

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
University of Northern Colorado

Anthropology demands the open-mindedness with which one must look and listen, record astonishment
and wonder that which one would not have been able to guess.

—Margaret Mead

Course Information:

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
CRN: 13655, ANT 110-004
Fall 2016
TR 11:00 am to 12:15 pm
Candelaria 1220

Instructor Information:

Kristen Sweet-McFarling
Kristen.SweetMcfarling@unco.edu
Office Hours: MW 10 am to 11:30 am, by appointment
Office: Candelaria 2263

Course Description:

This course serves as an introduction to the field of cultural anthropology by exploring the discipline's history, approaches to studying humanity, and research methods. We will discuss concepts like culture change and globalization. We will examine cultural diversity and why an appreciation and understanding of cultural differences are vital in today's world. By looking at modern-day issues, you will develop an awareness and understanding of the cultural information and knowledge needed to navigate the global economy.

Catalog Description—A course in the concept of culture, how cultural processes work, variation in cultural practices, the method of crosscultural comparison and culture change. (LAC, gtP) 3 credits

Required Texts:

- Boyd, Colleen E., and Luke Eric Lassiter, eds. 2011. *Explorations in Cultural Anthropology*. Lanham, MD: AltaMira Press.
- Peoples, James, and Garrick Bailey. 2014. *Humanity: An Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*, Tenth edition. Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning.
- Other selected readings listed on course schedule available online through the university library

*Texts are available for purchase through the campus bookstore, but more affordable options may be available to you online.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

- understand how anthropology is comprised of separate, but integrated subfields;
- demonstrate an understanding of what culture is by giving examples of how cultures differ in social practices;
- discuss how cultures are learned (not innate) and negotiated by their participants over time;
- apply an understanding of cultural construction in how identities are formed;
- understand that you play an integral role in how the world operates;
- apply knowledge of culture to be able to make informed decisions about how to engage in society with your unique and respective roles;

- apply anthropological theories and concepts to real-world problems in the present day;
- understand some of the methods and theories used by anthropologists in studying culture.

How to Succeed in this Course:

- ❖ **SHOW UP.** If you do not attend class, then you will miss important lectures, discussions, assignments and other course materials.
- ❖ **READ.** It is vital for you to complete the assigned readings each week when they are due. It is easy to fall behind, so make sure you schedule time each week for reading. You will be required to discuss readings in class regularly.
- ❖ **COMMUNICATE.** Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. My job is to help you learn the material and succeed in this course, so please do not hesitate to talk to me. If you are experiencing difficulties with the course, please email or visit me during office hours right away. I will respond to your emails as soon as possible.
- ❖ **GET ACQUAINTED** . . . with the syllabus and course schedule. Read both documents thoroughly, and make note of weekly requirements and upcoming assignments, discussions, and quizzes. If you have a question about the course, check your syllabus for the answer first.
- ❖ **FOLLOW DIRECTIONS.** Always read the directions for assignments, discussions, and quizzes carefully. If you do not follow outlined instructions, your grade will suffer. If you don't understand what is being asked of you, then please contact me immediately.

Inclusivity & Respect:

I am committed to providing an atmosphere for learning that respects diversity and values the variety of backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives of each individual in this class. Please help to create and maintain a positive, safe, inclusive, and respectful learning atmosphere for all by:

- putting your phone and other unnecessary technology away during class;
- thinking before you speak;
- listening and being open to the views of others;
- sharing your unique experiences, values, and beliefs;
- honoring the uniqueness of your classmates and instructor;
- appreciating the opportunity we have to learn from each other;
- valuing each other's opinions and communicating in a respectful manner;
- showing up to class on time and being prepared to participate;
- and keeping class discussions of a personal or professional nature confidential.

*Disrespectful language, comments, discussion, emails, or behaviors of any kind will not be tolerated.

Course Requirements

Quizzes (15 points each):

There will be a total of 15 quizzes for this course based on assigned weekly readings. Quizzes are **NOT** cumulative, and may consist of a combination of multiple choice, true/false, and matching questions. Quizzes should be taken on Blackboard after completing each week's readings. Quiz due dates can be found on the course schedule.

