Course Syllabus

ANTH 161
Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
Fall 2022
10:00 - 11:20 am
Tuesdays & Thursdays
282 LIL

Office Hours:
Professor Maria Fernanda Escallón
Thursdays 2:00 - 4:00 PM
Location 357 Condon Hall
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GEs

Malvya Chintakindi
Tuesdays 2:00 - 4:00 PM by appointment
Location 366 Condon Hall
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Precious Adejumobi
Mondays 2:00 - 4:00 PM by appointment
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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, 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.
COURSE OBJECTIVES
1) Understand and apply the key concepts and methodologies in the field of Cultural Anthropology.
2) Comprehend the significance of colonialism, transnationalism and globalization for individuals, groups, and nations, as well as elaborate on the significance of race, class, and gender with regard to culture, power, and inequality.
3) Critically reflect on students’ own positionality, and more broadly, to understand how context shapes assumptions, values, and norms.

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

I worked with the Duck Store this term to ensure that you get the lowest price available for our class materials. Please note that when you make a purchase for our class—from the Duck Store link—you’ll be getting an access code that needs to be redeemed on the publisher’s website. Here are the instructions on how to redeem the access code to access the materials:

1. Log into our Canvas class
2. Click on the purchase link from the Duck Store and purchase an access code for our class’s eBook/online resources. Copy the access code.
3. Click on the Norton eBook link in Canvas and select the option to “Register, Purchase, or Sign Up for Trial Access.”
4. Create a Norton account if you don’t have one already and select “I have a registration code.”
5. Paste in the access code that you just purchased from the Duck Store link.

If you run into any problems redeeming your eBook/resources access, please reach out to the Norton Help Desk and put in a ticket so someone can help you. You can do this here: https://support.wwnorton.com/request

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 using your DuckID to access our class. If you have questions about accessing and using Canvas, visit the Canvas support page. Canvas and Technology Support also is available by phone or live chat: 541-346-4357 | livehelp.uoregon.edu

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Course Policy Review: You are required to complete the course policy review by the end of Week 2 on Friday October 7 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: You will have small section discussion sessions every Friday with your GE. This is an important part of the class, and your opportunity to do hands-on activities and review class material. Each GE will outline the expectations for your section. Attendance will be taken in every session. You may have up to 2 unexcused absences for sections. If you miss a discussion section, it is your responsibility to catch up on reading reviews, handouts, and class notes. Please do NOT ask the professor for these materials. It is important that students read any assigned material prior to attending their discussion section and arrive prepared to contribute. [10 points]

Biweekly quizzes: Every other week you will take a quiz via Canvas on Fridays to assess your reading comprehension. All quizzes are multiple choice and evaluate material from the book, lectures, and articles. Quizzes will be taken online, and they will remain open for 24 hours. You can take them at any time during the day, but be mindful that once you start, they are timed. There are a total of
5 quizzes (weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10). At the end of the term, the lowest score from 1 quiz will be dropped and not counted towards your final grade. [10 points]

**Film Response:** Write a critical essay reflecting on how one of the films from this course illuminates a course theme of your choosing. You may reflect on "Stori Tumbuana," "The Mask," or "The Rape of Europa." You can submit at any time and maximum deadline is November 27 at 11:59pm. The film response should be between 2 - 3 pages long, double-spaced, using 12-point font with 1” margins, and should not exceed 800 words. The response should not be a summary of the film, but rather an argumentative short essay in which you connect one concept you learned in class with one of the movies. [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 October 27 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/October 23, Interview/November 13, Analysis/Dec 4. [20 points]

**Final Exam** The final exam will cover the major topics of the entire 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 8:00am on Wednesday December 7 - Friday, December 9 at 11:59pm. [25 points]

**GRADING**

5 points Course Policy Review
10 points Section Participation
10 points Biweekly Quizzes
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**
Class 1: Review of the Syllabus, Introduction to the Course
Class 2: Anthropology in a Global Age
   Guest, Chapter 1
   **Article: “Body Ritual Among the Nacirema”

**Week 2**
Class 3: What is culture and why is it relevant for anthropologists?
   Guest, Chapter 2
Class 4: Cultural relativism
   **Article: A Very Short Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, Chapter 2
   **Article: “Cultural Relativism and Universal Human Rights”
October 7: Quiz 1
October 9: Course Policy Review Due at 11:59 pm on CANVAS

**Week 3**
Class 5: Anthropology is what anthropologists do
   Guest, Chapter 3
Class 6: A closer look at ethnography
   **Article: “Bohannan, Shakespeare and the Bush”
   **Article: “Eating Christmas in the Kalahari”
   Required Film, "Stori Tumbuna"

**Week 4**
Class 7: Fieldwork essentials
   **Article: “Doing Collaborative Ethnography”
   ** Konopiski, Doing Anthropological Research, chapter 1
Class 8: What does Anthropology teach us about Race, Ethnicity and Racism?
   Guest, Chapter 5
   **Article: Scientific and Folk Ideas about Heredity
October 21: Quiz 2
October 23: Fieldwork Assignment Pt 1/Notes DUE at 11:59 PM in CANVAS
**Week 5**
Class 9: Midterm review
Class 10: NO CLASS. MID-TERM EXAM due at 11:59 PM in CANVAS

**Week 6**
Class 11: What does Anthropology teach us about Health and Illness?
Guest, Chapter 14
**Digital content on Canvas – Invited Lecture. Dr. Jo Weaver**
Class 12: What does Anthropology teach us about Globalization, Class, and Inequality?
Guest, Chapter 10
**Article: The Globalization of a Brazilian Fishing Community**
November 4: Quiz 3

**Week 7**
Class 13: What does Anthropology teach us about cultural heritage?
**Harvard’s Letter on Museum Collections**
**Whose Heritage?**
**Penn Museum Apologizes For 'Unethical Possession of Human Remains'**
Class 14:
**Required Film, "The Rape of Europa"**
Guest, Chapter 15
November 13: Fieldwork Assignment Pt 2/Interview Due 11:59 PM via Canvas

**Week 8**
Class 15: What does Anthropology teach us about media, materiality, and museums? – PART 1
**Digital content on Canvas – Invited Lecture. Dr. Helen Human**
Class 16: What does Anthropology teach us about media, materiality, and museums? – PART 2
**Oregonian Toppled statues – BLM**
**Understanding the politics of heritage – selected chapters**
Optional review museum websites:
Smithsonian Museum of Natural History
National Museum of the American Indian
UO Museum of Natural and Cultural History
National Museum of African American History and Culture
November 18: Quiz 4
**Week 9**

Class 17: What does Anthropology teach us about Gender?
Guest, Chapter 7

**Article: The Sworn Virgins of Albania**

Required Film, "The Mask"

Class 18: NO CLASS THANKSGIVING BREAK

November 27: Critical Film Response Due at 11:59pm on CANVAS

**Week 10**

Class 19: Applied Anthropology

**Article: “Practicing and Applying Anthropology”**

**Article: “Virtual Worlds and Futures of Anthropology”**

**Article: “Of What Use Is Anthropology to the Business World?”**

Class 20: Review Session

Friday Dec 2: Quiz 5

Friday Dec 4: Fieldwork Assignment Pt 3/Analysis due at 11:59 pm

**FINAL EXAM**

Wednesday, December 7 at 8am through Friday, December 9, 11:59pm via Canvas