

ANTH 2300-810/820: Culture and Society

Fall 2015

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Course Description: “Think like an anthropologist”

This course introduces students to the field of Socio-cultural Anthropology—the study of human cultures in their diversity and variation. Rather than providing a collection of facts about other cultures, however, this class attempts to provide a sense of the general approach anthropologists take when they study another culture. In other words, it focuses on how to ask intelligent questions, rather than providing an inventory of answers. Its aim is to lead you to “think like an anthropologist” as you reflect on other cultures as well as your own.

Notes about Blackboard Design:

- The content you need for this class is all located on the left Sidebar Menu, including:
 - Announcements, where you will find pertinent information for the class.
 - This syllabus – one you can open in Blackboard and one for downloading to your computer.
 - Each week’s lesson is accessible under “Units and Lessons.” The lessons are organized into three units. Each unit has five lessons.
 - The Discussions tab is where you will find the discussion forums that you will post to weekly.
 - The Quizzes and Exams, which are posted according to the release date indicated on the syllabus.
- **DO NOT use the Blackboard MESSAGE** system to send e-mails to your Instructor or TA. Rather, use E-Mail found in the sidebar or use your preferred email account to send a message.
- You need to **check DAILY for messages** from your Instructor or TA **in your unt.edu e-mail address** OR have your UNT e-mail forwarded to your preferred account (Gmail, Hotmail, yahoo, etc.), which you will check daily.

Required Readings

1. Ember, Carol and Melvin Ember. 2015. *Cultural Anthropology* (14th edition), Prentice Hall: Boston.
2. Articles posted on Blackboard.

Course Objectives

1. To introduce students to the basic concepts and methods of sociocultural anthropology
2. To expose students to the richness and diversity of human life as it has been lived in the past and present
3. To develop and encourage critical thinking skills, especially as related to living in a diverse and globalizing society
4. To make students aware of the contributions of anthropology to public discourse and public policy
5. To make students aware of the ethical dimensions of anthropology

Course Requirements

Each Week:

This course is divided into 16 weeks, with an associated lesson, readings, quiz and assignment for each one. For this class, **each “week” will run from Thursday to Wednesday**. Thus, although UNT’s official first day of classes for the Fall semester is August 24, this course’s first week will start on Thursday, August 27. The second week will start on September 03, and so forth.

On most “weeks,” your lesson and related information will be available on Thursday by mid-day. The quiz will be available on Thursday and due on Monday of most weeks. In addition, each week, you will be required to post to the discussion board, which will be due on Tuesday of most weeks, and post a response by Wednesday of most weeks. Read the information below and see the schedule at the end of this syllabus for more information.

Introductory Exercise:

Follow the instructions given in the “Lesson One – Orientation” for the details on these assignments due your first class week.

- First, do the “Class Map assignment.”
- Then, open the “Class Roster assignment” to post a photo of yourself.
- Finally, create a discussion post for the “Introductions – Lesson One” discussion forum.
- You will earn 1 point for each of the first two assignments and 2 points for completing the discussion post assignment, for a total of **4 points possible**.

Discussion posts:

- **Each week, you will be assigned two readings available as articles on Blackboard.** You will have to submit a one paragraph (at least three sentences) reflection on each reading and a one paragraph response to one other student’s post (per reading). The idea is to create a dialog between you and your fellow students regarding issues raised in the readings.
- You must submit your original post for each reading by Tuesday at 11:30 pm on most weeks. You will get 1 point per post, so 2 points are possible for your two original postings each week with the two articles assigned.
- You must respond to another student’s post for each reading by Wednesday at 11:30 pm on most weeks. You will get 1 point per response, so 2 points are possible for responding each week with the 2 articles assigned.
- This means you will have a total of 4 points possible for each week’s Discussion Board postings.
- Try to “think like an anthropologist.” Think about what stood out to you in the article. What aspects of the featured culture did you find interesting? Why? How did they relate to the readings or to the weekly course themes? Be specific. Don't just state facts from the articles – I want you to really reflect on them. Quote from the readings to support what you are saying.
- For those who may not have participated in online discussions before, it's definitely okay to have different opinions from others; in fact, that's part of what can make online discussions so rich and vibrant. Just remember to address those differences in a professional manner. If you have a different opinion or idea about something, support what you are saying with evidence from the article or your own experiences.
- In your posts and responses, **DO NOT** use bad language or be insulting of a classmate. You need to be respectful and courteous in your posts. Anyone who does not post in a professional manner will have their posts removed and will receive 0 points for that week’s discussion board.

