Course Syllabus

ANTH 161
Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
Spring 2022
[Web/Asynchronous]

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Office Hours: Thursdays 1-3pm via Zoom & by appointment

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. I support Dreamer students and promote their sense of belonging and safety as they pursue their higher education goals. 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. Use this link to purchase the book:

[https://uoduckstore.vitalsource.com/custom/9780393886955](https://uoduckstore.vitalsource.com/custom/9780393886955)

Use this link to redeem your access code:

[https://digital.wwnorton.com/essculturalanthro3](https://digital.wwnorton.com/essculturalanthro3)

**Purchasing your textbook access:**

1. Go to the Duck store link and purchase an access code: [https://uoduckstore.vitalsource.com/custom/9780393886955](https://uoduckstore.vitalsource.com/custom/9780393886955)
2. Write down or copy/paste the access code so you don’t lose it. It should look something like this: XXX-XXX-XXX
4. Select “Sign in, register a code, or purchase access”
5. Select “No, I need to register, purchase, or sign up for trial access”
6. Fill out the information at the top with your Norton account information, or fill it out to create a Norton account, and select “I have a registration code” – enter the access code from the Duck Store link and then select “register my code”

For textbook troubleshooting instructions, please refer to the posted information on Canvas. With the e-book you will also have access to Inquisitive, an _optional_ companion study tool from the publisher. Importantly, **we will be using edition 3E of the textbook.** There are also required additional readings posted on Canvas, organized by weekly modules, and marked with a double asterisk (**).

**TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS**

Canvas will still be an important part of our course, and the place to go for course information and engagement outside of class time. Log into [canvas.uoregon.edu](http://canvas.uoregon.edu) using your DuckID to access our class. If you have questions about accessing and using Canvas, visit the Canvas support page.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course Policy Review: You are required to complete the course policy review by the end of Week 2 on April 10th 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. The second should be an engaging response to a classmate that furthers discussion. At the end of the term, the lowest two scores from your combined discussion posts and quizzes will be dropped. 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." You can submit at any time and maximum deadline is May 29th 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, open short answer, and matching questions. The exam is open-book, timed, and will be administered via Canvas on April 29th 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 (10 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. We will discuss both during lecture and discussion sections the components of the assignment, go over rubrics and expectations. Due dates: Notes/April 22, Interview/May 13, Analysis/June 3. [20 points]

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, short open questions, and fill in the
blank questions. The exam will be administered online during Finals Week. It will be open from June 6th at 8am - June 8th at 11:59pm. [25 points]

**GRADING**
5 points Course Policy Review
20 points Section Participation
10 points Film Response
20 points Mid-Term Exam
20 points Field Assignment
25 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”
April 3: 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”
April 10: Course Policy Review Due at 11:59 pm
April 10: Quiz 1 due by 11:59 pm
April 10: Discussion 2 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"
April 17: Discussion 3 due by 11:59 pm

Week 4
Lecture 7: What can anthropology tell us about health, illness, and the body?
Guest, Ch. 14
Digital content on Canvas – Invited Lecture
Lecture 8: What can anthropology tell us about the Covid-19 pandemic?
Digital content on Canvas – Invited Lecture
April 22: Fieldwork Assignment Pt 1/Notes DUE at 11:59 PM in CANVAS
April 24: Quiz 2 due by 11:59 pm
April 24: Discussion 4 due by 11:59 pm

Week 5
Lecture 9: What does Anthropology teach us about Ethnicity and Nationalism?
Guest, Chapter 6
**Article: “Inventing Hispanics”
April 29: MID-TERM EXAM
May 1: Discussion 5 due by 11:59 pm

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
**Article: The Globalization of a Brazilian Fishing Community
May 8: Quiz 3 due by 11:59 pm
May 8: Discussion 6 due by 11:59 pm

Week 7
Lecture 12: What does Anthropology teach us about cultural heritage?
Lecture 13: What does Anthropology teach us about media, materiality, and museums? – PART 1
Guest, Chapter 15
Digital content on Canvas – Invited Lecture
Optional: 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
May 13: Fieldwork Assignment Pt 2/Interview Due 11:59 PM via Canvas
May 15: Discussion 7 due by 11:59 pm
**Week 8**
What does Anthropology teach us about media, materiality, and museums? – PART 2

**Lecture 14:** Digital content on Canvas – Invited Lecture

**Required Film, "The Rape of Europa"**

May 22: Quiz 4 due by 11:59 PM
May 22: Discussion 8 due by 11:59 pm

**Week 9**

**Required Film, "The Mask"**

**Lecture 15:** What does Anthropology teach us about Gender?

Guest, Chapter 7

**Article: The Sworn Virgins of Albania**

May 29: Critical Film Response Due at 11:59pm
May 29: Discussion 9 due by 11:59 pm

**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

**June 3: Fieldwork Assignment Pt 3/Analysis Due at 11:59 pm**

**June 5:** Quiz 5 due by 11:59 pm

**June 5:** Discussion 10 due by 11:59 pm

**FINAL EXAM**

Monday, June 6 through Wednesday, June 8, 8am-11:59pm via Canvas