE BY Sunday, 3.31 at 11:59pm |
| Wk 12 | 4.1 - 4.7 | Module 11: U.S. Language, Culture & Thought | Reading: Module 11 INCLUDING Lippi-Green: Teaching children how to discriminate Video: Do you speak American, Episode 1 | Interact & Just 50 Words DUE BY Sunday, 4.7 at 11:59pm |

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| | | | Assignment: Module 11 Interact & Just 50 Words | |
| Wk 13 | 4.8 - 4.14 | Module 12: Digital Technology, Mass Media & Communication | Reading: Module 12 INCLUDING Bonilla: #Ferguson Film: YouTube Revolution Assignment: Module 12 Journal | Module 12 Journal DUE BY Sunday, 4.14 at 11:59pm |
| Wk 14 | 4.15 - 4.21 | Three-Minute Message Projects | | |
| Wk 15 | 4.22 - 4.28 | Three-Minute Message Projects | | |
| Wk 16 | 4.29 - 5.3 | OPTIONAL Comprehensive Final Exam | | |

COURSE POLICIES

Personal Distress: Excerpts from <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care> “The University of North Texas cares about our students' success, not only academically, but emotionally and physically.... Because of our commitment, we provide literally hundreds of departments and services across campus that respond to our students' unique needs.” UNT believes it is important to foster an environment that encourages students to maintain a standard of responsibility for self-care which includes the ability to respond adequately to one's emotional, physical, and educational needs. If you are experiencing physical or emotional distress which adversely affects your ability to succeed in class, please see me as soon as possible. Together, we will point you towards the appropriate resources.

ODA 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 at disability.unt.edu.

- **Course-specific addition:** For anyone seeking ADA accommodations, please bring me your official “request” letter during the first week of class. In addition, let’s meet early during the semester and often to make sure that this course is offering all possible steps to maximize your learning and engagement with the material.

Sexual Assault Prevention: UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit 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. UNT’s Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim’s

compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565- 2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.

- **Course-specific addition:** UNT's Dean of Students' website offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors, depending on their unique needs: http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources_0. Renee LeClaire McNamara is UNT's Student Advocate and she can be reached through e-mail at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students' office at 940-565-2648. *You are not alone. We are here to help.*

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 online 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 online or distance education course is one 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 a language study program, no online or distance education classes may be considered toward a student's full course of study requirement.

Academic Integrity: 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.

- **Course-specific sanctions for plagiarism:** Using someone else's thoughts or words without giving them credit is not acceptable in either the college or professional world. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism (many students do), please ask and/or seek out writing resources (Student Success Guide on Canvas) *before* your work is graded and considered plagiarized. *Plagiarized work is subject to a re-write, a grade of zero for the assignment, or reporting to the Office of Academic Integrity as appropriate.*
- **Course-specific sanctions for cheating:** *You are Scholars. Do not cheat.* I reserve the right to *fail students from the course* for academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, sharing or receiving shared course resources outside the parameters explicitly allowed in directions/instructions for assignments/assessments, or using course colleague's answers or work as their own. This and other similar behavior outlined in the University's policies on academic integrity (<https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.003.pdf>) are not Scholarly and will not help you accomplish your goals.

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 Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.