

ANTH 2301

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology



Instructor:

Dr. Maryann R. Cairns

Office hours Mondays 3-5 pm and by appointment, Heroy Hall 402

mcairns@smu.edu

Course Location & Time:

Fondren Science 133 (Main Lecture) M/W 12:00-12:50

+Discussion Sections as Assigned

Teaching Assistants:

Brenna Raney

Office Hours Mon 2-3 pm and by appointment, Location TBD

braney@mail.smu.edu

Afshan Kamrudin

Office Hours Wednesday 10-11 and by appointment, Location TBD

akamrudin@mail.smu.edu

Liz Thomas

Office Hours Tues 9-10 am and by appointment, Heroy 428 B

lbingham@mail.smu.edu

** Students may make an appointment to meet or attend the office hours of any Teaching Assistant or the Professor.*

Brief Course Description:

Basic theories and methods of cultural anthropology. Explores variations in cultural values, social practices, religion, rules of law, etc., in different cultures around the world. Focuses on understanding the forces that shape cultures and societies, and how they adapt to a rapidly changing world.

What to expect: This course provides an overview of cultural anthropology, one of the four subfields of anthropology. Students will be introduced to cultural anthropology, and will explore several different topics within the discipline, such as language and communication, political systems, kinship (family and marriage), gender, and religion. This course also focuses on the application of anthropology in a globalized world.

The course consists of lectures (main class) and discussion sections. Films and other media are often shown/utilized during the main class to reinforce course themes and the content from these, in addition to lecture materials and main class/discussion section readings, will be on the

exams. On film days, you don't have readings, but are asked to complete a film guide for your own study/benefit during class. Lectures are meant to offer depth and breadth to your readings—they are NOT summaries. Students must both read and attend the main class & discussion sections. Information from all these components will be on exams. Students should make good use of discussion sections and office hours for questions. Course attendance at both the main lectures and the discussion sections are imperative to students' success in this course. Attendance is tracked each day in the main lecture class as per SMU recommendations. Attendance and participation is tracked and graded in the discussion sections.

Student Learning Objectives:

UC2012: Pillars/Individuals, Institutions & Cultures/UC2016: Breadth/Individuals, Institutions, & Cultures

UC2012 and UC2016: Proficiencies & Experiences/Human Diversity

Course Themes:

1. What is "culture"?
2. Ethics and methods
3. Anthropology in Applied Settings
4. Language and Communication
5. Livelihoods
6. Political Systems
7. Kinship
8. Gender
9. Religion
10. World Systems
11. Race and Ethnicity
12. Globalization

Required Texts and Readings:

Mirror for Humanity: A Concise Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (K)

Author: Conrad Phillip Kottak, McGraw Hill Publishing, 11th Edition

Annual Editions: Anthropology (AE)

Editor: Elvio Angeloni, McGraw-Hill Publishing, 41st Edition

Chicken: The Dangerous Transformation of America's Favorite Food

Author: Steve Striffler, Yale University Press

*Other readings assigned on CANVAS

For your convenience, the texts have been ordered through the SMU Bookstore and will be available through Fondren Library Reserves. The books are also available at many other retailers. It is the student's responsibility to acquire the texts. Students should have their books in hand by no later than the 2nd week of class.

Assignment Summary and Grading Scale:

Assignment Summary:

Exam 1	15 percent
Exam 2	15 percent
Exam 3	15 percent
Reading Quizzes (13)	5 percent
Experience Assignments (3)	15 percent
Ethnography Response Paper (1)	15 percent
Pop Discussion Leadership (2)	10 percent
<u>Discussion Section/Lab (attendance, participation/in-class work)</u>	<u>10 percent</u>
	100 percent

Grading Scale:

A: 92.50-100

A-: 90-92.49

B+: 87.50-89.99

B: 82.50-87.49

B-: 80-82.49

C+: 77.50-79.99

C: 72.50-77.49

C-: 70-72.49

D+: 67.50-69.99

D: 62.50-67.49

D-: 60-62.49

F: 00-59.99

Grading scale is non-negotiable. Do not ask for a change in your grade.

Brief Requirement Overviews (*Students are responsible for reading and understanding all assignment details in Canvas, as well as following the course schedule in Canvas/at the end of this Syllabus*).

