

ANTH 161:
Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
Winter 2019
Mondays & Wednesdays 12:00pm – 1:20pm
McKenzie Hall 125

Professor Johanna Richlin

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Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30

Condon Hall 274

Sofia Vicente-Vidal [GE]

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Office Hours: Mondays, 1:30-2:30; Fridays, 12:30-1:30

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Course Description

This course introduces students to basic concepts in Cultural Anthropology. The class educates students on emerging and developing notions of culture as well as the ways in which societies are rapidly changing within a globalizing world and exposes students to a wide variety of cultural practices through ethnographic writing and film. The course is a ten-week experience with a wide range of readings and discussions. A special emphasis in this class will be put on the idea of “cultural construction,” that is, how do people create an understanding of the world they live in? Furthermore, we will be paying close attention to how the actions of people in one part of the world directly affect the lives of people in another through migration, political economy, legal policy, and the media.

Required Text

- *Essentials of Cultural Anthropology: A Toolkit for a Global Age*. Kenneth Guest

This text is available for purchase at the UO Duckstore as well as on reserve at the library.

There are also readings available on Canvas Files. In the syllabus, these readings are marked with a double asterisk ().

Course Requirements

Course Policy Review Please complete the course policy review by the end of Week 2 (Friday, January 18 at 11:59pm). The review will take you through the various course policies. At the end, you will be asked to agree to the terms, and to submit online via Canvas. Simply completing the review is 5 points towards your final grade.

Section Participation is 20 points toward your final grade. As adults you are responsible for your own attendance and education. The GE will outline the expectations for your section. You are responsible for all of the readings, handouts, and class notes for days that you miss. Please do NOT ask the professor or your GE for these materials.

Museum Visit is worth 10 points. With your discussion section, you will visit a University of Oregon Museum. As part of your visit, you will complete a worksheet that incorporates your observations and reflections. You will submit your worksheet to the GE at the end of your visit.

Mid-Term Exam Your mid-term will cover all material from Week 1 through Week 5. The Mid-Term exam is worth 20 points of your grade and includes multiple choice, fill in the blank and matching questions. It is an open book exam. The exam will be administered online, via Canvas and will be available on *Wednesday February 13, 8AM-12PM*.

Field Assignment The field assignment is worth 15 points, divided into three separate assignments: notes (5 points), interview transcription (5 points), written analysis (5 points). It is an opportunity to apply some of what you have learned in this class. The field assignment is meant to be fun and educational at the same time, and it will provide you with personal insight into what anthropologists do, some of the challenges and dilemmas, as well as insights that anthropological work generates. Due dates: *February 2* (part 1/notes), *February 22* (part 2/interview), *March 8* (part 3/analysis) at *11:59PM*. Online submission via Canvas.

Final Exam The final exam will cover the major topics of the course, as well as the readings and discussions. The exam will be administered during Finals Week. The Final Exam is worth 30 points of your grade. It includes multiple choice, matching and fill in the blank questions. The exam will be available online from *March 18, 8:00am through March 20, 11:59pm*.

Grading

- 5 points Course Policy Review
- 20 points Section Participation
- 10 points [Museum Visit](#)
- 20 points Mid-Term Exam

- 15 points Field Assignment
- 30 points Final Exam

Grades will be assigned based on the following criteria:

- (A) Outstanding performance relative to course requirements; demonstrates a mastery of course content at the highest level;
- (B) Performance that is significantly above course requirements; demonstrates a mastery of course content at a high level;
- (C) Performance that meets course requirements in every respect; demonstrates adequate understanding of course content;
- (D) Performance that is at a minimum level to pass, but does not fully meet requirements in all aspects; demonstrates a marginal understanding of course content;
- (F) Performance that does not meet requirements, for whatever reason; demonstrates an inadequate understanding of course content.

