

# ANTHROPOLOGY 1100 - WORLD CULTURES

FALL 2015

TR, 9:30-10:50, Chem 109

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TA Office:	<i>Anthropology Department, 330 Chilton Hall, ask at Front Desk</i>		

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course uses the concepts of cultural anthropology to introduce you to the ways that humans have solved the pressing questions of existence – acquiring food and shelter, creating rules for living in groups, finding answers for “what it all means.” We will examine three different cultural worlds: tribal, imperial, and commercial, looking carefully at how humans have interacted with varying environments and created and adapted their cultures accordingly. We pay attention to the crucial role that **social power** has in affecting cultural change from the very beginning of human existence up to the present. The end of the course addresses questions of sustainability in our thoroughly interdependent world.

## REQUIRED TEXT

ANTH 1100 COURSE PACK Fall 2015 - available at UNT Student Store

## LAB FEE

\$10.00 payable on line, required for participation in Community Action Website ethics project.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. You will learn the basic vocabulary, research methods, and ethical principles of sociocultural anthropology.
2. You will be able to describe the processes of cultural “evolution” through the study of specific present-day and historical cultures at the tribal, imperial, and commercial scales.
3. You will be able to provide examples of solutions that humans have developed in order to live in their different, and changing cultural worlds.
4. You will demonstrate awareness of the impact that commercial scale culture has had on cultures around the globe.
5. You will learn to collaborate with other students at colleges across the United States in an ethics exercise organized by Center for a Public Anthropology and found at the Community Action Website (<https://www.publicanthropology.net/>).
6. You will develop practical skills for college survival including:
  - a. How to use the UNT Library catalog to research news articles
  - b. How to compose short papers with scholarly citation format.
  - c. How to learn from constructive feedback on both papers and exams.

## QUIZZES AND BLACKBOARD

Oftentimes, college lectures are devoted to delivery of “information,” without adequate time for critical inquiry about its application. I seek to provide much more time IN CLASS for questions and class discussions, as it is through these activities that you begin to APPLY what you are learning and thereby understand it better. In order to create that in-class time, we have developed an online system for taking quizzes pertinent to what you are studying. Each quiz will be available for approximately 2 weeks, and you may take each one more than once until you receive a passing grade. These quizzes will drill you in the “information” aspect of the course. Taking these quizzes on your own should encourage you to keep up with the work. That way you will come to class ready to think more broadly about what you have studied. The quizzes, and the instructions for taking them, will be found on our course **Blackboard Learn (BB Learn) page** (<https://learn.unt.edu/>)

**In addition, you are expected to use BB Learn to find important information related to the class. These items are available to you:**

- Course syllabus
- Occasional “mini-lectures” (5” or less) on topics where you need extra help
- Detailed instructions for both papers, including samples of excellent papers
- Self-paced Quizzes!! (see above)
- PowerPoint slides AFTER the day’s lectures (these are not a substitute for YOUR OWN notes)
- Announcements as necessary throughout the term
- Grades when they become available

Thus, it is **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT** that you set the features on Blackboard so that you can be alerted when an announcement is posted or when I send an email related to the class. The more alert you are to all the communication channels available to you (Lecture, Blackboard, Buddy System, and Office Hours), the likelier you are to do well in this class.

## COMMUNITY ACTION WEBSITE

[www.publicanthropology.net](http://www.publicanthropology.net)

The Community Action Website asks you to consider ethical issues that lie at the interface of anthropology and the contemporary world. You will participate in this activity along with students at various universities across the United States and work together in an intellectual community. You will write Op-Eds -- or opinion pieces of roughly three to seven hundred words -- expressing your views on the steps that should be taken to address a problem in anthropological ethics. Past participants have played a critical role in encouraging prominent institutions to move toward more ethical actions.

**Our action period does not begin until Monday November 2, but you can begin to register for the project as soon as September 1.** Once registered, you have full access to the website; all the materials necessary to complete the project are found there. **YOU HAVE TO COMPLETE THE ENTIRE PROJECT TO RECEIVE A GRADE.**

## HOW TO SUCCEED IN THIS CLASS:

1. **Show up!** – Come to class!
2. **Find support!** – Ask us!
3. **Take control!** – Start tasks early, note due dates in your calendar (buy a calendar and use it!), and participate in a workshop or two at the Learning Center in Sage Hall.  
<http://learningcenter.unt.edu/learning101>

Please know that we all understand that students come from a variety of backgrounds and ALL have strengths AND weaknesses. If you have any questions or feel unsure about any class material, come see me or a TA after class or during office hours. Don't wait, don't be shy! We will work together to find a solution. It is better to come in sooner than later – don't wait until the end of the semester. This is another scholarly skill I am trying to encourage in you and me – **start early, do some coursework most days, ask questions when you don't understand** – these deceptively simple steps will help you to avoid the deadly effects of procrastination.

