

## ANTH 3101 AMERICAN CULTURE AND SOCIETY | SPRING 2022 [3.0 Credit Hours]

**Instructor:** Susan Squires

**Office:** Department of Anthropology, Sycamore Hall

**Office Hours:** **\*\*All Office Hours are ZOOM by Appointment\*\***

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**Instructional Assistant (IAs) assignments, contact information and office hours will be listed on Canvas**

### Course Description

Culture, cultural diversity and multiculturalism constitute some of the most significant social issues in America today. Oriented around the core concept of culture and cultural groups, the course is designed to introduce the student to the basic concepts of culture and cultural diversity, and develop an awareness and appreciation for the full range of diversity in the American (U.S.) culture. Special time and attention will be devoted to the origins, development and consequences of the diversity that plays such a central role in the lives of people in this nation-state culture.

### Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify introductory anthropological terms and concepts as they apply to culture and society in the United States.
2. Evaluate social tropes, normative assumptions, and multiple perspectives of culture and society in the U.S. using anthropological terms and concepts.
3. Increase sensitivity to major aspects and characteristics of social issues in the U.S., causal and correlative factors, associated issues, and the nature of public and private organization addressing these issues.
4. Reflect on relationships between small-scale and large-scale social organization in the U.S. using anthropological terms and concepts.
5. Establish skills in discussing controversial issues with course colleagues using contemporary issues in U.S. culture and anthropological terms and concepts.
6. Illustrate growth in written communication skills over the course of the semester.
7. Demonstrate improved critical thinking skills over the course of the semester.

### Required materials

There is no textbook for this course. All required readings, films, and other media are embedded in CANVAS.

### Technical Support

Student Helpdesk: 940-565-2324 | [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu)

### Technical Skills Requirements

To be successful in this course, students will need to be able to:

- Have regular, reliable Internet access
  - If you do not have regular, reliable Internet access, you may want to rethink taking an online course
  - If you do not have a reliable web-enabled PC, Laptop, Tablet or mobile device, please see Canvas – UNT has laptops available for check-out
- Send and receive email through Canvas and/or through Microsoft Outlook
- Create, send, and receive Microsoft Word documents
- Navigate Canvas
  - Post & reply within discussion board threads
  - Submit written essays

It is the student's responsibility to ensure they familiarize themselves with the Hardware and Software Requirements for CANVAS as stipulated in the module:

“Online Course Technology Requirements & Skills” as well as conduct a CANVAS browser check.

### **Course Structure**

This course takes place 100% remote, asynchronously. We will spend roughly one week on each module. Every week students will be expected to read and work through the content of that week's module. **Start early! Do not wait until the last minute, and expect to interact with all required and recommended content.** Embedded in the modules are exercises, videos, articles, and links to external resources that help to supplement the content found therein.

### **Activities and Assignments**

1. Weekly assessments will include small-ish (roughly 30 people) Group Discussions which will cover salient themes and materials (150-200 word post/100-150 word response x2).
2. Every other week, you will be asked to submit a short (250 word) Critical Reflection/Response entry over a specific topic within the weekly Modules.
3. At the end of the semester, you will submit a longer (500 word) Engaged Anthropology essay to satisfy the civic engagement component of American Culture and Society.

There are no quizzes, tests or exams in this course.

### **Getting Started!**

Step 1: Click on the Modules Tab

Step 2: Click on the “Start Here” Module to read over the basics of how CANVAS courses work.

Step 3: Click on the “Introduction” Module to know a little bit more about the course, your Instructor, and your Graduate Student Instructional Assistants (IAs).

Step 4: Click on the “Week 1: Defining the Basics” Module and get to work!

If you have any questions, NOW is the time to get in touch with Dr. Squires or your IAs!

### **Assessments**

**Discussion Forums (13 @ 20points each) 260 points**

Due: Sundays

Students will be required to participate in weekly small group discussions. These discussions are meant to engage with the learning objectives for that week's module. Discussion submissions will be graded on the basis of the quality of engagement with both 1) the content and 2) their discussion group peers.

\*There will be no extensions granted on discussion posts and late-posts will not be accepted. If there is an excused reason for the absence of a discussion post then an EXEMPTION will be recorded.\*

### **Critical Reflection and Response (7 @ 50points each) 350 points**

Due: Sundays

Students will be required to upload one short 250-300 word essay that addresses a specific element of the Module. They are designed to give the student practice in pinpointing a main thesis argument that they will then expand upon and engage with in their thematic essay. The focus of CRRs is on concepts and main ideas. Short papers are an exercise in engaging with ideas in a more complex and anthropological perspective.

