



ANTH 2351 - World Cultures: Perspectives from Anthropology
Fall 2013 August 26th – December 9th

Instructor: Laura Jarvis, Adjunct Instructor

Office Hours: by email

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Class Meetings: Mondays 7:20-10 pm

Course Description

This course will introduce students to basic concepts, theories, and methods in cultural anthropology. We will learn about the basic concepts used by anthropologists to understand human diversity and different ways of life throughout the world. In this course, we will also examine how our own cultural upbringings shape how we look at others. Students are expected to participate in class discussion, explore how their own culture shapes how they view others, and learn how to view and approach others with greater sensitivity.

This course is also a mix between online and in-class exercises. Therefore, it is extremely important that you follow these instructions:

- Obtain uninterrupted access to a computer for the entire semester (either at home, on campus, at a library, or elsewhere), and log on (at least briefly) every day the College is in session to check for Announcements and Mail.
- Stay up-to-date in this course. It is structured so that everyone is looking at the same lesson and participating in the same discussions, every week.
 - Be conscientious and responsible in your approach to coursework. Unlike a classroom course, there are few regularly scheduled face-to-face meetings with an instructor, so there will be no one to constantly reminding you, in person, of what you need to be doing in the course.
- Use the same courtesy and respect in online discussions as you would in class. Just because we cannot see each other does not give you a free pass to say anything. Subtleties such as sarcasm do not come across the same way in writing, so please be diligent about how you come across. All discussions will be read and graded for QUALITY, not quantity.

Objectives/Learning Outcomes

- 1) Students will be able to explain what is meant by the concept of culture as well as to identify and explain some of the other concepts critical to the cross-cultural study of human behavior.
- 2) Students will be able to identify the major approaches and research methods of cultural anthropology.
- 3) Students will be able to identify and explain some of the similarities and differences in social organization, belief systems, economic activities, gender ideologies, etc. across cultures and hence begin to address the question of what makes us human.
- 4) Students will be able to explain some of the ways global processes interact with and impact local realities.

- 5) Students will be able to explain how anthropological insights can be applied to better understand everyday life and to help solve contemporary problems.

Required Texts

- *Cultural Anthropology: Global Forces, Local Lives, 2nd Edition* by Jack David Eller
- *Annual Editions: Anthropology 13/14* by Elvio Angeloni, ed.

Requirements

- Online Participation (40%)
- In-Class Participation (20%)
- Midterm Exam (20%)
- Final Exam (20%)

Online Participation (40%)

- You will be required to post information about yourself on the homepage the first week, through the “My Life History” project
- There are **5 Short Assignments** accessed through the “Assignments” tab. Some of these may be due on the week of In-Class Discussions, but are to be turned in online and count toward Online Participation.
- Finally, there are **7 Discussion Items**, accessed through the “Discussion” tab in the top-left margin of the course. The Discussions are associated with that week’s readings, and will be posted in advance. Posts AND Replies are due by midnight on the corresponding Monday in the syllabus.
 - Discussions will be graded as follows: You **MUST** post at least one discussion point, as well as respond to at least 2 posts by other people.
 - These discussions are graded on **BOTH** completion and quality, and I expect everyone to be courteous and respectful in their responses.

In-Class Participation (20%)

- Participation in class discussions is required.
- Each week, you will be assigned a letter grade for participation. The grades will be posted to Blackboard each Friday. The average of all of these letter grades will become your final participation grade.
- **Attendance Policy:** Attendance is a required aspect of the participation grade and is a key component of this course. You will not be able to participate in class lectures or discussions, take quizzes, or hand in assignments if you do not attend class.
- **Excused Absences:** Absences are excused only in advance of missing a class for a debilitating and/or contagious illness, a death in the family, university-sponsored activities, or religious observance. You must notify me in advance and obtain *written documentation* (e.g., by healthcare provider, funeral director, coaches, etc.) that must be presented to the instructor upon your return in order to avoid any missed deadline penalties. If you fail to notify me *in advance of your absence and/or to provide the necessary documentation upon your return*, you will not be permitted to make up the work. Missed assignments or exams receive a grade of 0 (zero), not F (50%).
- **Laptop and Smart Phone Policy:** Please do not use smart phones during class time. You may use laptops during class but only for the purpose of taking notes related to class. This policy may change if they become more of a distraction than a learning tool.