A+ 100 to 97

A <97 to 94

A- < 94 to 90

B+ < 90 to 87

B < 87 to 84

B- < 84 to 80

C+ < 80 to 77

C < 77 to 74

C- < 74 to 70

D+ < 70 to 67

D < 67 to 64

D- < 64 to 61

F < 61 to 0

If you take this course pass/fail, you must have at least 70 points to pass.

READING/LECTURE SCHEDULE

**Please complete all readings before each lecture.*

Week 1

January 7: Review of the Syllabus, Introduction to the Course

January 9: Anthropology in a Global Age

- K. Guest, Chapter 1
- **Article: [Body Ritual among the Nacirema](#)

Week 2

January 14: What is culture and why is it relevant for anthropologists?

- K. Guest, Chapter 2

January 16: Cultural relativism

- **Article: Peter Just. A Very Short Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, Chapter 2
- **Article: Cultural Relativism and Universal Human Rights

Week 3

January 21: MLK Jr. Day, No class

January 23: Anthropology is what anthropologists do

- K. Guest, Chapter 3
- **Article: Doing Collaborative Ethnography

Week 4

January 28: A closer look at ethnography

- **Article: [Bohannon, Shakespeare in the Bush](#)
- **Article: Eating Christmas in the Kalahari

January 30: What can anthropology say about health, illness and the body?

- K. Guest, Chapter 14

February 2: FIELDWORK ASSIGNMENT (PT 1/Notes) DUE at 11:59 PM in CANVAS

Week 5

February 4: What does Anthropology teach us about Ethnicity?

- K. Guest, Chapter 6
- **Article: Inventing Hispanics: A Diverse Minority Resists Being Labeled

February 6: MID-TERM

Week 6

February 11: What does Anthropology teach us about Race?

- K. Guest, Chapter 5
- **Article: Scientific and Folk Ideas about Heredity

February 13: What does Anthropology teach us about Class and Inequality?

- K. Guest, Chapter 10
- **Book chapter: Holmes, Seth. 2013. "Segregation on the Farm: Ethnic Hierarchies at Work." *Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies. Migrant Farmworkers in the United States*, pp 45-87. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Week 7

February 18: What does Anthropology teach us about Gender?

- K. Guest, Chapter 7
- **Article: The Sworn Virgins of Albania

February 20: Anthropology and Cultural Heritage

- **Article: Lowthorp, "Voices on the Ground: Kutiyattam, UNESCO, and the Heritage of Humanity"
- Video: "Flight of the Condor"

February 22: FIELDWORK ASSIGNMENT (PT 2/Interview) DUE 11:59 PM IN CANVAS

Week 8

February 25: Anthropology, Media and Museums

- K. Guest, Chapter 15

Review the following museum websites:

- [Smithsonian Museum of Natural History Department of Anthropology \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#)
- [The National Museum of the American Indian \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#)
- [The University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History Web Galleries](#)
- [The National Museum of African American History and Culture \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#)

February 27: *The Rape of Europa*

March 1: SECTION MEETS AT THE Museum of Natural and Cultural History

Week 9

March 4: Globalization and Migration

- K. Guest, Chapter 11
- **Article: The Globalization of a Brazilian Fishing Community
- **Article: Yarris, Global Mental Health

March 6: Anthropology and Religion

- K. Guest, Chapter 13
- **Article: [The Social and Cultural Construction of Reality \(Cultural Anthropology, pp 82 – 107\)](#)

March 8: FIELDWORK ASSIGNMENT (PT 3/ANALYSIS) DUE at 11:59 PM IN CANVAS

Week 10

March 11: Applied Anthropology

- **Article: [Ember & Ember “Practicing and Applying Anthropology” *Cultural Anthropology*, pp 372-387.](#)
- **Article: “Virtual Worlds and Futures of Anthropology”

- **Article: [Fedorak, Shirley *Anthropology Matters*, “Of What Uses is Anthropology to the Business World?”](#)

March 13: Review Session

Final Exam: From Monday March 18, 8:00 am through Wednesday March 20, 11:59pm.