Quizzes:

- You will have **13 quizzes** this semester.
- Each quiz is comprised of eight true/false questions. You get one point per correct answer, for a possible of 8 total points.
- The questions cover the two articles assigned for that week; four questions will come from each reading.
- Quizzes will be open and available to take starting on Thursday of each week. On most weeks, quizzes will be due on Monday. However, during weeks with exams and Week 16 you will have a different due date. **Be sure to read carefully the schedule at the end of this syllabus and also watch for announcements to tell you of a change in due date.**
- You will have 15 minutes to take the quiz once you have started it.
- You won't be able to submit any answers after the 15 minutes are up.

Exams:

- You will have **three exams**. **Check the Schedule in this syllabus** and note when each will be due.
- Once you start a test, you have 60 minutes to finish it. However, if you choose to wait until the last minute, the exam will automatically end at time announced for that exam.
- My advice: don't start a test unless you're SURE you can finish it. And DON'T wait until the last minute, as Blackboard often undergoes scheduled and unscheduled maintenance.
- If you wait until the last hour to take the test, AND your computer happens to crash at that same time, I won't be sympathetic—in that case, you'll have to miss that exam.
- Each exam will consist of multiple-choice questions.
- No exam will be cumulative.
- No study guides will be provided; however, a list of vocabulary terms for the online content will be provided. Vocabulary words for the textbook can be found at the back of each chapter.
- Make-ups will not be given unless students approach their instructor with a University-excused absence BEFORE the scheduled test. No exceptions.
- Students may not reschedule exams because of out-of-town trips and/or plane reservations. So, look carefully at the course schedule and plan any travel around your assignments.

Tips on Taking Exams and Quizzes in Blackboard:

Per Blackboard and the UNT IT support staff's recommendations, **when taking an online exam, you should:**

- **Avoid using Wi-Fi** unless you are absolutely certain of its reliability – AND, if using a public space, **ensure that it will be available for the entire time** that you have set aside to take the exam.
- **Take your exam using a supported web browser (Chrome is recommended) on a computer or laptop** rather than using a tablet.
- **Take your exam between 8 am and midnight when the UNT IT Helpdesk is open and available for assistance.**

Technical Issues during Exams or Quizzes:

If you have any technical difficulties during an exam or quiz, follow these procedures:

1. Take a print screen capture of the issue
2. Contact the Student Blackboard HelpDesk at 940-565-2324
3. Give them the following info:
Student EUID, Name & Section of the Course: Anth 2300 Culture & Society 810, 820
4. Once you have a ticket number from the HelpDesk, send it to your TA
5. Your TA will follow up with you once the HelpDesk confirms the situation.

Grading:

All grades will be assigned based on the following grading scale:

- 90-100% = A
- 80-89% = B
- 70-79% = C
- 60-69% = D
- 59-under = F

Evaluation Summary

Introductory Exercises	1+1+2 = 4 Points
Quizzes	13 quizzes x 8 points = 104 Points
Exams	3 exams x 80 points = 240 Points
Discussion Posts/Responses	13 weeks of articles x 4 points = 52 Points
Total points	400 points

How to Calculate Your Grade:

A total of 400 points are 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.

For example, if you are at Week Six, then we have had: the introductory exercise (4 points), 1 exam (80 points total), 3 quizzes (24 points total) and 6 article discussion posts/responses (12 points total), making for 120 points possible so far. If you received 4 points on the introductory exercise, 75 points on the exam; 8 points on quiz 1, 5 points on quiz 2, and 7 points on quiz 3; and 10 points for the discussion posts/responses, then you've accumulated 109 points. 109 divided by 120 is 91%. In this example, you have an A in the course so far.

