

ANTH 2300-001
Culture and Society
Fall 2015

MWF 9:00-9:50 AM

Instructor: **Adam Dunstan**

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Office Hours: MW 10-11:30, or by Appt.

Course Description

In a globalized world we interact with people from different cultural backgrounds at a more rapid rate than ever before and across every domain of life. Further, we have ample evidence of how social structures and institutions influence everything from the distribution of wealth to the fate of the climate. Understanding humanity's social and cultural diversity is therefore one of the most important skills students in any career path can develop. In this course we explore humanity through the lens of **cultural anthropology**, the study of the social and cultural dimensions of human life. We will assess the powerful factors which shape who we are as humans both as individuals and as groups. This course will address these large-scale issues through close examination of specific societies across the globe studied by anthropologists: in short, by seeing the global in the local.

Throughout the semester, we will study some of the most pervasive social relations that human beings find themselves enmeshed in: kinship, economic systems, social control structures, and religions. We will then focus on such salient cultural forces as racism, gender ideologies, and language use. Throughout the semester we will explore the rapid change that has occurred in culture and societies over the past hundred years and highlight the relevance of an anthropological perspective to students' contemporary lives.

Course Information

Course Objectives

- Students will comprehend the concept of culture as well as its relationship to anthropological theoretical and applied practice.
- Students will analyze the role that discourse, political economy, and social construction play in social relations, and especially in defining such categories as gender, race, and knowledge.
- Students will analyze ethnographic case studies illustrating the diversity of human social institutions and cultural practices.
- Students will gain proficiency in analyzing social phenomena holistically for a variety of contributing factors and processes.
- Students will understand the basic perspectives and methods of cultural anthropology, and receive basic training in ethnographic fieldwork.

Assigned Texts

- Gary P. Ferraro, *Cultural Anthropology, an Applied Perspective*, 9th Edition.
- Other readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Grading Scale

90-100 A / 80-89 B / 70-79 C / 60-69 D / 59 and Below F

Grade Breakdown

Attendance.....	15%
3-Questions.....	15%
Mid-term.....	25%
“Culture and You” Seminar and Paper.....	20%
Take-home Final.....	25%

Due Dates

3 Questions: Weekly at the start of each class on Wednesday

Mid-term: 10/12/2015 in Class

“Culture and You” Seminar and Paper: 12/04/2015 in Class

Take-home Final: 12/11/2015 by Midnight CST via email

Assignments

Attendance: Students may miss 3 class periods without it affecting their attendance grade. After this, each absence counts as a 0 for that days’ attendance score, unless cleared with the instructor by email. Even if a student is within the 3 sessions missed, they are still required to submit assignments on time or this will count against their grade.

3 Questions per Week: Students will make a list of 3 questions or comments about each week’s reading. They may be written or typed, and will be turned in at the start of class on Wednesday of each week. These lists will provide evidence of having done the reading and also may be used to spark class discussion.

Midterm Exam: On **10/12/2015**, students will take an in-class midterm examination. This exam will include multiple-choice, true/false, matching, and short answer questions. A study guide will be distributed one week prior. The midterm should not take longer than 30 minutes, but students will have the entire class period to take the exam.

“Culture and You” Term Paper and Seminar: On **12/04/2015**, instead of the usual lecture, we will have a class discussion about how culture affects us in our everyday lives, as well as how the material you have learned in this course will impact your career or graduate studies. Students will bring to class a single-spaced, 12 point font, typed 5-6 page reflective essay about these topics and be prepared to speak about this paper during the class discussion. They will also turn this paper in to the instructor on **12/04/2015** in class. A rubric with formatting and other guidelines will be provided.

Final Exam: The final exam will take place on Friday, **12/07/2015**. The final exam will be multiple choice, true/false, and short answer. **The final will be cumulative.**

Course Policies

Discussion Participation: Students are expected to complete required readings and to be prepared to discuss these in class. Discussion will play a critical role in this class and will be a benefit both to you and your colleagues. Of course, it is expected that some students will comment more than others for a variety of reasons, including comfort with public speaking; however, each student is expected to contribute to the class.

Withdrawal: If you are unable to complete this course, you must officially withdraw by the University-designated date (for a “W” with instructor approval). Withdrawing from a course is a formal procedure that YOU must initiate. I cannot do it for you. If you simply stop attending and do not withdraw, you will receive a performance grade, usually an “F”.

Extra Credit: There is no extra credit planned at this time.

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 classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.deanofstudents.unt.edu.

In this classroom, “**acceptable student behavior**” includes:

Always be respectful of others’ thoughts, opinions, and perspectives.

Do not come late to class.

No cell phone usage, internet browsing, or social media use unless directed by the instructor.

Engage in class discussions, having read assigned readings.

Attend class regularly.

Contacting the Professor: Please feel free to come by office hours for assistance. Otherwise, email is the best way to get in touch with me outside of class. In the email, indicate your course and full name to facilitate my response. Please be aware that I typically do not answer emails after 8:00 PM.

Late Work Policy: Late work will result in a 20% reduction of your grade per calendar day, unless otherwise arranged with the instructor.

Do Not Miss Due Dates, the Seminar, or Exams: If you have a conflict with the seminar, the exam dates, or any other due date, it is your responsibility to make alternative arrangements ahead of time – NOT the week of the due date. Students may NOT turn in the seminar paper late. Allowing alternative arrangements is up to the discretion of the instructor.

Academic Misconduct: The Department of Anthropology does not tolerate plagiarism, cheating, or helping others to cheat. 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/>.

Course Schedule

Week 1- Course Introduction: the Anthropological Approach
Miner: “Body Ritual among the Nacirema” (Blackboard)

Week 2 – Cultural and Social Life
Ferraro: Chapter 2

Week 3 – Relatedness: Kinship and Marriage
Ferraro: Chapter 9
Goldstein: “When Brothers Share a Wife” (Blackboard)

Week 4 – Sex, Sexuality, and Gender
Ferraro: Chapter 11

Week 5 – The Environment, Our Life Support System (Subsistence)
Ferraro: Chapter 7

Week 6 – Economics: PRICE
Ferraro: Chapter 8
Clark: “The Raw and the Rotten: Punk Cuisine” (Blackboard)

Week 7- Politics: Social Control and Resistance
Ferraro: Chapter 13

Midterm Exam in Class, 10/12/2015

Week 8– “Magic,” “Witchcraft,” and “Religion”
Evans-Pritchard: “The Notion of Witchcraft Explains Unfortunate Events” (Blackboard)

Week 9- Religion across Cultures
Ferraro: Chapter 14

Week 10- Language and Symbolism
Ferraro Chapter 6: pp. 114-130
Bauman: *Let Your Words Be Few* (Excerpt) (Blackboard)

Week 11- Race, Racism, and Identity
Ferraro: Chapter 12, pp. 304-308
AAA Statement on Race (Blackboard)

Week 12 – Culture Change, Globalization, and “Development”
Ferraro: Chapter 16
Sharp: “Steel Axes for Stone-age Australians” (Online)

Week 13- Political Economy and Culture Change
Sanders: “Buses in Bongoland” (Blackboard)

Week 14- Applied Anthropology
Talk to or email a UNT Anthropology Professor asking about their Applied Work.

Week 15- “Culture and You” Seminar

Term Paper Due In Class 12/04/2015

Exam Week- Final Exam, 12/07/15 at 9:00 AM.

AN IMPORTANT NOTE ON THE SCHEDULE:

The schedule is subject to change at instructor discretion.