ANTH 161: Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology
Spring 2016
T, Th 10-11:20am
182 LIL

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Course Description:

Cultural anthropology is the study of individuals and groups in the context of culture. The study of cultural anthropology is holistic in that it examines the social, political, economic, and psychological lives of people and the interconnections among these. In this course, we will examine many fundamental topics in cultural anthropology. We begin with an overview of the field of cultural anthropology and the concept of culture. We will examine the ways in which culture impacts thinking, feelings, and moral beliefs in virtually all areas of life. We also look at what cultural anthropologists actually do and what tools they use to do it. We examine, for example economies (especially capitalism/consumerism), gender, sexuality, marriage, religion, and health/illness. All of the topics (gender, etc.) just mentioned have been deeply affected by globalization and technology and so we will focus on globalization particularly as we examine traditional anthropological concepts. By the end of the course, you will have acquired basic knowledge about cultural anthropology and its topics, understand what cultural anthropologists do, and how the world continues to be deeply affected by globalization, transnationalism, and technology.

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

• Explain the role of culture in everyday life.
• Interpret how social factors shape “individual” experiences.
• Evaluate contemporary ethical quandaries related to globalization.
• Interrogate how social inequality produces health and other disparities.
• Explain how social theory generates new understandings of cultural life.
**Course Expectations and Grades:**

- **Midterm Exam** (week 6 on Canvas), 25%
- **Final Exam** (*Take Home* on Canvas due finals week), 30%
- **Reflection Papers** (6 total, 5 points each), 30%
- **Discussion Section Attendance**, 10%
- **Participation**, 5% (0-5 points based on meaningful participation)

**Midterm Exam**
The midterm covers all material from weeks 1-5. You will be given the class period on May 3 to take the exam through Canvas. The midterm is worth 25 points. It has 50 multiple-choice questions, worth ½ point each. It is to be taken individually and not in groups.

**Final Exam**
The final covers all material from weeks 6-10. You will be given 80 minutes during our scheduled time in finals week to complete the exam through Canvas. The final is worth 30 points. It has 60 multiple-choice questions, worth ½ point each. It is to be taken individually and not in groups.

**Reflection Papers** (6 total, 5 points each)
During the term you will submit 6 short assignments that ask you to reflect on the week’s reading. Each assignment, submitted via Canvas on Thursdays by 11:59pm, is worth 5 points. If you do not submit the paper on time, you will earn a 0. Late submissions are only accepted in cases of serious illness with a doctor’s note, or other notification from the Dean’s Office. NO EXCEPTIONS.

**Discussion Section Attendance**
You will earn 0-10 points based on how many discussion sections you attend.

**Participation**
You will earn 0-5 points based on your participation in discussion section. Disruptive behavior in lecture or section will affect your participation grade.

**Accommodations**

Please contact Professor Lewis **during the first week of the term** should you require accommodations.

**Class Culture**

The culture of this class is based on mutual respect. You may use laptop computers and tablets as you see fit, however please be sure to bring a pencil and paper to every class, which we will use for in-class exercises. Members of the class are welcome and encouraged to email the professor and the GTF with questions. However, you may be redirected to attend office hours should your
question require a more involved response. If you email with a question that is answered on the syllabus, we will likely redirect you to the syllabus. Students who use their phones or laptops inappropriately, who talk to neighbors, or pass notes during lecture or section will lose participation points after their first warning.

*Academic Honesty*

The following actions may result in disciplinary action according to the university’s academic honesty policies:

--Evidence of collusion when expected to submit individual work (working with someone else).
--Evidence of plagiarism (using someone else’s work without proper citation).
--Multiple submissions (submitting the same paper for more than one class).

Material on the Canvas site is for your use in this class. It is not for posting or sale on StudySoup, shared google docs, or other media.

Copyright warning: The course Canvas site contains copyrighted works that are included with permission of the copyright owner, or under exemptions provided by U.S. Copyright Law (Sections 110, and/or 107). Copying of any of these copyrighted works is prohibited.

*Grades*

Below is a rubric to help you understand grading in the Department of Anthropology. There is no extra credit.

A+: Quality of student’s performance significantly exceeds all requirements and expectations required for an A grade. Very few, if any, students receive this grade in a given course.

A: Quality of performance is outstanding relative to that required to meet course requirements; demonstrates mastery of course content at the highest level.

B: Quality of performance is significantly above that required to meet course requirements; demonstrates mastery of course content at a high level.

C: Quality of performance meets the course requirements in every respect; demonstrates adequate understanding of course content.

D: Quality of performance is at the minimal level necessary to pass the course, but does not fully meet the course requirements; demonstrates a marginal understanding of course content.

F: Quality of performance in the course is unacceptable and does not meet the course requirements; demonstrates an inadequate understanding of course content.
Course Readings:

1) Kenneth Guest’s *Cultural Anthropology: A Toolkit for a Global Age* (purchase at UO Bookstore) along with the *Cultural Anthropology Fieldwork Journal* that comes free with purchase of textbook.

2) Kelsey Timmerman’s *Where Am I Wearing: A Global Tour to the Countries, Factories, and People that Make Our Clothes* (purchased at UO Bookstore, or viewed for free as an e-book through the library).

3) Articles are posted to Canvas.

WEEK ONE: Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology
3/29  Introduction (no reading for today)
3/31  Guest, Chapter 1: Anthropology in a Global Age

WEEK TWO: Being an anthropologist
4/5   Guest, Chapter 2: Culture
4/7   Guest, Chapter 3: Fieldwork and Ethnography

DUE: Reflection Paper #1

WEEK THREE: Race and Racism
4/12  Guest, Chapter 5: Race

DUE: Reflection Paper #2

WEEK FOUR: Identity
4/19  Guest, Chapter 6: Ethnicity and Nationalism
4/21  Guest, Chapter 7: Gender

DUE: Reflection Paper #3
WEEK FIVE: Sexuality and Family
4/26 Guest, Chapter 8: Sexuality

4/28 Guest, Chapter 9: Kinship, Family, and Marriage

DUE: Reflection Paper #4

WEEK SIX: Global Economy
5/3 **Midterm**

5/5 Guest, Chapter 11: The Global Economy
Where Am I Wearing, Part 1

WEEK SEVEN: Globalization
5/10 Where Am I Wearing, Part 2-3

5/12 Where Am I Wearing, Part 4-5

WEEK EIGHT: Politics, Power, Religion
5/17 Guest, Chapter 12: Politics and Power

5/19 Guest, Chapter 13: Religion

DUE: Reflection Paper #5

WEEK NINE: Anthropology and Health
5/24 Guest, Chapter 14: Health and Illness


DUE: Reflection Paper #6
WEEK TEN: Body, Mind, Culture