In-class Writing Activity (25 points each):

You are required to participate in 7 out of 9 in-class writing activities. You will be provided with at least one prompt in the form of an open-ended question to answer in-class in the time allotted (minimum 15 min.). Prompts will include questions regarding information from lectures, activities, discussions, required

readings, and other class materials. The in-class writing activities will be offered randomly throughout the semester. The weeks of planned in-class writing activities can be found on the course schedule.

Online Discussion (20 points):

During the week of 9/12 you are required to participate on the online discussion board on Blackboard. You will be required to write your own original post and read and respond to posts of other students. The discussions will be based on course materials and reading assignments. This activity will serve the same purpose as an in-class discussion would. The due dates can be found on the course schedule.

Fieldsite Selection (30 points):

You are required to write 1-2 paragraphs informing me of your chosen fieldsite for the Mini-Ethnography project (details below). You will need to include the specific location, the reason why you chose it, what you hope to learn, and your planned approach to the research. Assignment details will be provided to you in class and on Blackboard as the semester progresses. The due date can be found on the course schedule.

Field Journal (50 points):

You are required to spend 4-6 hours at your selected fieldsite and keep a detailed journal of your observations, questions, post-field notes, and other details you collect. Your goal is to get a sense of what the “culture” of the location is like and record it in your journal. You must include all the required components to receive full points. Assignment details will be provided to you in class and on Blackboard as the semester progresses. The due date can be found on the course schedule. The due date can be found on the course schedule.

Writing Workshop (40 points):

There will be one writing workshop held in-class. You are required to attend class and bring a well-developed draft of the paper with you. You will work with your classmates to proofread and edit each other’s papers. The date of the writing workshop can be found on the course schedule.

Mini-ethnography (250 points):

Using the data you collect in your field journal, you are required to write a 4-6 page ethnographic narrative of your chosen fieldsite and a reflection of your experience conducting anthropological research. Assignment details will be provided to you in class and on Blackboard as the semester progresses. The due date can be found on the course schedule.

Oral Presentation (50 points):

You are required to prepare a 4 min oral presentation about your Mini-ethnography project. You will present your work in front of the class and answer questions. Assignment details will be provided to you in class and on Blackboard as the semester progresses.

Course Grades:

Assignment	Points Possible
Quizzes (15x15)	225
In-class Writing Activity (7x20)	140
Online Discussion	20
Fieldsite Selection	30
Field Journal	50

Writing Workshop	40
Mini-ethnography	250
Oral Presentation	50
Total	805

Grading Scale:

Your course work will be evaluated using the A-F +/- grading scale. A indicates excellent work, B signifies above average work, C denotes average work, D designates below average work, and F represents a failure to meet the basic course requirements.

Letter Grade	Percentage	Numeric Grade	Level of Work
A	94%-100%	4.0	Superior
A-	90%-93%	3.667	A minus
B+	87%-89%	3.334	B plus
B	83%-86%	3.0	Above Average
B-	80%-82%	2.667	B minus
C+	77%-79%	2.334	C plus
C	73%-76%	2.0	Average
C-	70%-72%	1.667	C minus
D+	67%-69%	1.334	D plus
D	63%-66%	1.0	Poor
D-	60%-62%	0.667	D minus
F	59% and below	0.0	Failure

Formatting & Citation Guidelines:

- All papers for this course should be:
 - Typed, using 12 point font (Times New Roman or Calibri preferred)
 - Double-spaced
 - Have 1 inch margins on all sides
- You **MUST** cite sources both **in-text** and on a separate **reference page** or **section**
 - You may use any of the following citation styles to cite sources:
 - APA
 - Chicago
 - MLA
- If you quote any source or person word-for-word or paraphrase someone else's work or thoughts, you must cite your source with an in-text citation and on a corresponding references page
- Wikipedia, dictionaries, and encyclopedias are **NOT** appropriate sources for academic work

Late Work & Make up Policy:

Late work or make up assignments will **NOT** be accepted. Please take note of the due dates found on your course schedule and plan your time accordingly. Submission portals close at the exact time and date listed on the course schedule—do not wait until the last minute to submit your work.

