

Culture and Society

Anthropology 2300

Time: Tuesdays/Thursdays 12:30-1:50

Place: Business Leadership Building 055

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Nelson

Office: 330N Chilton Hall

Office Hours: Mondays 10-12; or by appointment

E-Mail: andrew.nelson@unt.edu

Course T.A.: Molly Beyer

E-mail: mollybeyer@my.unt.edu

Office Hours: 2:30-4:30 Thursdays; or by appointment

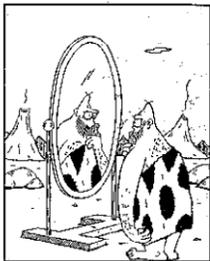
Office: 308D Chilton Hall

Course T.A.: Joseph Otterbine

E-mail: jrotterbine@gmail.com

Office Hours: 11-12 Tuesdays and Thursdays; or by appointment

Office: 308D Chilton Hall



How early man studied anthropology!

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 people and places, however, this class provides a basic appreciation for the approaches anthropologists take to study those people and places. In the first two-thirds of the class, we will investigate how culture and the process of cultural construction are central to how we understand our lives. Then, in the final third, we will ask how historical conditions have produced the political and economic structure

of the contemporary world. Ultimately, through a number of case study discussions and applied assignments, students will be asked to “think like an anthropologist.”

Learning Objectives

1. Students will gain a basic understanding of the concept of culture, and how it is formulated through anthropological linguistics, methodology, and theories.
2. Students will be able to analyze the social construction of categories central to social life, such as gender, marriage, family, ethnicity, and race.
3. Students will be able to connect the conditions and structures underlying societies to questions of politics and economics in the globalized era.
4. Students will engage in group discussions regarding case studies that illuminate larger concepts and theories.
5. Students will convert discussions of anthropological concepts and theories into cases they observe and identify in their own lives.

Required Texts:

1. Eller, Jack David. *Cultural Anthropology: Global Forces, Local Lives*. 2nd Edition. Routledge.
2. Mahler, Sarah. *Culture as Comfort*. Pearson.
3. All other readings can be downloaded from the course’s Learn webpage under the tab “Readings”.

Course Requirements:

I. Attendance & Participation

Attendance and participation are obligatory components of this course. If you arrive 10 minutes after the class begins, you will be counted as absent.

II. Worksheets

Periodically (5 times), instead of readings, you will have videos to watch outside of class. While viewing the video, you will be asked to fill-out a worksheet. You will hand-in the worksheet in the next class for credit. Worksheets will be graded solely for completion. Late worksheets will only be accepted accompanied by a medical professional’s note that excuses your absence.

III. Quizzes

There will be nine reading quizzes given throughout the term. The quizzes will be given on-line via BB and will be available for 24 hours from 12:30 pm the day before class until the start of class. You will be expected to complete the quiz BEFORE class begins at 12:30 pm.

IV. Assignments

You will have three assignments to complete during the term and submit to BB via turnitin. These will be short written exercises in which you apply course material to experiences and observations from your life.

V. Exams

There will be three exams. Exam questions will consist of multiple choice and short responses. Each exam will cover only the material of the given unit of the course. They will not be cumulative.

Grade Makeup

Attendance & Participation	10%
Worksheets	5%
Assignments	20%
Reading Quizzes	15%
Exams	50%

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**

COURSE POLICIES

1. 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.”

2. 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 classroom, 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”** specifically means:

A. No cell phone usage. I will ask you to leave the classroom if I see you using your phone.

B. Maintain one classroom conversation. Sometimes topics in this class can get socially controversial and emotionally exciting, but please contribute only to the central conversation.

C. Engage in the classroom material, not your computer.

D. Always be respectful of other students' thoughts, opinions, and perspectives.

E. Do not come to class late. If you have arrive later than 10 minutes after class begins (12:40), you will be considered absent.

3. Coursework Submissions:

A. All assignments must be submitted **via BB**. At the bottom of each Assignments page, you will find a link to turnitin where you will submit your paper. Make sure to identify which option you are selecting.

B. All worksheets must be submitted as paper copies **in class** – the day of discussion.

C. I will NOT accept work via email, so please do not send it. Late work will only be accepted for credit if accompanied by a note from a medical professional attesting to your inability to complete it. No other exceptions will be considered.

