

Updated March 28th, 2019

Anthropology 161

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

ONLINE

Spring: April 1st - June 14th, 2019

Instructor: **Christopher Harrington**

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GE: Anna Sloan

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Course Description: This course is an introduction to Cultural Anthropology and is aimed at giving students the tools necessary for understanding world cultures from an anthropological perspective.

Anthropology is the study of human beings from biological, archaeological, cultural, and linguistic perspectives. We will be focusing on the anthropological study of human cultures, and the field of cultural anthropology broadly. We will investigate ways of comparing and contrasting the structures of social relationships and belief systems that operate in different cultural settings, aiming to, in the words of Melford Spiro:

“...make the strange familiar, and the familiar strange...” (1995).

We will seek to put in context the worldviews and belief systems of a diversity of the world’s people, while simultaneously investigating our own, aiming to overturn previously held notions and prejudices. A main goal is to help students recognize and avoid ethnocentrism.

Course Objectives and Outcomes:

After completing this course, you should:

1. Be able to explain and apply key concepts in cultural anthropology
2. Understand the process and issues of anthropological fieldwork
3. Be able to put in context certain cultural practices
4. Understand some of the commonalities shared by all cultures as well as the diversity of human experience.
5. See the modern applicability of anthropology and an anthropological way of thinking.

Course structure: This is a non-traditional course in that there is no face-to-face interaction with the instructor. Some have a hard time being motivated to complete on-line courses because much of the work is dependent on the self-discipline of the student. As such, you have the responsibility of learning the course materials yourself by keeping up with the assigned readings, watching films, and completing thoughtful and analytic written assignments in a timely manner. In addition, you will need to have access to high-speed Internet in order to take timed quizzes and tests and also to watch assigned video clips. You must have access to such resources – if not at home, then on campus. If you cannot access these resources, consider taking the course in a traditional classroom setting.

Updated March 28th, 2019

The course is broken into four ‘Modules’ on Canvas. For each module you will do the readings and listen to audio lectures that correspond with the readings. There are several films as well. We will have discussion board topic, an assignment, and a quiz per module. All PowerPoints are designed by Dr. Angela Montague; however, she is not the instructor for this course this term. There will be times in the power points that it mentions certain weeks, they may not be accurate which I know is confusing. Please follow the assignment dates located on the canvas

assignments, discussion, or modules pages. Please direct all emails to your instructor Chris Harrington, or to your GE Anna Sloan.

Readings:

- Required Textbook:** *Essentials of Cultural Anthropology: A toolkit for the 21st century 2nd edition* by Kenneth Guest

- Other readings will be posted on *Canvas*

Communication: Your instructor and GE are here to facilitate your learning and to provide you with guidance, insight, and regular feedback.

➤**Please put ‘ANTH 161’ in the subject line for any email** correspondence so that it doesn’t get lost. We will always attempt to get back to you within 24 hours or less.

➤There is also a **Q&A** discussion forum for general questions.

Please **check your email frequently** as we will use it and the Canvas announcements section for many class-related announcements.

Requirements

Exams and Assignments

Discussion Participation (4+1 Introduction)

Chapter Assignments (4)

Quizzes (4)

*Discussion Participation**= 20%: Everyone will post an introduction week one on the **discussion board in Canvas** titled “Introductions.” After that, you will conduct one short “fieldwork” assignment per module and post your “findings” to the discussion board. You will also need to read and respond to at least 2 other students’ findings for each module. There are several different options per module, you don’t have to do all of the options but you do have to pick one per module.

- Questions need to be posted by the THURSDAY they are due on by 11:59 p.m.
- Responses are due by the end of the module week on Sunday at 11:59 p.m.

Chapter Written Assignments (1 per module/ drop lowest) =20%: To enhance your understanding of the topics covered in the textbook, you will be required to answer essay questions based on each chapter. You may drop your lowest score or skip one module. This won't require you to email, your lowest grade or missing assignment will be automatically factored in.

- Written responses are due on specific Sunday's at 11:59 p.m. (Upload to Canvas)

Quizzes (15%x4) =60%: Administered via Canvas, quizzes will be open notes/open book, but must be done INDIVIDUALLY. You will have from Thursday morning until Sunday (11:59 p.m.).

Updated March 28th, 2019

Course Schedule

Module 1

Read Guest Chapters 1-4

1. Anthropology in a Global Age Lecture: What is anthropology?

Watch: "The Danger of a Single Story" <http://ed.ted.com/featured/TXtMhXIA>

2. Culture

Lecture: Culture

Watch: "The Story of Stuff" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9GorqroigqM>

3. Fieldwork and Ethnography Lecture: Fieldwork

Read: "Body Rituals Among the Nacirema" By Horace Miner

4. Language

Lecture: Language and Culture

Read: “Does Your Language Shape How You Think?” By Guy (Aug. 26, 2010) http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/29/magazine/29language-t.html?_r=0

Watch: “Colour is in the Eye of the Beholder”

Assignments:

Introduction: Due by April 7th, 11:59 pm

Discussion = Post Due Thursday, April 11th, Responses Due Sun. April 14th by 11:59 pm

Chapter Assignment = Due Sun April 14th by 11:59 pm

Quiz 1 = Due Sun. April 14th by 11:59 pm

Module 2

Read Guest Chapters 5-8

5. Race and Racism

Lecture: Race and Anthropology

Watch: “Race: The Power of an Illusion” 6. Ethnicity and Nationalism

Lecture: Nationalism and Ethnicity 7. Gender

Lecture: Gender Constructions

Watch: “Middle Sexes: Redefining He and She” on YouTube 8.

Sexuality

Lecture: Sexuality and Culture

Assignments:

Discussion = Post Due Thursday, May 2nd, Responses Due Sun. May 5th by 11:59 pm

Chapter Assignment = Due Sun. May 5th by 11:59 pm

Quiz 2 = Due Sun. May 5th by 11:59 pm

Updated March 28th, 2019

Module 3

Read Guest Chapters 9-11

9. Kinship, Family, and Marriage Lecture: Kinship, and Marriage

10. Class and Inequality

Lecture: Class and Inequality

Watch: “Wealth Inequality in the US” and “The House We Live In”

11. The Global Economy

Lecture: Economic Anthropology

Watch: “Cocoa Farmers in Ivory Coast Taste Cocoa for First Time”

Recommended film: “Food, Inc.” or “A Place at the Table”

Assignments:

Discussion = Post Due Thursday, May 16th Responses Due Sun. May 19th by 11:59 pm

Chapter Assignment = Due Sun. May 16th by 11:59 pm

Quiz 3 = Due Sun. May 16th by 11:59 pm

Module 4

Read Guest Chapters 12-14

12. Politics and Power

Lecture: Politics and Power

13. Religion

Lecture: Religion

14. Health and Illness

Lecture: Health and Illness

Watch: “Bending the Arc” (Must log on via UO library page for access)

Assignments:

Discussion = Post Due Thursday, June 6th, Responses Due Sun. June 9th by 11:59 pm

Chapter Assignment = Due Sun. June 9th by 11:59 pm

Quiz 4 = Due Sun. June 11th by 11:59 pm

There is no midterm or final, just four modules that each include discussions, a written assignment, and a quiz. The last quiz will be open

longer for flexibility purposes to ensure all students can manage their time efficiently around finals.