ANTH 161
Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
Winter 2021
[Web/Asynchronous]

Professor Johanna Richlin
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Office Hours: Tuesdays 10-12; sign-up via Canvas (Links to an external site.)
Via Zoom (Links to an external site.)

Molly McBride [GE]
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Office Hours: M/F 10:00-11:00 am PST; sign-up here (Links to an external site.)
https://uoregon.zoom.us/j/7262095971 (Links to an external site.)

Course Description
This web-based/asynchronous 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, discussions, and multi-media. 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 impact the lives of people elsewhere through migration, political economy, legal policy, and the media.

Statement on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
I support all students regardless of immigration status or country of origin. As a Dreamer Ally, I support Dreamer students and promote their sense of belonging and safety as they
pursue their higher education goals. For more information and resources, please visit our [Dreamers page](https://example.com) and the [FAQs page](https://example.com). I commit to not sharing Dreamer students’ status with anyone if revealed to me, but also remind you that when interacting with faculty, staff, and office around campus, students are never required to reveal their immigration status. It is the policy of the University of Oregon to support and value diversity. To do so requires that we:

- Respect the dignity and essential worth of all individuals, regardless of national origin or citizenship status.
- Promote a culture of respect throughout our University community.
- Respect the privacy, property and freedom of others.
- Reject bigotry, discrimination, violence or intimidation of any kind.
- Practice personal and academic integrity and expect it from others.
- Promote the diversity of opinions, ideas and backgrounds which is the lifeblood of the university.

**Textbook**

- *Essentials of Cultural Anthropology: A Toolkit for a Global Age (3E)* by Kenneth Guest

This textbook is available for purchase at the UO Duckstore as well as on reserve at the library. It is also available as an [e-book](https://example.com). For textbook purchase instructions, please refer to the posted information [here](https://example.com). If you purchase the e-book, you will also have access to [Inquisitive](https://example.com), an optional companion study tool from the publisher. Importantly, we will be using edition 3E of the textbook. There are also required readings posted on Canvas, organized by weekly modules, and marked with a double asterisk (**).

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Course Policy Review:** You are required to complete the course policy review by the end of Week 2 on January 15th at 11:59pm. The review will take you through the course policies. At the end, you will be asked to agree to the terms, and to submit online via Canvas. [5 points]

**Section Participation:** Your section participation will be assessed through *weekly discussion posts (10 points)* and *biweekly quizzes (10 points)*. Each week, you must post two comments on your section discussion page (approximately 150-200 words). The first should be a thoughtful reflection to the discussion prompt posted by your GE (Molly McBride). The
second should be an engaging response to a classmate that furthers discussion. Complete both posts by *Sunday at 11:59 pm each week* to receive credit. [20 points]

**Film Response:** Write a critical essay reflecting on how one of the films from this course illuminates course themes. You may reflect on "Stori Tumbuana," "The Mask," or "The Rape of Europa." *Due on March 5th at 11:59pm.* [10 points]

**Mid-Term Exam:** The Mid-Term exam will cover all material from Week 1 through Week 5. The test includes multiple choice, fill in the blank and matching questions. The exam is open-book and will be administered via Canvas on *February 5th between 8am-11:59pm.* [20 points]

**Field Assignment** The field assignment is 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: Notes/February 2, Interview/February 24, Analysis/March 10.*

**Final Exam** The final exam will cover the major topics of the course, as well as the readings and discussions. The exam includes multiple choice, matching and fill in the blank questions. The exam will be administered online during Finals Week. It will be open from *Monday, March 15th at 8am-Wednesday, March 17th at 11:59pm.*

**GRADING**

- 5 points Course Policy Review
- 20 points Section Participation
- 10 points Film Response
- 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.

COURSE SCHEDULE

NOTE: Complete all readings before class.
Week 1

Lecture 1: Review of the Syllabus, Introduction to the Course

Lecture 2: Anthropology in a Global Age

  • Guest, Chapter 1
  • **Article: “Body Ritual Among the Nacirema”

January 10: Discussion 1 due at 11:59pm

Week 2

Lecture 3: What is culture and why is it relevant for anthropologists?

  • Guest, Chapter 2

Lecture 4: Cultural relativism

  • **Article: A Very Short Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, Chapter 2
  • **Article: “Cultural Relativism and Universal Human Rights”

January 15: Course Policy Review Due at 11:59 pm

January 15: Quiz 1 due by 11:59 pm

Week 3

Lecture 5: Anthropology is what anthropologists do

  • Guest, Chapter 3
  • **Article: “Doing Collaborative Ethnography”

Lecture 6: A closer look at ethnography

  • **Article: “Bohannan, Shakespeare and the Bush”
  • **Article: “Eating Christmas in the Kalahari”
  • Required Film, "Stori Tumbuna"

Week 4

Lecture 7: What can anthropology tell us about health, illness and the body?

  • Guest, Ch. 14
  • Digital content on Canvas
Lecture 8: What can anthropology tell us about the Covid-19 pandemic? ["Guest" lectures posted on Canvas]

- Digital content on Canvas

January 29: Quiz 2 due by 11:59 pm

Week 5

Lecture 9: What does Anthropology teach us about Ethnicity and Nationalism?

- Guest, Chapter 6
- **Article: “Inventing Hispanics”

February 2: Fieldwork Assignment Pt 1/Notes DUE at 11:59 PM in CANVAS

February 5: MID-TERM EXAM

Week 6

Lecture 10: What does Anthropology teach us about Race and Racism?

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

Lecture 11: What does Anthropology teach us about Globalization, Class and Inequality?

- Guest, Chapter 10, p.267-288
- **Book chapter: “Segregation on the Farm: Ethnic Hierarchies at Work”

February 12: Quiz 3 due by 11:59 pm

Week 7

Lecture 12: What does Anthropology teach us about Globalization and Migration? (continued)

- Guest, Chapter 10, p.288-end
- **Article: Yarris, “Global Mental Health”

Lecture 13: What does Anthropology teach us about Gender?

- Guest, Chapter 7
- **Article: The Sworn Virgins of Albania
- **Required Film, "The Mask"
Week 8

Lecture 14: What does Anthropology teach us about media, materiality and museums?

- Guest, Chapter 15
- Review museum websites: Smithsonian Museum of Natural History; That National Museum of the American Indian; UO Museum of Natural and Cultural History; The National Museum of African American History and Culture
- Required Film, "The Rape of Europa"

February 24: Fieldwork Assignment Pt 2/Interview Due 11:59 PM via Canvas

February 26: Quiz 4 due by 11:59 PM

Week 9

Lecture 15: Anthropology and Religion

- Guest, Chapter 13

March 5: Critical Film Response Due at 11:59pm

Week 10

Lecture 16: Applied Anthropology

- **Article: “Practicing and Applying Anthropology”
- **Article: “Virtual Worlds and Futures of Anthropology”
- **Article: “Of What Use Is Anthropology to the Business World?”

Lecture 17: Review Session

March 10: Fieldwork Assignment Pt 3/Analysis Due at 11:59 pm

March 12: Quiz 5 due by 11:59 pm

FINAL EXAM

Monday, March 15 through Wednesday, March 17th, 8am-11:59pm via Canvas