In the event that you experience a serious, extenuating circumstance (like a death of a family member, hospitalization, etc.), please contact me as soon as possible, so that we can create a plan for you to successfully continue your course work. Failure to contact me within a reasonable timeframe may result in a “0” for any missed assignments.

Blackboard:

This course will utilize Blackboard, an online learning platform and management system. The syllabus, course schedule, and assignment details are available on Blackboard. You will take your weekly quizzes, participate in one discussion, and submit all of your assignments on Blackboard. You can also check your grades and see feedback online. If you are not familiar with Blackboard (or need a refresher), the Blackboard Support site <http://www.unco.edu/blackboard/> has a student section with tutorials and information regarding technical support.

Writing Center Services:

The writing center offers free assistance to students during any stage of the writing process. I encourage you to utilize this service if you need help with any of your writing assignments. To make an appointment, visit this link <http://www.unco.edu/english/wcenter/appointments.html> and follow the instructions.

Students with Disabilities:

Any student requesting disability accommodation for this class must inform the instructor giving appropriate notice. Students are encouraged to contact Disability Support Services (www.unco.edu/dss) at (970) 351-2289 to certify documentation of disability and to ensure appropriate accommodations are implemented in a timely manner.

Academic Integrity:

Plagiarism, cheating, helping someone else cheat, falsifying primary research data or quotes, or any other form of academic dishonesty could lead to receiving an “F” in the course or a “0” on the assignment or exam. This type of behavior could also lead to other academic penalties and further disciplinary action.

UNC Honor Code:

All members of the University of Northern Colorado community are entrusted with the responsibility to uphold and promote five fundamental values: Honesty, Trust, Respect, Fairness, and Responsibility. These core elements foster an atmosphere, inside and outside of the classroom, which serves as a foundation and guides the UNC community's academic, professional, and personal growth. Endorsement of these core elements by students, faculty, staff, administration, and trustees strengthens the integrity and value of our academic climate. www.unco.edu/dos/communityStandards/honor_code

UNC's Policies:

UNC's policies and recommendations for academic misconduct will be followed. For additional information, please see the Dean of Student's website, Student Handbook link and current catalog. <http://www.unco.edu/>

Tentative Course Schedule

Week	Class Meetings	Topics in Class	Reading Assignments & Activities	Due Dates
1	Aug. 23 Aug. 25	Course Introduction What is Anthropology?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Syllabus & Course Schedule ▪ <i>Humanity</i>—Read Ch. 2 ▪ <i>Explorations in Cultural Anthropology</i>—Read Pp. 1-10, 179-190 	▪ Quiz 1 due 8/28 11:59 PM
2	Aug. 30 Sept. 1	Culture 9/1 NO Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Explorations in Cultural Anthropology</i>—Read Pp. 83-87, 105-124, 223-241 	▪ Quiz 2 due 9/4 11:59 PM
3	Sept. 6 Sept. 8	Culture & Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Humanity</i>—Read Ch. 5 ▪ <i>Exploration in Cultural Anthropology</i>—Read Pp. 25-36 ▪ Mini-Ethnography Assignment Details ▪ In-class Writing Activity 1 & 2 	▪ Quiz 3 due 9/11 11:59 PM
4	Sept. 13 Sept. 15	Anthropological Theory (NO CLASS MEETINGS—online participation required)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Humanity</i>—Read Ch. 4 & 6 ▪ <i>Explorations in Cultural Anthropology</i>—Read Pp. 37-82, 159-165 	▪ Quiz 4 & 5 due 9/18 11:59 PM
5	Sept. 20 Sept. 22	Methods of Investigation Research Ethics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Humanity</i>—Read Ch. 7 ▪ Simonett, Helena. 2014. "Envisioned, Ensounded, Enacted: Sacred Ecology and Indigenous Musical Experience in Yoreme Ceremonies of Northwest Mexico." <i>Ethnomusicology</i> 58(1):110-132. ○ Available online via university library ▪ In-class Writing Activity 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quiz 6 due 9/25 11:59 PM ▪ Fieldsite Selection due 9/25 11:59 PM
6	Sept. 27 Sept. 29	Cultural Diversity & Globalization Culture & Nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Humanity</i>—Read Ch. 8 ▪ <i>Explorations in Cultural Anthropology</i>—Read Pp. 11-24, 135-157 	▪ Quiz 7 due 10/2 11:59 PM
7	Oct. 4 Oct. 6	Exchange in Economic Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Humanity</i>—Read Ch. 9 ▪ <i>Explorations in Cultural Anthropology</i>—Read Pp. 301-311 ▪ In-class Writing Activity 4 	▪ Quiz 8 due 10/9 11:59 PM
8	Oct. 11 Oct. 13	Marriages & Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Humanity</i>—Read Ch. 10 ▪ <i>Explorations in Cultural Anthropology</i>—Read Pp. 275-299, 313-317 ▪ In-class Writing Activity 5 	▪ Quiz 9 due 10/16 11:59 PM
9	Oct. 18 Oct. 20	Kinship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Humanity</i>—Read Ch. 11 ▪ <i>Explorations in Cultural Anthropology</i>—Read Pp. 217-221, 243-273 ▪ In-class Writing Activity 6 	▪ Quiz 10 due 10/23 11:59 PM