4. Extra Credit: There will be one opportunity for extra credit at the end of the semester. If you complete the Core course evaluation (available in late April), one percentage point will be added to your final grade.

5. DO NOT MISS EXAMS. If you have a conflict with one of the course exams, it is your responsibility to make alternative arrangements as soon as you know – NOT the week of the exam. I allow exam make-up under one circumstance: If a medical professional documents that you are incapable of taking the exam. Mark the test

dates on your calendar: **February 18th, April 1st (no joke!), and May 8th (from 10:30-12:30)**

6. 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/>.

7. 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.

8. E-MAIL 1.0: 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 have over 400 students, and cannot remember which class each individual student is in. If you email me with a question that the syllabus answers, I will not reply to you.

9. E-MAIL 2.0: Make sure that you use your unt.edu e-mail address. If you do not regularly check this e-mail, make sure that it is FORWARDED to your preferred address (such as gmail, Hotmail, or yahoo). You will be held accountable for any information sent to your unt address. DO NOT use the message system within Blackboard Learn.

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

Unit One: Cultural Anthropology

Date	Topic	Readings/Viewings	Graded Work Due
January 14	Course Introduction		
January 16	Anthropological Culture	Eller: 1-10, 19-27 Mahler: ch. 1	
January 21	Learning Culture	Mahler: ch. 2, 4	Quiz #1
January 23	Ethnocentrism and Cultural Others	Eller: 41-55, 11-14 Mahler: ch. 5	
January 28	Culture Change	Eller: ch. 11	Quiz #2

January 30	Fieldwork	Eller: 33-39	
February 4	Doing Anthropology	Fieldwork Videos	Worksheet #1
February 6	Anthropology of Language	Metcalf: 93-102	
February 11	Sociolinguistics	Boroditsky: 'How Language Shapes Thought'; Napoli: 'Whose Speech is Better?'	Quiz #3
February 13	Language in the US & Exam Review	Language Videos	Worksheet #2
February 14			Assignment #1 (by 5 pm)
February 18	Exam #1		Exam #1

Unit Two: Culture

February 20	Culture and Meaning	Metcalf: 'Culture and Nature'	
February 25	Gender & Personhood	Eller: ch. 5 King: 'Why we need more than three genders'	
February 27	Third Genders	Gender Videos	Worksheet #3
March 4	Marriage	Eller: 151-160 McCarthy: 'Defending and Attacking Polygamy in Saudi Arabia' (audio file)	Quiz #4
March 6	Kinship	Eller: 160-164 Metcalf: 60-72	
March 18	Ethnicity and Nationalism	Guest: 237-265	Quiz #5
March 20	Race 1: The Biological Critique	Guest: 195-203 AAA: Race and Human Variation	

		AAA: Only Skin Deep AAA: The Human Spectrum	
March 25	Race 2: Race in the US	Guest: 212-235 AAA: The Game of Life AAA: Sports Quiz AAA: Who is White? AAA: Global Census	Quiz #6
March 27	Race 3: Race in Latin America & Exam Review	Race Videos	Worksheet #4
March 28			Assignment #2 (by 5 pm)
April 1			Exam #2 (in Sage Hall Testing Center)

Unit Three: Society

Date	Topic	Readings	Graded Work
April 3	Social	Smith: 'There is no such thing as a Natural Disaster' Wilentz: 'Haiti's Undue Judgment'	
April 8	Politics	Eller: ch. 9	Quiz #7
April 10	Economics 1: Production	Eller: 125-140 Guest: 396-410	
April 15	Economics 2: Exchange & Consumption	Eller: 140-147	Quiz #8
April 17	Economics 3: Exchange Game		
April 22	Colonialism	Eller: ch. 12	
April 24	Globalization 1: Economic	Eller: ch. 14	

	Globalization		
April 29	Globalization 2: Cultural Globalization	Eller: 317-321 Saskia Sassen: 'Global Cities' (video)	Quiz #9
May 1	Globalization 3: Case Studies & Exam Review	Globalization Videos	Worksheet #5
May 2			Assignment #3 (by 5 pm)
May 8 th 10:30-12:30			Exam #3