ANTH 161:
Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
Fall 2018

Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:00pm – 3:20pm
PLC 180

Prof. Maria Fernanda Escallón
mfe@uoregon.edu
Tuesdays & Thursdays 4:00pm - 5:00pm
Condon Hall Room 356

GEs
Timothy Herrera
therrera@uoregon.edu
Thursdays 10:00am – 12:00pm
Condon Hall Room 366

Emily Masucci
emasucci@uoregon.edu
Mondays 1:00pm – 3:00pm
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Hannah Wellman
hpw@uoregon.edu
Wednesdays 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Condon Hall Room 365a

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


This text is available for purchase at the UO Duckstore.

**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, October 5 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. Each 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 Thursday November 1 from 8am until 11:59pm.

Field Assignment The field assignment is worth 15 points and 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. Field assignments will take place over Thanksgiving break. Due date: Nov 30th 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 Monday December 3, 8:00 am through Wednesday December 5, 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 94 points  
A-  < 94 to 90 points  
B+  < 90 to 87 points  
B   < 87 to 84 points  
B-  < 84 to 80 points  
C+  < 80 to 77 points  
C   < 77 to 74 points  
C-  < 74 to 70 points  
D+  < 70 to 67 points  
D   < 67 to 64 points  
D-  < 64 to 61 points  
F   < 61 to 0 points

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

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<tr>
<th>READING/LECTURE SCHEDULE</th>
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*Please complete all readings before each lecture.

**Week 1**

**September 25:** Review of the Syllabus, Introduction to the Course

**September 27:** Anthropology in a Global Age

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

**Week 2**

**October 2:** What is culture and why is it relevant for anthropologists?

- K. Guest, Chapter 2

**October 4:** Cultural relativism

- **Article:** Peter Just. A Very Short Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, Chapter 2
- **Article:** Cultural Relativism and Universal Human Rights
Week 3

October 9: Anthropology is what anthropologists do

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

October 11: A closer look at ethnography

- **Article: Bohannan, Shakespeare in the Bush
- **Article: Eating Christmas in the Kalahari

Week 4

October 16: What does Anthropology teach us about Race?

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

October 18: What does Anthropology teach us about Ethnicity?

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

Week 5

October 23: What does Anthropology teach us about Class and Inequality?

- K. Guest, Chapter 10

October 25: How does Anthropology take up religion?

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

Week 6:

October 30: What does Anthropology teach us about Gender?

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

November 1: Mid-Term - administered online and available from 8am – 11:59pm
Week 7:

November 6: What does Anthropology teach us about Politics and Political Systems?
- K. Guest, Chapter 12
- **Article: A Tribal Chair’s Perspective on Inherent Sovereignty

November 8: Globalization & Migration
- K. Guest, Chapter 11
- **Article: The Globalization of a Brazilian Fishing Community

Week 8:

November 13: Anthropology and Cultural Heritage

November 15: Anthropology and Museums
Review the following museum websites:
- Smithsonian Museum of Natural History Department of Anthropology
- The National Museum of the American Indian
- The University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History Web Galleries
- The National Museum of African American History and Culture

Week 9

November 20: What can anthropology say about health, illness and the body?
- K. Guest, Chapter 14

November 22: Thanksgiving break

Week 10

November 27: The Uses of 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?”

November 29: Review Session

**Final Exam:** From Monday December 3, 8:00 am through Wednesday December 5, 11:59pm.