COURSE DESCRIPTION

This online course introduces students to basic concepts in Cultural Anthropology. Over ten weeks, students will explore both the historical foundations and emergent trajectories of the discipline to better understand the complex cultural forces that shape our ever-changing and increasingly globalized world. This course touches on a wide variety of contemporary anthropological issues, including migration, climate crisis, pandemic, and globalization. Further, this course examines the diverse impacts that these local and global processes can have on differently racialized, gendered, and classed communities. Engaging ethnographic writing, film, poetry, and multimedia scholarship, students will be exposed to the breadth of cultural anthropology—its many forms and applications—and walk away with a deeper understanding of how anthropological tools can help us to navigate real-world problems.

COURSE TEXT


This free, open-access textbook is available online at: [http://perspectives.americananthro.org/Chapters/Perspectives.pdf](http://perspectives.americananthro.org/Chapters/Perspectives.pdf).

* For those who prefer hard copy textbooks, there is a printed version available at the UO Duck Store for purchase.

All additional readings and course materials will be made available under Modules in Canvas.
**CONTENT WARNING**

Cultural anthropology often involves thinking and writing about violence and trauma. For this reason, this course does incorporate content that may be sensitive to some, including graphic descriptions and images of violence. Those who feel uncomfortable broaching certain topics may request an alternative reading/film from the instructor, no explanation needed. That said, you will be engaging ideas and concepts in this course that may be unsettling, provocative, and/or emotionally difficult. Keep in mind that anthropology is all about confronting, expanding, and problematizing our worldviews!

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Each assignment is designed to assess your knowledge and understanding of the course content and to improve either your writing or thinking. This course is asynchronous, so it will be your responsibility to complete each assignment on time. NO INCOMPLETES. Your grade is comprised of six types of assignments:

1. **Course Policy Review (2 points)**
   The course policy review will take you through the various course policies and ensure that you are closely familiar with the requirements and expectations outlined in the syllabus. At the end, you will be asked to agree to the terms, and to submit online via Canvas. Simply completing the review is 2 points towards your final grade. Please complete the course policy review by the end of Week 1 (Sunday, October 4).

2. **Personal Introduction (2 points)**
   Personal introductions will be due at the end of Week 1 on the discussion board titled “Introductions.” In this introduction, you will be asked to write a short paragraph or record a video of yourself sharing 1) a few details about yourself (Ex. What is your major? Why are you taking this course?) AND 2) the location of your hometown/city and the name of the indigenous territory on which you grew up (Some resources if you are unsure: https://native-land.ca/ or http://www.landmarkmap.org/). A more detailed prompt to help you compose your introduction can be found on Canvas under Assignments. Please complete the Personal Introduction by the end of Week 1 (Sunday, October 4).

3. **Reading Quizzes (4 x 5 points = 20 points)**
   In this course, you will complete FOUR quizzes. Quizzes will be administered every two weeks on Canvas. They will cover content from all readings, films, and other materials assigned for the preceding two weeks. (For example, your first quiz at the end of Week 2 will cover only the content assigned for Weeks 1-2.) Your success on the quizzes depends on you completing the assigned readings beforehand. Quizzes will not be cumulative. Each quiz will be available from Friday at 10:00am PST until Sunday at 10:30pm PST. You will have the weekend to complete them. You will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz, which is comprised of 10 questions. The
questions will be a combination of multiple choice and true/false. More details about the quizzes can be found on Canvas under Assignments.

4. **Response Papers (4 x 10 points = 40 points)**
In this course, you will submit **FOUR** response papers. Papers will be submitted every two weeks on Canvas. The goal of this assignment is to learn how to critically analyze content as well as to show that you understood the reading. You must explore at least one reading in enough depth to show that you understand it. The best write-ups combine a short summary of a reading, connection to one other course reading/lecture/film/podcast, and bring in one resource from outside the course. Each paper should be between 400 and 500 words and be well written in terms of organization and academic quality. More detailed instructions and a rubric can be found on Canvas under Assignments.