1. **Exams** 45% (3 @ 15% Each) include multiple question types. They cover material from course texts, lectures (including media), and discussion section readings and activities. They will be taken in the main class.

2. **Reading Quizzes** 5% (5 questions each, 5% of overall grade combined over 13 total quizzes) are due prior to the start of each main lecture class. Multiple Choice. These are designed to be simple, quick quizzes to check your knowledge and help you in identifying major concepts/studying for exams. If you read the chapter, you should be able to do these in less than 5 minutes.

3. **Experience Assignments** (15%) (3 @ 5% Each) are given throughout the semester to offer experiential learning to students related to course themes. They will be turned in via canvas by the start of the main lecture.

4. You will complete 1 **Ethnography Response Paper** (15%). The paper must be 1000 words, submitted via canvas to complement the Ethnography that is assigned in this class.

*As a rule, “A” papers are exceptional. Students will need to provide an outstanding, well-reasoned, well-written, and grammatically correct paper in order to receive top marks. I encourage students to visit the [Writing Center](#) for assistance.

5. At two points during the semester, students will be called to complete a the **pop discussion leadership** (10%) assignment. Every student should come prepared to each discussion section with three questions, saved electronically, that encourage critical thought for the entire class. At the start of the class, the TA will choose 2 or 3 student(s) at random as a pop discussion leader(s), and the students will work with the TA to ask questions about the reading to the entire class and encourage a deeper understanding of the material at hand. More information on how to write good discussion questions will be provided. If called as a discussion leader, students must submit their questions immediately to the Canvas assignment for grading. If you come to class without questions, you will receive a 0 for the assignment. If you are not called as discussion leader, you do not have to turn in your questions for the day (but save them for studying!)

6. **Discussion section/lab attendance and participation** (10%) are key to this course. Labs for this course include intensive discussion and depth for materials in class. These are run by the course TAs (Brenna, Afshan, and Liz). In the labs, the *Annual Editions* readings will be due and will be explored. TAs facilitate discussion on overall course topics and provide time for questions on course materials. Attendance will be taken and participation graded at all discussion sections. You will receive a grade for each day that you attend discussion section that represents your participation, completion of in and out-of-class tasks, and engagement. The options are 0 – 1 or – 2 points. 0 points indicate absence or willful nonparticipation/lack of preparation. 1 point will be given for a general effort at participation, and 2 points are offered for true engagement, participation, and the student’s sharing of critical insights on the material. For a reference guide on critical thinking visit: <https://www.criticalthinking.org/store/products/the-miniature-guide-to-critical-thinking-concepts-amp-tools-7th-edition/156>. If you have questions about how to improve your participation grade, speak to your TA. If you are concerned about your ability to verbally participate in course discussions contact DASS or the Dean of Students to discuss resources available to you and/or options for trainings improve your oral presentation skills. **Note that if you miss more than 6 discussion sections without an excused absence you will receive an automatic failure (F) in the overall course.**

More Important Information:

Main Lecture meetings will consist of a combination of lecture, video, audio, question and answer, and/or active learning exercises. All information shared within in-class meetings will be fair game for exam questions.

All information shared in discussion sections are likewise game for exams.

PowerPoints will not be shared unless there is a clear need that is communicated through DASS (shared in whatever way requested by the DASS office) or in the case of an excused absence, at which point they will only be shared in office hours or by appointment.

Readings assigned should be completed before class meetings.

Canvas: this course relies on your use of Canvas. We will communicate with you through Canvas and/or email. You will be responsible for any and all information communicated to you through canvas and email. You will need to access canvas for readings, assignments, etc. All registered students have access to Canvas.

Tips for doing well in this course:

1. Come to every class.
2. Always do the readings.
3. Make use of interactions with your fellow students—discussion, study group participation, and cooperation is encouraged.
4. Ask questions.
5. Come by the instructor's or TA's office hours.

Course Policies:

Policy for late, makeup, or missed work: Missed exams cannot be made up (barring an excused absence as noted below). Participation/attendance and quiz grades will not be accepted late unless with a documented excused absence. Experience Assignments and Ethnography Response Papers will be marked down 25% for each day that they are late (0.01-24 hrs late = 75% credit, 24.01-48 hrs late= 50% credit, 48.01-72 hrs late = 25% credit). If either of these requirements are more than 72 hrs late they will not be graded. Makeup work will be given at the discretion of the instructor and only if absence is excused.