Withdrawal:

If you can't complete the course, you have to withdraw by the University's deadline for a "W" (after this date, you'd receive either a "WP" or a "WF"). Withdrawing from a course is a formal procedure that YOU must initiate. I can't do it for you. If you simply stop attending and do not withdraw, you will receive a performance grade, usually an "F." The withdrawal deadlines can be found at: <http://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-registration-guide>

Your primary responsibility as a student is to master the material presented in Blackboard and the readings, and to do well in the course. This is an easily achieved objective. Do the readings, participate in discussions, and take notes! At times, concepts or issues raised in class might be unclear. Students come from a variety of backgrounds and have various strengths and weaknesses. **If you have any questions or feel unsure about any class material, see me during office hours as soon as you realize a problem.** We will work together to find a solution. DON'T wait until the end of the semester. Please realize that my goal as an instructor is not just to test, grade, and evaluate, but to help you gain a valuable life perspective to carry outside the class, into whatever you do.

"Classroom" Policies

1. APPROPRIATE INTERACTION: 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 electronic 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 classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.deanofstudents.unt.edu

2. EXTRA CREDIT: Bonus point opportunities MAY be offered if appropriate events or material is made available and relevant to this class. These bonus points will be added to all your other points at the end of the semester. These will NOT be offered on an individual basis, but will only be offered to the entire class. Remember, your instructors are not responsible for making sure that you receive a desired grade, even if you need that grade to maintain financial aid, health insurance, university enrollment, etc. If this is the position you are in, communicate with the TA regularly to make sure that you are taking solid notes, understand all the material and know how to study.

3. REACHING ME: The best way to reach me is via email, and I require 24 hours to respond to any emails sent between Monday and Friday. Over the weekends and on holidays I require 48 hours to respond. Please include the name of the course you are taking with me in the body of your email. I typically have hundreds of students each semester and cannot remember which class each individual student is in. If you do not include your course information in your email, my response to you will be delayed because I have to take extra time finding out what class you are in, and uncovering more information about your situation/your request, etc.

4. ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT: The Department of Anthropology does not tolerate plagiarism, cheating, or helping others to cheat. I am furthermore of a mind that your integrity as a person is ALWAYS worth more than getting an "A" in one course – choosing to not cheat and perhaps get a lower grade is choosing to be a person of whom you can be proud. 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/>

5. ADA: The Anthropology Department does not discriminate based on an individual's disability, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Our program provides academic adjustments or help to individuals with disabilities, and attempts will be made to meet all certified requirements. Please see me if you have a documented disability so that appropriate arrangements can be made to help you get the most out of this class.

Tentative Schedule

NOTE: The instructor reserves the right to add, delete, or revise segments of the syllabus.

WEEK	TOPIC	READINGS	QUIZ/EXAM DUE DATE	DISCUSSION FORUMS DUE DATE
Week 1 August 27-Sep. 2	Lesson 1: Orientation	None	Class Roster/Class Map assignment due Monday, Aug. 31	Introductions Post Tuesday, Sept. 1
Week 2 Sept. 3-9	Lesson 2: Introduction to Anthropology	E&E Ch. 1 Articles: 1. Lee "Eating Christmas in the Kalahari" 2. Bohannan "Shakespeare in the Bush"	Quiz 1 Monday, Sept. 7	Reflection Post Tuesday, Sept. 8 Response Post Wednesday, Sept. 9
Week 3 Sept. 10-16	Lesson 3: The Concept of Culture	E&E Ch. 2 Articles: 1. Watters "The Americanization of Mental Illness" 2. Dettwyler "Breastfeeding and Culture"	Quiz 2 Monday, Sept. 14	Reflection Post Tuesday, Sept. 15 Response Post Wednesday, Sept. 16
Week 4 Sept. 17-23	Lesson 4: Anthropological Research Methods	E&E Ch. 4 pp. 85-99 Articles: 1. Scheper-Hughes "Death Without Weeping" 2. Sterk "Tricking and Tripping: Fieldwork on Prostitution in the Era of Aids"	Quiz 3 Monday, Sept. 21	Reflection Post Lesson 4 Tuesday, Sept. 22 Response Post Lesson 4 Wednesday, Sept. 23
Week 5 Sept. 24-30	Lesson 5: Anthropological Theory	E&E Ch. 4, pp. 78-84 & 97-98	No Quiz EXAM 1 Wednesday, Sept. 30	No Discussion Posts
Week 6 Oct. 1-7	Lesson 6: Getting Food	E&E Ch. 6 Articles: 1. Sameshima and Stannard "We Belong to the Land" 2. Gadsby "The Inuit Paradox"	Quiz 4 Monday, Oct. 5	Reflection Post Tuesday, Oct. 6 Response Post Wednesday, Oct. 7