Week	Class Meetings	Topics in Class	Reading Assignments & Activities	Due Dates
10	Oct. 25 Oct. 27	Gender in Comparative Perspective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Humanity</i>—Read Ch. 12 ▪ <i>Explorations in Cultural Anthropology</i>—Read Pp. 167-173 ▪ Vanzan, Anna. 2016. "Veiled Politics: Muslim Women's Visibility and Their Use in European Countries' Political Life." <i>Social Sciences</i> 5(2):21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Available online via university library ▪ In-class Writing Activity 7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quiz 11 due 10/30 11:59 PM
11	Nov. 1 Nov. 3	Organization of Political Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Humanity</i>—Read Ch. 13 ▪ Machado-Borges, Thais. 2013. "Middle Class Compassion and Man Boobs." <i>Anthropology Now</i> 5(2):1-9. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Available online via university library ▪ In-class Writing Activity 8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quiz 12 due 11/6 11:59 PM
12	Nov. 8 Nov. 10	Social Inequality & Stratification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Humanity</i>—Read Ch. 16 ▪ <i>Explorations in Cultural Anthropology</i>—Read Pp. 175-178, 191-216 ▪ Oral presentation sign-up ▪ In-class Writing Activity 9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quiz 13 due 11/13 11:59 PM ▪ Field Journal due 11/13 11:59 PM
13	Nov. 15 Nov. 17	Ethnicity & Ethnic Conflict Writing Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Humanity</i>—Read Ch. 14 ▪ <i>Explorations in Cultural Anthropology</i>—Read Pp. 319-361 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Writing Workshop 11/17 ▪ Quiz 14 due 11/20 11:59 11/20 PM
14	Nov. 22 Nov. 24	Religion & Worldview 11/24 Thanksgiving Holiday NO Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Explorations in Cultural Anthropology</i>—Read Pp. 125-133 ▪ Devaney, Beulah. 2016. "The Illegal Underground Ballerinas of Iran." <i>Broadly.</i>, January 11. Accessed January 13, 2016. https://broadly.vice.com/en_us/article/the-illegal-underground-ballerinas-of-iran?utm_source=vicfbuk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Link available on Blackboard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quiz 15 due 11/27 11:59 11/20 PM ▪ Mini-Ethnography due 11/27 11:59 PM
15	Nov. 29 Dec. 1	Artistic Expression Oral Presentations		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Oral Presentation due in class
16	Dec. 9 (10:45AM -1:15PM)	Oral Presentations		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Oral Presentation due in class

*Final grades will be posted to URSA by Wed., Dec. 14 at 5 PM