### **End-of-semester Engaged Anthropology essay - 100 points**

Due: Friday **May 6, 2022 at 12:00 midnight**

The final project will be a creative application of the main learning objectives of the course. It will submission that takes a look at all three themes and situates them within a greater context of anthropological thought.

### **Expectations, Requirements, and Responsibilities**

1. Students will access and follow all course instructions found in the Module's area of the courses' CANVAS page.
2. Students will complete all exercises, view videos, read content and required readings including, but not limited to, .pdf files and web articles.
3. Students will participate in group discussions using the CANVAS discussion forum, and upload short papers, thematic essays, and a final project in a timely manner to CANVAS in an acceptable format.

### **Grading**

All grades will be issued on a letter basis. Here is an achievement scale for each letter designation:

- A: 90-100% (Outstanding, excellent work. Performs well above the minimum criteria.)
- B: 80-89% (Good, impressive work. Performs above the minimum criteria.)
- C: 70-79% (Solid, college-level work. Meets the criteria of the assignment.)
- D: 60-69% (Below average work. Fails to meet the minimum criteria.)
- F: 59 and below (Fails to complete the assignment.)

### **Grade-related Policies**

#### **Late Work**

**Discussions:** Late submissions on discussions are not accepted without a University-excused absence because once the discussion board closes, participants can no longer interact or respond to one another. Extra credit opportunities may be made available throughout the semester so watch the course announcements.

**Critical Reflection/Response entries and Engaged Anthropology essays:** Late submissions of Critical Reflection and Engaged Anthropology works, will be accepted and no penalty shall be imposed if they are accompanied with any of the following at the time of submission:

- 1) Medical documentation (signed by a medical professional);
- 2) ODA Accommodations Letter that specifically lists late submission as an accommodation;
- 3) Dean's Memo.

Missing discussion posts accompanied by any of the aforementioned documentation will be granted an EXEMPTION.

### **Extensions**

Extension requests for Critical Reflection and Engaged Anthropology activities without documentation will be considered if requested in writing (via email) to Dr. Squires at least 24 hours **PRIOR** to the due date of the assessment. There are no extensions for discussion posts. Late penalty may be assessed.

### **Turnaround Time**

We will do due diligence to submit grades for written assignments within 1 week of when they are due when turned in on time.

### **Grade Disputes**

Grading of written assignments are completed by the IAs in this course. Dr. Squires will re-grade any assessment upon the request of the student. However, please understand that she may determine to give you a lower grade than the grade your IA originally posted. The grade assigned by Dr. Squires is final.

### **Course Policies**

#### **Assignment Policy**

Assignments will be due every Sunday by 11:59pm. All work submitted for credit must be ORIGINAL works created by the student uniquely for this class. If a student is re-taking ANTH 3101 then they must seek the approval of Dr. Squires prior to re-submitting work otherwise it will be considered plagiarism.

Papers submitted via any other medium (i.e. emailed) will not be accepted. Submission portals on CANVAS close at 11:59pm on the night that assignments are due. Students should plan to submit well before the deadline in order to account for technical difficulties. Technical difficulties do not constitute an "excused" reason for late submission of assignments.

### **Communicating with Your Instructional Team**

Your first point of contact should always be with your IA. Email your designated IA if you have questions regarding your grade on an assessment. Similarly, if you are having trouble understanding a module's content or an assignment you should feel free to set up a ZOOM appointment with your IA. If after touching base with your IA you feel that you still have questions/concerns, or if your issue is with your IA

then you should feel free to reach out to Dr. Squires via email in order to schedule a ZOOM appointment. Please practice Netiquette in all communications and interactions.

The following require communication with the instructor, **Dr. Squires** (and not your IA):

- a. Extension requests
- b. Re-Grade requests
- c. Extenuating Circumstances/Concerns (cheating, harassment, health, etc.)
- d. ODA Requests
- e. Requests for Incomplete (INC)

## **UNT Policies**

### **Academic Integrity Policy**

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.

### **ADA 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 [disability.unt.edu](http://disability.unt.edu).

### **Emergency Notification and 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 CANVAS for contingency plans for covering course materials.

### **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 (Links to an external site.). The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

The Dean of Students Office (Links to an external site.) enforces the Code of Student Conduct (Links to an external site.). The Code explains what conduct is prohibited, the process the DOS uses to review reports of alleged misconduct by students, and the sanctions that can be assigned. When students may have violated the Code they meet with a representative from the Dean of Students Office to discuss the alleged misconduct in an educational process.

### **Important Notice for F-1 Students Taking Distance Education Courses**

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please visit the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations (Links to an external site.)website. The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G).