Missed Classes: Students are expected to self-start and gather notes and materials from classmates for any missed classes, excused or unexcused. TAs and/or the instructor will offer assistance during office hours (review of Powerpoints, etc.) in the event that a student has an excused absence.

Back-up copies: It is the student's responsibility to maintain: (1) a backup copy, and (2) a printout or screenshot of the 'Properties' page which shows the production date and size of any document. In the event of lost documents, the student can produce these to avoid late penalties.

Southern Methodist University Code on Academic Integrity:

Cheating, plagiarism, academic sabotage, fabrication, and facilitating academic dishonesty are violations of the SMU Honor Code (http://smu.edu/studentlife/studenthandbook/PCL_05_HC.asp) and will not be tolerated. Any detected case of plagiarism or of cheating on any assignment or exam will result in a score of zero for that grade category, and will automatically result in the submission of a Faculty Disposition form to the Honor Council. The instructor may utilize plagiarism detection software through Canvas and request students submit their assignments through that software.

Disability Accommodations: Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first register with Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DASS). Students can call 214-768-1470 or visit <http://www.smu.edu/Provost/ALEC/DASS> to begin the process. Once registered,

students should then schedule an appointment with the professor as early in the semester as possible, present a DASS Accommodation Letter, and make appropriate arrangements. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and require advance notice to implement.

Religious Observance: Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class should notify their professors in writing at the beginning of the semester, and should discuss with them, in advance, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence. ([See University Policy No. 1.9](#))

Excused Absences for University Extracurricular Activities: Students participating in an officially sanctioned, scheduled University extracurricular activity should be given the opportunity to make up class assignments or other graded assignments missed as a result of their participation. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor prior to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work. (See [2018-2019 University Undergraduate Catalogue](#))

Other Excused Absences: Excused absences require a doctor's note or notice from the Dean of Students. Please provide these electronically (scan/photo via email) to the instructor, Ccing your TA for your discussion section.

"Campus Carry": In accordance with Texas Senate Bill 11, also known as the "campus carry" law, following consultation with entire University community SMU determined to remain a weapons-free campus. Specifically, SMU prohibits possession of weapons (either openly or in a concealed manner) on campus. For more information, please see: http://www.smu.edu/BusinessFinance/Police/Weapons_Policy."

Questions regarding graded tasks: Students are expected to communicate with the instructor/TA if there are any questions or comments about graded discussions, assignments, activities, or expectations at least 1 week before the assignment/task is due. Do not leave these questions to the last minute.

Questions regarding main lecture content and assignments: Should be sent to the instructor and all 3 TAs. TAs will generally respond, and the instructor will monitor.

Questions regarding discussion section content: Should be sent to the TA of your discussion section only. They will return your email as soon as they are available.

Missing class for an excused or unexcused reason?: Email your discussion section TA about it always, Cc'ing the instructor only if you will miss main lecture.

Email etiquette: Do not expect the instructor or TAs to email responses to student questions outside of the work week or day (M-F 9-5). Please leave at least 48 hours for a response via email from the instructor or TA (exception: see above for questions regarding graded tasks, which should be emailed at least 1 week ahead). If after 48 hours (occurring during the work

week) you have not yet heard back, please feel free to send follow-up email as your request may have been missed.

Cell Phones/Computers: Can be used for course purposes. Please silence phones. If you are distracting others from their work/hearing the lecture because of your devices, you may be asked to leave the classroom with impact to the day's attendance. Use of devices during discussion sections is on an as-needed basis as announced by your TA at the beginning of class.

Assignment Format: Most assignments will be submitted electronically. The student's name, the title of the assignment, the student's U#, and the date should appear at the top of the page. For the response paper, students should include the word count.

Changes to Syllabus: Your instructor reserves the right to change, add to, and/or edit the syllabus and course schedule as needed.

Further (Courtesy) Information on Some Key University Resources:

Confidential Resources on Campus:

Counseling Center: **SMU Counseling Services** provides confidential counseling and assistance from counselors. Call 214-768-2277; an emergency contact number is provided at all hours. <https://www.smu.edu/StudentAffairs/HealthCenter/Counseling>

Chaplain's Office: The **SMU Chaplain's Office** also provides confidential counseling; call 214-768-4502. <https://www.smu.edu/StudentAffairs/chaplain>

*Note, neither your Professor nor your TAs are confidential resources.

