

ANT 302: Cultural Anthropology

Texas Common Number: ANTH 2351

Course Format: Online, Self-Paced

Course Instructor: Circe Sturm, Ph.D. Contact using the Inbox tool in Canvas.

Course Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None

How This Course Works

This course is online and is self-paced. Students have five months from their date of enrollment to complete the course. All coursework and proctored exams are submitted or taken online.

While this course is self-paced in terms of when you complete the work and submit assignments, periodic assessments are critical to ensuring that students receive adequate support and are able to achieve the intended learning outcomes. Thus, this course is organized into modules that must be completed in order. Students will only be able to move forward once they have received a grade on all assessments within a given module.

Review the course outline and assignment descriptions carefully. Computer-graded assignments are scored immediately. You can expect to receive feedback on instructor-graded assignments or exams within three business days following submission. This does not include weekends or holidays. Requests for expedited grading are not accommodated, so please plan accordingly. During certain times (end of semester, spring break, etc.), instructors may experience higher-than-usual demands on their time and may need additional time for evaluation. Students should reach out to University Extension at uex@austin.utexas.edu with any concerns regarding grading turnaround. University Extension strongly advises students to be aware of when they may need a course grade to be recorded on their transcript. It can take up to two weeks after the final exam is complete for a grade to be officially recorded with the Office of the Registrar.

Course Overview

This course explores the cultural diversity of human societies and provides tools for thinking critically about the classic concepts, theories and methods of cultural anthropology. One of the most important ideas is that of culture itself, a central concept within the discipline of anthropology. Culture is to anthropology what society is to sociology—it is our main point of departure when thinking about what makes human beings tick. Our primary objective will be to understand both the universal manner in which all human beings constitute themselves through culture, and the great diversity of specific cultural expressions that have resulted from these processes.

Why do people behave in ways that are so different from one another? How do we understand these differences and the ways in which they function in human societies? And what is it that unites us as human beings across these differences? In the past anthropologists have pursued these questions by studying distant and “exotic” peoples, the more different from “us” the better. In this class, we will critically examine this “us versus them” dichotomy and how it has shaped the discipline. We will also explore what happens when we turn the anthropological lens back on our own societies and experiences. You will see that several of the case studies and readings focus on U.S. society, so that students have an opportunity to apply anthropological insights to the cultural case with which they are most familiar.

Required Materials

- Conrad P. Kottak. (2022). Cultural Anthropology: Appreciating Cultural Diversity, 19th edition. ISBN: 9781260259278
- Bourgois, Philippe. (2002). In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio, 2nd edition. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge. ISBN: 9780521017114
- Selected chapters and articles available for viewing and download in Canvas.

Technical Requirements

All students are required to have access to an internet-enabled laptop or desktop computer. Tablets and smartphones are not supported. Computers should meet the following requirements:

- At least 2GB RAM
- Operating System: Modern (last 2-3 years) and updated operating system (MacOS or Windows)
- Browsers: Chrome is highly recommended (if using Safari or Firefox, be prepared to use Chrome as a backup)

Course Organization

The course is organized into modules, which are units of course material that cover specific topics. Most modules contain reading assignments, lecture videos, instapoll questions embedded in lecture videos, and one or two quizzes and activities. Some modules may contain writing assignments.

There will be two exams: a midterm and a final exam. In addition to the exams, grades will be derived from quizzes and short writing activities aimed at reinforcing students' knowledge base and should be thought of as a roadmap to help prepare for the exams. The following groups of assignments will constitute the graded work of the course. Final grades will be calculated based on the total number of points earned.

Instapolls (6%)

There are two instapolls which will appear on your screen during the module video segments. These instapolls are associated with most lectures, but are not included with films. You will see that most lecture topics are broken up into smaller segments, which include the instapolls. The answers to the instapolls will reference the relevant lecture materials, usually content that has just recently been viewed in the previous section. The instapolls are meant to be fairly straightforward and to encourage attentive viewing of lecture materials. You will receive credit for answering the instapolls correctly.

Computer-Graded Module Quizzes (6%)

Each module contains a module quiz after the lecture videos. Each of these computer-graded quizzes contains multiple-choice questions that cover content from lectures, readings and film clips and are designed to reinforce your understanding of the course material. They also help students to prepare for the examinations by providing a sense of how examination questions are structured.

