Anth 2351-71W: World Cultures
Fall 2015

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Phone Number: (817) 235-0641
Online office hours: Sunday 6pm – 9pm; Thursday 12pm – 3pm

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Required Text

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.
**Weekly Online Discussion** (150 points): Each week, students are expected to create 3 posts (3 posts x 5 points each x 10 weeks = 150 points):

- One **discussion question** about the readings or something related to the topic for the class to answer.
- One post **responding** to a question posted by myself or another student.
- One **news article** relating to that week’s topic, and three sentences that include a summary of the article and an explanation of how it relates to the topic at hand. The article can be about current political events, pop culture, the arts, health, education, etc., but **please include a hyperlink of the material to which you are referring.** Although you may use any news source, recommended sources include:
  - [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)
  - [www.aljazeera.com](http://www.aljazeera.com)
  - [www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com)
  - [www.time.com](http://www.time.com)

In order to receive full credit, your posts should reference a total of **at least 5** concepts, examples, and/or vocabulary words from lecture slides and the textbook. I am grading you on your engagement with class materials, not solely on your opinion.

You may create as many posts as you like, but only 3 posts will be counted towards the weekly grade. **Posts must be up by Sunday evening at 11:59 PM, except for the weeks designated below. However, the sooner you post your questions and responses, the better, so that people have time to respond to the question you post.**

**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 designated days (see below).

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.

**Participant Observation Assignment** (30 points): Due Sunday, November 1, 11:59 PM through dropbox in e-college.

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 thing 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.

Media Assignment (20 points): due Thursday, December 10 at 11:59 PM through dropbox in e-college.
Each student must pick an article, book, blog post, YouTube video, or other form of media and write a 2-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. In order to receive full credit for this assignment, you must use at least 10 concepts, examples, and/or vocabulary words from lecture slides and the textbook to support your analysis of the media source. If you have questions of what counts as media or would like suggestions, please contact me.

Grading Criteria

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<th>Points</th>
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<td>400 – 350</td>
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<td>199 or less</td>
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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

Students with Disabilities
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- Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu

Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/

Nondiscrimination Notice
Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

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: August 31-September 6
Kottak: Chapter 1: What is anthropology?
Assignment: No assignments this week; reading only

Week Two: September 7-13
Kottak: Chapter 2: Culture
Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board

Week Three: September 14-20
Kottak: Chapter 3: Method and Theory in Cultural Anthropology
Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board
Week Four: September 21-27
Kottak: Chapter 5: Language and Communication
Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board.

Week Five: September 28-October 4
Exam I - Open Thursday, October 1, 12:00am – Sunday, October 4 11:59pm

Week Six: October 5-11
Kottak: Chapter 9: Gender
Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board.

Week Seven: October 12-18
Kottak: Chapter 6: Ethnicity and Race
Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board.

Week Eight: October 19-25
Exam II - Open Thursday, October 22, 12:00am – Sunday, October 25 11:59pm

Week Nine: October 26-November 1
Kottak: Chapter 8: Political Systems
Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board
Participant Observation Assignment Due Sunday, November 1, 11:59 PM

Week Ten: November 2-8
Kottak: Chapter 7: Economics
Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board

Week Eleven: November 9-15
Kottak: Chapter 10: Families, Kinship, and Descent
Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board.

Week Twelve: November 16-22
Exam III - Open Thursday, November 19, 12:00am – Sunday, November 22 11:59pm

Week Thirteen: November 23-29
Thanksgiving Holiday. No assignments.

Week Fourteen: November 30-December 6
Kottak: Chapter 12: Religion
Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board.

Week Fifteen: December 7-11
Kottak: Chapter 14: The World System and Colonialism
Kottak: Global Issues Today
Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board (due Friday, December 11; one of your posts can be about the piece of media chosen for your media assignment)
Media Assignment due Friday, December 11 at 11:59 PM

Final Exam – Open Tuesday, December 8 12:00am - Friday, December 11:59pm