5. **Weekly “Tweets” (16 points)**
Without in-person instruction this Fall, it is important that we still strive to create community in our virtual classroom. This assignment is designed to facilitate connection between students, our course themes, and the (virtual) world at large. For this assignment, you will be asked to find a news article, video, podcast, etc. and create a (max) 140 character “tweet” explaining how it connects to our course themes that week. You will post your “tweet” under the Canvas Discussion board each week. You MUST read or watch all content that you “tweet.” Over the term you will compose **EIGHT** “tweets” worth 2 points each. “Tweets” should be posted before 11:59pm on Sundays (Week 2—Week 8). More detailed instructions can be found on Canvas under Assignments.

6. **Ethnographic (Un)Essay (20 points)**
In lieu of a traditional final exam, this final (un)essay is designed to assess your engagement with the course themes, while allowing you to creatively explore ethnographic methods and share your ideas. You will be asked to select a research a topic related to the course and demonstrate your understanding of this topic in a format that is meaningful to you. Some examples of possible formats include: a comic strip, an infographic, a podcast, a lesson plan, a board game, a short story, an EP, etc. You may use materials from around your home to make a physical product or create something virtually on your computer. With your final product, you will include a 250-300 word write up that details the research topic, your methods and primary findings, and how the medium/product reflects your ideas. You must be prepared to submit a brief paragraph outlining your ideas for the (Un)Essay on Friday, December 4. This outline will be worth 2 points towards this 20 point assignment. More detailed instructions and a rubric can be found on Canvas under Assignments.
GRADING

Course Policy Review 2 points
Personal Introduction 2 points
Reading Quizzes 20 points
Response Papers 40 points
Weekly “Tweets” 16 points
Ethnographic (Un)Essay 20 points

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.

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
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<td>A</td>
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*If you take this course pass/fail, you must have at least 70 points to pass.*
COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 – Introduction: What is Anthropology?

– READINGS:
  o Introduction to Anthropology, *Perspectives*, p. 3-28.
– VIDEOS:
  o Kilman, M. (2017). “What the F*** is Anthropology?” (9 min)
  o Mead, M. (c.1940). “Bathing Babies in Three Cultures” (12 min)

DUE: Course Policy Review and Personal Introductions

Week 2 – Ethnography, Culture, and Representation

– READINGS:
  o The Culture Concept, *Perspectives*, p. 29-44.
  o Ethnographic Excerpts:
– VIDEOS:

DUE: Quiz #1 and Tweet #1

Week 3 – Class, Economics, and Inequality

– READINGS:

– FILMS:
  o The Class Divide: Battle to Fix Inequality in Education. (2016). 41 min.

DUE: Reading Response #1 and Tweet #2

Week 4 – Race and Ethnicity

– READINGS:
  o Race and Ethnicity, Perspectives, p. 204-230.

– POEM:
  o Wright, J. (2020). “Imma Be Here Forever, You Gon’ Remember This,” SAPIENS.

– FILM:

DUE: Quiz #2 and Tweet #3

Week 5 – Gender and Sexuality

– READINGS:
  o Gender and Sexuality, Perspectives, p. 231-285.

– FILMS:
  o Kumu Hina: A Place in the Middle. (2014). 24 min.

DUE: Reading Response #2 and Tweet #4
Week 6 – Territory and Politics

- READINGS:

- PODCAST:

- FILMS:
  - Hů́y̓at: Our Voices, Our Land (interactive)

DUE: Quiz #3 and Tweet #5

Week 7 – (Im)migration, Citizenship, and Nationalism

- READINGS:

- POEM:

- VIDEO:

- FILM:
  - Border South. (2019). 82 min.

DUE: Reading Response #3 and Tweet #6
Week 8 – Environment and Climate Crisis

− READINGS:
  o Culture and Sustainability: Environmental Anthropology in the Anthropocene, *Perspectives*, p. 357-381.

− FILM:

DUE: Quiz #4 and Tweet #7

Week 9 – Globalization and Transnationalism

− READINGS:

− FILM:

DUE: Reading Response #4 and Tweet #8

Week 10 – Public Health and the COVID-19 Pandemic

− READINGS:
  o Health and Medicine, *Perspectives*, p. 425-443.

− PODCAST:

**DUE: (Un)Essay Outline**

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**COURSE DUE DATES**

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<td>Personal Introduction</td>
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<td>Final Assignment – Ethnographic (Un)Essay</td>
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