Instructor-Graded Assignments: Writing Assignments (12%)

Students will complete structured writing activities that develop applied understanding of the material. These are short essay questions that ask you to synthesize the material and make connections between and among concepts presented in this lecture.

Family Altar Assignment (16%)

In this assignment, you will create an altar that celebrates the importance of your family from an anthropological perspective. Using a variety of materials of your choosing, create something that depicts the people, places, and things in your family that you want to celebrate.

This can include images of family members past and present, important places in your family's history (and in your own history), and items that may hold an important place of family lore (a religious item like a family bible, or some kind of food that is unique to your family).

Exams (60%)

Exams are comprised of multiple-choice questions. The exams are generally about 50% from lecture and 50% from the texts and films.

You must pass the final exam to pass the course.

Course Outline

Module	Topic	Assessments
1	Introductions and Aims of the Course	Instructor-Graded Assignment 1
2	Anthropology: What? Why? How?	Instructor-Graded Assignment 2 Computer-Graded Assignment 3
3	The Concept of Culture and Culture Relativism	Computer-Graded Assignment 4
4	Language: American Tongues (Film)	Computer-Graded Assignment 5
5	Language and Communication	Computer-Graded Assignment 6
6	Participant Observation and Ethnographic Fieldwork	Instructor-Graded Assignment 7 Computer-Graded Assignment 8
7	Race, Ethnicity and Systems of Social Inequality	Computer-Graded Assignment 9
8	Ethnicity and Race Continued	Computer-Graded Assignment 10
9	Economic and Political Systems	Computer-Graded Assignment 11 Instructor-Graded Assignment 12
MIDTERM EXAM		
10	Theoretical Frames: Materialism vs. Idealism	Instructor-Graded Assignment 13 Computer-Graded Assignment 14
11	Marxism 101	Computer-Graded Assignment 15

12	The Interpretive Turn	Computer-Graded Assignment 16
13	Theory Applied: Okie Noodling (Film)	Computer-Graded Assignment 17
14	Gender, Sexuality and Status	Instructor-Graded Assignment 18 Computer-Graded Assignment 19
15	Families, Kinship and Descent	Computer-Graded Assignment 20
16	Marriage: Small Happiness (Film)	Computer-Graded Assignment 21
17	Religion	Computer-Graded Assignment 22
18	Ritual and Women: Texas Tavola (Film) Family Altar Exercise	Computer-Graded Assignment 23 Instructor-Graded Assignment 24 Instructor-Graded Assignment 25
19	The World System and Colonialism(s)	Computer-Graded Assignment 26
20	Conference on Family Altars	
21	Applied and Activist Anthropology: Ethics	Computer-Graded Assignment 27
22	Practice Theory	Computer-Graded Assignment 28
23	What is Modernity? A Critique	Instructor-Graded Assignment 29 Computer-Graded Assignment 30 Instructor-Graded Assignment 31
FINAL EXAM		

Grade Calculation

Your final grade for the course will be calculated as follows:

Instapolls	6%
Computer-Graded Lecture Quizzes	6%
Instructor-Graded Writing Assignments	12%
Family Altar Assignment	16%

Midterm and Final Exams 60%

You must pass the final exam to pass the course. You must also earn an overall passing grade:

A 100-94% B+ 89-87% C+ 79-77% D+ 69-67% F 59-0%

A- 93-90% B 86-84% C 76-74% D 66-64%

B- 83-80% C- 73-70% D- 63-60%

Getting Help

- Technical Support: uextechsupport@austin.utexas.edu
- For content questions or questions about assignment and grades, use the Inbox tool within Canvas to contact the course instructor.
- For other questions (registration, transcripts, etc.), contact University Extension.

University Extension Policies

Full University Extension policies for self-paced courses may be found on the University Extension website.

Scholastic Dishonesty

Students in this course are expected to work independently, without direct supervision, and to conduct themselves responsibly in accordance with that freedom. To obtain the greatest benefit from their course work, and for the sake of everyone enrolled in our courses, students must demonstrate the willingness to exercise self-discipline, personal responsibility, and scholastic integrity.

We expect the course work and exams that you submit for course credit to be yours and yours alone. Plagiarism and other forms of scholastic dishonesty are serious academic violations that will not be tolerated. The penalties for scholastic dishonesty include the possibility of failure in the course. Scholastic dishonesty in examinations will automatically result in a grade of *F* on the exam and an *F* in the course.

University Extension Contact Information

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