



Anth 2351-71W: World Cultures Spring 2015

Instructor: Kerri Brown, Adjunct Instructor
University Email Address: Kerri.brown@tamuc.edu
Online office hours: or by appointment

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials –Required Text

Kottak, Conrad. Cultural Anthropology, 16th edition. McGraw-Hill, 2014.
ISBN 9780078035005

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the major concepts, theoretical frameworks and research methods of cultural anthropology. We will examine a range of societies from small-scale foraging bands to complex industrial nations from a global perspective. A broad range of topics will be addressed from a cross-cultural perspective, including: social, political and economic development; marriage and kinship; religion and magic; gender, and language. In addition to examining the diversity of human cultures throughout the world, we will focus on how anthropological theories and methods can be employed to help us understand *why* peoples' behaviors and beliefs vary cross culturally and how anthropologists go about uncovering the meanings of both cultural diversity and similarity.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to demonstrate **knowledge** of the interconnectedness of global processes (issues, processes, trends, and symptom).
2. Students will be able to **apply** knowledge of the interconnectedness of global processes
3. Students will be able to view themselves as **engaged** citizens within an interconnected and diverse world.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Instructional method is primarily lecture and class discussion. Students will be assessed through the use of unannounced quizzes, short written assignments, and four exams spaced throughout the semester. Exams will be non-comprehensive.

You are responsible for reading, understanding, and complying with the course requirements. This course introduces concepts, methods, and theories with which most students are unfamiliar, therefore it is critical that you come to class each day prepared to discuss/write and ask questions about the assigned readings. To encourage you to complete the reading assignments as required, there will be various quizzes/in-class writing and homework assignments during the term. Each of these will be worth just ten points, however if you miss a substantial number or receive poor grades on them they will negatively impact your final grade. **I do not make extra credit assignments, however you may earn extra points by answering an optional three-point bonus question on each exam.** Please do not ask for extra credit assignments because I will not budge on this.

Exams: (200 points) There will be four exams during the semester, including a non-comprehensive final, each worth 50 points. The exams will cover all assigned readings, lectures, and any films shown during the term. Each exam will consist of some combination of multiple choice, short answer, and fill-in-the-blank questions. You will have 3 hours to complete the exam, and it can be taken any time during the specific day (within 24 hours). **Students who miss an exam due to documented illness, emergency, or a university-sanctioned activity will take a comprehensive exam for the final. Only one exam can be made up. Students, who miss more than one exam, will be dropped from the course. Try to avoid having to take the comprehensive final because it is difficult. The comprehensive final will be worth 100 points. Please be aware that you can only take the comprehensive final if you have my permission. This is not an opportunity to drop an unsatisfactory grade.**

Weekly Online Discussion: (150 points) Each week, students are expected to create 3 posts (3 posts x 5 points each = 15 points). One post should be a question about the readings or something related to the topic for the class to answer. The other 2 posts need to be a response to a question posted by myself or another student. You may create as many posts as you like, but only 3 posts will be counted towards the weekly grade. (10 weeks of discussion x 15 points a week = 150 points). **Posts must be up by Sunday evening at 11:59 PM. However, the sooner you post your questions and responses, the better, so that people have time to respond to the question you post.**

Participant Observation Assignment: (30 points)

Spend approximately 1 hour (60 minutes) in a public place (i.e. coffee shop, store, park) or a cultural event (i.e. sporting event, a frat party, or a protest rally) observing other peoples' social interactions. Make sure that there are enough people around for you to see and analyze interactions and be sure that it is okay to take notes (which you will type up later). During the observation exercise, ask yourself some of the following questions: How do people greet each other? What kinds of relationships are being demonstrated (i.e. families, friends, business partners, significant others)? What type of verbal and non-verbal communication is happening? What is being exchanged? Is there a difference in body language in different relationships? What about different ethnic or gender relationships? Does anyone say anything that caught your attention? How did people respond? While observing, draw a map of the area you are in. Note the time, the number of people and where they are, the spatial layout and other things you think are significant to this space. After the observation, please write a minimum one-page write-up from your field notes about cultural social interactions. Do you think these are unique to American culture? Did anything unexpected happen during your observation? How does this exercise use the methods and theories discussed in Chapter 3? **Please hand in the picture of the map, the typed up field notes, and write-up of the conclusion from your observation.** This assignment should be at least three pages (one page map [a picture or scan of it will work], at-least one page of field notes, and at-least one page for your conclusions), either double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt font, 1-inch margins on all sides. Each section (map, notes, conclusions) is worth 10 points. ***Due by 11:59 PM on March 23 through dropbox in e-college.***