### **INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS SEEKING ADA ACCOMMODATION**

Please give me your official “Request for Accommodation” letter during the first week of class. Please plan to come to see me during my office hours (or make an appointment) as early in the semester as possible so that we can make sure that all reasonable steps are being taken to maximize your learning opportunities in the class.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

- Except at the very beginning of the semester, I will not take attendance, **but I do pay attention to the presence and/or absence of familiar faces.**
- **Not attending class will make getting a good grade difficult.** The course is organized around the required text, but lectures will not simply follow the text.
- There will be a variety of learning activities during class time. These activities are designed to help you become a more active learner.
- I will show several movies. Content of those movies will be covered in exam questions. **Therefore, students should attend class regularly.**

### **CLASSROOM COMMUNITY**

- I encourage you to ask questions during class, or email me questions (if that makes you more comfortable) which I will address at the next scheduled class time.
- *THE ONLY STUPID QUESTION IS THE ONE YOU DON'T ASK.*
- As a courtesy to your classmates and me, **please put away your laptops, tablets, and cell phones during class** unless you are using your laptop or tablet to take notes. I will spot-check.

### **STUDENT EVALUATION**

• Online quizzes (10 pts. each)	10%	100
• Midterm Exam	20%	200
• Final Examination	20%	200
• Community Action Website Project	15%	150
• Two Papers (#1 worth 15%, #2 worth 20%)	35%	350
<b>TOTAL POSSIBLE PTS:</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1000 points</b>

Grades will be standard: 90% or higher = A, 80-89% = B, etc.

### **IMPORTANT DATES – Put These in Your Calendar!**

Thursday, September 17 – Paper #1 due

Tuesday, October 13 – Midterm

Thursday, October 29 – Paper #2 due

Monday, November 2-Wednesday, November 18 – Community Action Website Action Period

Thursday, December 10 – FINAL EXAM, 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM (*note time*), Chem 109

## COURSE SCHEDULE, READING ASSIGNMENTS and CRUCIAL DUE DATES

### **Tuesday, August 25**

Topics: Orientation; What is culture?

No assigned reading

### **Thursday, August 27**

Topic: Key concepts and research methods in socio-cultural anthropology

Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 1-18

### **Tuesday, September 1**

Topic: Understanding Socio-cultural systems: Culture Scale, Growth, and Process

Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 19-31

### **Thursday, September 3**

Topics: Australian Aborigines: Material Environment and Spiritual Life

Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 32-44 (end of the section)

### **Tuesday, September 8**

Topics: Making a Living with Foraging Technology; Bands, Clans, and Tribes

Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 44 (begin new section) – 55 (end of the section)

### **Thursday, September 10**

Topics: Kinship and Social Organization in Australian Aboriginal Culture

Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 55 (begin new section) – 64

### **Tuesday, September 15**

Topic: Wrap-up – Australian Aborigines

Assigned Reading: Review Reader, pp. 32-64

### **Thursday, September 17 – PAPER #1 DUE – See Blackboard for Instructions**

Topics: Native Amazonians: Making Culture in the Rain Forest

Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 65-78 (end of the section)

### **Tuesday, September 22**

Topics: Social Organization among Amazonian Peoples; Amazonian Cosmology

Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 78 (new section) - 89 (end of section)

### **Thursday, September 24**

Topic: Raiding and Feuding; Intro to Anthropological Research Ethics

Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 89 (new section) - 98

### **Tuesday, September 29**

Topic: Pastoralism in East Africa – The Cattle Complex

Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 99-110 (end of section)

### **Thursday, October 1**

Topic: Marriage and Gender Relations among East African Pastoralists

Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 110-118 (end of section)

**Tuesday, October 6**

Topics: Power, Wealth, and Age Classes in East African Pastoral Cultures; Conflict Management  
Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 118 (new section) -132

**Thursday, October 8**

Topic: Wrap-up – The Tribal World; Review for Midterm  
Assigned Reading: Review Reader, pp. 1-132

**Tuesday, October 13 – MIDTERM**

**Thursday, October 15**

Topic: Pacific Islanders: Necessary Skills for Living in Oceania  
Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 133-147 (end of section)

**Tuesday, October 20**

Topics: Inequality and Ranking Systems; How Inequality Becomes Structural  
Assigned Reading: Reader, pp.147 (new section) – 156 (end of section)

**Thursday, October 22**

Topic: From Tikopia to Hawaii: Moving from Chiefs to Kings; What about the Commoners?  
Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 156 (new section) - 171

**Tuesday, October 27**

Topics: Ancient Empires: The Emergence of “Civilization”  
Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 173-182 (end of section)

**Thursday, October 29 – PAPER #2 DUE– See Blackboard for Instructions**

Topic: Mesopotamia  
Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 182-199 (end of section)

**Monday, November 2 – PUBLIC ANTHROPOLOGY ACTION PERIOD BEGINS**

**Tuesday, November 3**

Topic: The Inca Empire  
Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 199 (new section) - 215

**Thursday, November 5**

Topics: South Asian Great Traditions  
Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 217-231

**Tuesday, November 10**

Topic: Hindu Ideology, Society, and Culture  
Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 232- 244

**Thursday, November 12**

Women in South Asia – MOVIE: Saheri’s Choice  
Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 244-252

**Tuesday, November 17**

Topic: Why States Break Down

Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 253-273

**Wednesday, November 18 – PUBLIC ANTHROPOLOGY ACTION PERIOD ENDS**

**Thursday, November 19**

Topics: Introduction to the Commercial World;

Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 275-286

**Tuesday, November 24**

Topic: The British Industrial Revolution

Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 287-295, and summary, pp. 298-99

**Thursday, November 26 - THANKSGIVING**

**Tuesday, December 1**

Topic: The Rise of Factory Farming in the United States

Assigned Reading: Reader, pp. 301-313

**Thursday, December 3 – Wrap-up and Review Session**

**Thursday, December 10 – FINAL EXAM, 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM (*note time*), Chem 109**