The paragraph reads:

(G) 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 on-line 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 on-line or distance education course is a course 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 in a language study program, no on-line or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

### **University of North Texas Compliance**

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course. If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

- (1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
- (2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (Links to an external site.) by telephone 940-565-2195 or email [internationaladvising@unt.edu](mailto:internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

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### **Sexual Assault Prevention**

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as 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. The Survivor

Advocates can be reached at [SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu](mailto:SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu) or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648. Visit [Title IX Student Information \(Links to an external site.\)](#) for more resources.

### **Undocumented Students**

Please see [UNT'S Resources for DACA Students \(Links to an external site.\)](#) web page for more information.

### **Technology Support**

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a [Student Help Desk \(Links to an external site.\)](#) that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues:

**Phone:** 940-565-2324

**Email:** [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu)

Current list of [Student Help Desk hours \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

For additional support, visit this [Canvas Technical Help \(Links to an external site.\)](#) web page.

### **Academic Support Services**

- The [UNT Academic Resource Center \(Links to an external site.\)](#), which provides links to the bookstore, registration and advising information, tuition information, financial aid, and more.
- The [UNT Academic Success Center \(Links to an external site.\)](#), which offers academic support services and free individual tutoring.
- [UNT Writing Lab \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [UNT MathLab \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

### **Student Services**

- [Multicultural Center \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [Counseling and Testing Services \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [Student Affairs Care Team \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [Student Health and Wellness Center \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [Pride Alliance \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [Student Legal Services \(Links to an external site.\)](#)
- [UNT Food Pantry \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

If you are experiencing cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, or any of the other possible symptoms of COVID-19 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html> [\(Links to an external site.\)](#)) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or [askSHWC@unt.edu](mailto:askSHWC@unt.edu)) or your health care provider.

### **Absences**

While this is an online course, during the COVID-19 pandemic, a higher rate of absenteeism is likely. Students may become ill or asked to self-isolate because they have come in contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19. In Spring 2020, Faculty Senate approved a COVID-19 impact on attendance statement to include in course syllabi. The statement was revised in July to align with newly adopted UNT procedures. Below is the attendance impact statement to include in fall 2020 syllabi. It is also included in the [syllabus template available on the DSI CLEAR website \(Links to an external site.\)](#).

#### COVID-19 impact on attendance

It is important for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in our community, especially given concerns about COVID-19. Please contact me if you are unable to post to discussions or submit an assignment because you are ill including symptoms, potential exposure, pending or positive test results, or if you have been given specific instructions to isolate or quarantine from a health care provider or a local authority. It is important that you communicate with me prior to being absent so I may make a decision about accommodating your request to be excused from class.

If you are experiencing any [symptoms of COVID-19 \(Links to an external site.\)](#) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or [askSHWC@unt.edu](mailto:askSHWC@unt.edu)) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Hotline at 844-366-5892 or [COVID@unt.edu](mailto:COVID@unt.edu) for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure. While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important.

*UNT Anthropology Love <3*

A NOTE ABOUT LEARNING DURING UNPRECEDENTED TIMES  
(adapted from Dr. Jason Tham and shared by Dr. Nunez-Janes)

The COVID-19 pandemic continues and so do the challenges and suffering of people in our own country and around the world. As we try to navigate, manage, and survive during these times of injustice, persecution, joblessness, homelessness, sickness and death we have the opportunity to come together in this class. We are a learning community and as part of this community our engagement as individuals who are part of this collective space should be guided by the following principles:

***People are the priority.*** Educational institutions claim that students and teachers are their top priority, yet the holistic wellbeing of students and educators is ultimately demonstrated by actions and practices that clearly and uncompromisingly prioritize the people most impacted by them.

As participants in the process of teaching and learning we should remember to put people first by practicing the ideas we will learn about in this class with empathy and compassion. We must remember to engage each other with our minds as well as our hearts as *sentipensantes*, human beings whose humanity is deeply connected to our ability to think and feel.

***Stay informed.*** We will seek reliable sources of information to stay informed about developments related to the pandemic and to local and global social injustices. We will use this to make informed personal and professional decisions.

***Communicate and connect.*** We will communicate with each other often and will remain connected. This may mean experimenting with communication platforms that may be new to some of us. It may also mean changing platforms as needed. Please reach out when you have questions and when you need support.



***Celebrate accomplishments.*** We will take time to celebrate and mark our collective class accomplishments and the individual accomplishments that are significant to you. Any kind of achievement during an uncertain time is a testament to your ability to persevere and our collective ability to do it together.

***Take time to thrive.*** It is important that individually and collectively we take time to take care of our minds, bodies, and spirits. If you are not feeling well and are struggling to do the work for this class, **let me know so that we can come up with alternatives.** Do not push yourself beyond your limits; invest in self-care and self-preservation. Take time to do things that nurture your body, mind, and soul.