Week 7 Oct. 8-14	Lesson 7: Economic Systems	E&E Ch. 7 Articles: 1. Smith "Cell Phones, Sharing, and Social Status in an African Society" 2. Hitchcock "Rising Number of Dowry Deaths in India"	Quiz 5 Monday, Oct. 12	Reflection Post Tuesday, Oct. 13 Response Post Wednesday, Oct. 14
Week 8 Oct. 15-21	Lesson 8: Political Organization	E&E Ch. 13 Articles: 1. Rogers "The Evolution of Inequality" 2. Lappe and Collins "Why Can't People Feed Themselves?"	Quiz 6 Due: Monday, Oct. 19	Reflection Post Tuesday, Oct. 20 Response Wednesday, Oct. 21
Week 9 Oct. 22-28	Lesson 9: Religion and Magic	E&E Ch. 14 Articles: 1. Jost "Understanding Islam" 2. Del Guercio "The Secrets of Haiti's Living Dead"	Quiz 7 Monday, Oct. 26	Reflection Post Tuesday, Oct. 27 Response Post Wednesday, Oct. 28
Week 11 Oct. 29-Nov. 4	Lesson 10: Marriage and Family	E&E Ch. 10 Articles: 1. Coontz "The Invention of Marriage" 2. Kristof "Who Needs Love!"	Quiz 8 Saturday, Oct. 31 EXAM 2 Wednesday, Nov. 4	Reflection Post Sunday, Nov. 1 Response Post Monday, Nov. 2
Week 12 Nov. 5-11	Lesson 11: Kinship and Residence Patterns	E&E Ch. 11 Articles: 1. Goldstein "When Brothers Share a Wife" 2. Nanda "Arranging a Marriage in India"	Quiz 9 Monday, Nov. 9	Reflection Post Tuesday, Nov. 10 Response Post Wednesday, Nov. 11
Week 13 Nov. 12-18	Lesson 12: Sex and Gender	E&E Ch. 9 Articles: 1. Williams "The Berdache Tradition" 2. Nanda "The Hijras: An Alternative Gender in India"	Quiz 10 Monday, Nov. 16	Reflection Post Tuesday, Nov. 17 Response Post Wednesday, Nov. 18
Week 14 Nov. 19-25	Lesson 13: Culture and Art	E&E Ch. 15 Articles: 1. Simmons "Where Fat is a Mark of Beauty" 2. Miner "Body Ritual of the Nacirema"	Quiz 11 Monday, Nov. 23	Reflection Post Tuesday, Nov. 24 Response Post Wednesday, Nov. 25

<p>Week 15 Nov. 26-Dec. 2</p>	<p>Lesson 14: Language and Communication</p>	<p>E&E Ch. 5 Articles: 1. Boroditsky "How Language Shapes Thought" 2. Pagel "War of Words"</p>	<p>Quiz 12: Monday, Nov. 30</p>	<p>Reflection Post Tuesday, Dec. 1 Response Post Wednesday, Dec. 2</p>
<p>Week 16 Dec. 3-9</p>	<p>Lesson 15: Applied Anthropology</p>	<p>E&E Ch. 16 Articles: 1. Keating "Spirits of the Forest" 2. Kunzig "Population Seven Billion"</p>	<p>Quiz 13 Saturday, Dec. 5</p>	<p>Reflection Post Sunday, Dec. 6 Response Post Monday, Dec. 7</p>
<p>EXAM 3 (Final Exam)</p>			<p>Due: Thursday, December 10</p>	