Midterm (20%)

- The midterm exam is **October 14th**. The content and format will be discussed in class.

Final Exam (20%)

- The final exam is due **December 12th**. The content and format will be discussed in class.

Late Policy: Assignments that are turned in late will receive a full letter-grade penalty (equivalent to 10%) for each day that they are late. Students with excused absences must make arrangements with the instructor to turn in late assignments in a timely manner; we will agree on a “grace period” before the penalty kicks in. If the absence is unexcused, the assignment must be turned in on time or the late penalty will be applied.

Disability Accommodations: Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first contact Ms. Rebecca Marin, Coordinator, Services for Students with Disabilities (214-768-4557) to verify the disability and establish eligibility for accommodations. They should then schedule an appointment with the professor to make appropriate arrangements. (See University Policy No. 2.4.)

Religious Observance: Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays should notify their professors in writing at the beginning of the semester, and should discuss with them, in advance, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence. (See University Policy No. 1.9.)

Excused Absences for University Extracurricular Activities: Students participating in an officially sanctioned, scheduled University extracurricular activity will be given the opportunity to make up class assignments or other graded assignments missed as a result of their participation. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor prior to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work. (University Undergraduate Catalogue)

Ethical conduct: All students in this course must follow the SMU Honor Code at all times. You are welcome to discuss class material with others, but all work submitted must be wholly your own. **Plagiarism, cheating, and all other forms of academic dishonesty are unacceptable. All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be taken very seriously.** For definitions and penalties, see section "Honor Code" of the Student Handbook.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, ASSIGNMENTS, and READINGS

Readings are to be read in advance of the class period indicated.

Dates	Topics/Written Assignments	Readings
Monday, 8/26 IN CLASS	What is Cultural Anthropology? Introductions and Course ; Core Concepts in Anthropology and Relevance to the Modern World	Eller Ch. 1 AE: “Body Ritual Among the Nacirema”(30) Assignment 1: My Life Narrative due by Midnight
9/9	Anthropological Methods	Eller Ch. 2 (33-40 only) AE: “Tricking and Tripping” (4), “A Dispute in Donggo” (1)

		Assignment 2 due by Midnight
9/16	A History of Anthropology	Eller Ch. 3 Online Discussion 1 due by Midnight
9/23 IN CLASS	Language and Culture	Eller Ch. 4 (71-80 only) AE: “Fighting for Our Lives” (8) and “Shakespeare in the Bush” (9)
9/30	Gender and Sexuality	Eller Ch. 5 (90-100 only) AE: “Missing Girls” (24), “Where Fat is a Mark of Beauty” (22), and “The Berdache Tradition” (21) Online Discussion 2 due by Midnight
10/7	Race and Ethnicity	Eller Ch. 6 AE: “Can White Men Jump?” (5) and “The Inuit Paradox” (14) Online Discussion 3 due by Midnight
10/14 IN CLASS	MIDTERM EXAM	
10/21	Social Organization and Kinship	Eller Ch. 8 AE: “Ties that Bind” (15), “When Brothers Share a Wife” (17) and “Arranging a Marriage in India” (19) Assignment 3 due by Midnight
10/28	Politics and Social Control	Eller Ch. 9 AE: “Sick of Poverty”(16) Online Discussion 4 due by Midnight
11/4 IN CLASS	Belief and Religion	Eller Ch. 10 AE: “The Secrets of Haiti’s Living Dead” (29) Assignment 4 due by Midnight
11/11	Culture Change and Applying Anthropology	Eller Ch. 11 AE: “The Americanization of Mental Illness” (36) AE: “Seeing Conservation Through the Global Lens” (38) Online Discussion 5 due by Midnight
11/18	Colonialism and Globalization	Eller Ch. 12 AE: “Why Can’t People Feed Themselves?” (32) Online Discussion 6 due by Midnight
11/25	Power, Inequalities, and Social Control: Using Anthropology to Understand Violence	Eller Ch. 13 AE: “Death Without Weeping”(18) Online Discussion 7 due by Midnight
12/2 IN CLASS	Development, Modernization, and Globalization FINAL REVIEW	Eller Ch. 14 AE: “The Tractor Invasion” (33) and “The Price of Progress” (37)

		Assignment 5 due by Midnight
12/9	FINAL EXAM	