Media Assignment: (20 points) Each student must pick an article, book, blog post, YouTube video, or other form of media and write a 1-page paper (12 point font, double-spaced, Times New Roman font) to discuss the cultural components of that form of media. For example, if a student chooses to discuss "Gangnam Style" that student will identify what language the song is in, where "Gangnam" District is, and interesting facts about the culture that is associated with this song. The assignment is worth 20 points, 5 points for the media source and 15 points for the paper. If you have questions of what counts as media or would like suggestions, please contact me. You can turn this assignment in at any time, but the final deadline is ***by 11:59 PM on May 11 through dropbox in e-college.***

Grading Criteria

400 – 350 points A
349 – 300 points B

299 – 260 points	C
259 – 200 points	D
199 or less	F

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Please feel free to drop by during my online office hours. You can also email me or phone me through the contact information at the top of the first page.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Academic Honesty: Students in this class and in all classes at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty. Cheating in any form is a serious matter. Anyone found guilty of cheating will receive an “F” in the course and may be subject to further disciplinary action by the University. Cheating can also affect your permanent record. Plagiarism (using the words and/or ideas of another without acknowledgment) is also cheating and is subject to the same penalties. **All work submitted for this class is to be done individually unless otherwise specified.** Do your own work on assignments, and exams, and do not provide unauthorized assistance to others, and you will not only uphold the ethical standards demanded at A&M-Commerce, you’ll learn more.

Student Conduct:

“All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.” (See Student’s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct). Entering class late, walking in and out of class, talking during lecture, and the use of cell phones (including text messaging) are all disruptive behaviors. If you must engage in them, **do so outside the classroom.** If you feel you must leave the room for whatever reason please do so quietly, and do not return.

ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Reading Schedule: Please note that the Reading Schedule may be subject to change as circumstances warrant. I will announce any changes as far in advance as possible.

Week One: January 20-23 Course Introduction
Kottak: Chapter 1: What is anthropology?
Assignment: No assignments this week; reading only

Week Two: January 26-February 1*
Kottak: Chapter 2: Culture
Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board

Week Three: February 2-February 8
Kottak: Chapter 3: Method and Theory in Cultural Anthropology
Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board

Week Four: February 9-15*
Kottak: Chapter 5: Language and Communication
Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board.

Week Five: February 16-22

Exam I, Thursday, February 19

Week Six: February 23-March 1*
Kottak: Chapter 9: Gender
Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board.

Week Seven: March 2 - March 8*
Kottak: Chapter 6: Ethnicity and Race
Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board.

Week Eight: March 9-15

Exam II, Thursday, March 12

Week Nine: March 16- March 22 **Spring Break**

Week Ten: March 23-March 29*
Kottak: Chapter 8: Political Systems
Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board
Participant Observation Assignment Due March 23, 11:59 PM

Week Eleven: April 1-April 5*
Kottak: Chapter 7: Making a Living (Economics)
Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board

Week Twelve: April 6- April 12*
Kottak: Chapter 10: Families, Kinship and Descent
Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board.

Week Thirteen: April 13-April 19

Exam III — Thursday April 16

Week Fourteen: April 20-April 26*

Kottak: Chapter 12: Religion

Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board.

Week Fifteen: April 27-May 3*

Kottak: Chapter 14: The World System and Colonialism

Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board.

Week Sixteen: May 4-May 8

Kottak: Global Issues Today

Media Assignment due May 4th at 11:59 PM

Final Exams Thursday May 8th