Title IX:

For questions or concerns regarding Title IX and sexual violence, please contact Samantha Thomas, the [Title IX Coordinator](#) in IAE. To file a complaint or make a report of Title IX harassment including all forms of sexual misconduct and sexual violence, please complete the [Title IX Harassment Complaint Form](#) and submit it to IAE at accessquity@smu.edu or in Perkins Administration Building, Room 204.

General website for Title IX: <https://www.smu.edu/iae>

How to Get Help: <https://www.smu.edu/SexualMisconduct/Get-Help>

A-LEC Tutoring:

The A-LEC's tutoring program provides interactive tutoring in a dynamic and comfortable environment. At SMU, students see tutoring as a resource for all students, not just for those who find themselves in academic trouble. A-LEC tutoring is designed to complement and support students' direct contact with their professors. <https://www.smu.edu/Provost/ALEC/Tutoring>

Writing Center:

The Writing Center is a resource for all SMU undergraduates who need help with a writing—or reading—project of any kind. <https://www.smu.edu/Provost/ALEC/WritingCenter>

Dean of Students Office:

The Office of the Dean of Students is one of the primary areas within the Division of Student Affairs at SMU. This office oversees departments that provide essential services, support and programs to students, faculty, staff, and the University as a whole.

<https://www.smu.edu/StudentAffairs/studentlife>

*Many more resources can be found at SMU. This list of resources is not meant to be exhaustive, nor can the professor promise the most up-to-date information about SMU services/resources as this syllabus is only updated when necessary for course content. The list is simply meant to help students become more aware of the services available to them.

Course Schedule:

Week/Day	Date	Content	Reading Assignments	Due
Week 1 Lab	Varies	Introduction	-	-
Week 1, Module 1 Monday	8/20/18	Welcome/Introductory Lecture	[Purchase Textbooks]	-
Week 1, Module 2 Wednesday	8/22/18	What is Anthropology?	K1	RQ 1
Week 2 Lab	Varies	Anthro 101	AE 6.8 Body Ritual AE 1.2 Eating Christmas AE 1.3 Tricking and Tripping	-
Week 2, Module 3 Monday	8/27/18	Culture	K2	RQ 2
Week 2, Module 4 Wednesday	8/29/18	Doing Anthropology	K3	RQ 3
Week 3 Lab	Varies	NO SECTIONS	NO SECTIONS	NO SECTIONS
Week 3 – NO CLASS Monday	9/3/18	LABOR DAY	NO CLASS	NO CLASS
Week 3, Module 5 Wednesday	9/5/18	Film: MCB	Film Guide MCB	-
Week 4 Lab	Varies	Language	2.3 War of Words 2.6 Vanishing Languages	Pop Leaders begin and continue unless otherwise stated...
Week 4, Module 6 Monday	9/10/18	Language and Communication	K4	RQ 4
Week 4, Module 7 Wednesday	9/12/18	Language, continued Film: DREC	Film Guide DREC	Assignment 1: Lost Language
Week 5 Lab	Varies	Political Systems & Subsistence	7.1 Quiet Revolutions 3.7 Inuit Paradox	-
Week 5, Module 8 Monday	9/17/18	Making a Living	K5	RQ 5
Week 5, Module 9 Wednesday	9/19/18	Political Systems	K6	RQ 6
Week 6 Lab	Varies	Families, Kinship and Marriage	3.6 Where Women Call the Shots 4.1 Invention of Marriage	-

			4.3 No more angel babies.	
Week 6, Module 10 Monday	9/24/18	Exam 1	-	-
Week 6, Module 11 Wednesday	9/26/18	Families, Kinship, and Marriage	K7	RQ 7
Week 7 Lab	Varies	Gender	5.2 The Hijras 5.3 Afghan Boys	-
Week 7, Module 12 Monday	10/1/18	Gender	K8	RQ 8
Week 7, Module 13 Wednesday	10/3/18	Focus Lecture: Afshan Kamrudin, Cross-Cultural Sexuality	*TBD	Assignment 2: Gender & Difference
Week 8 Lab	Varies	NO SECTIONS	NO SECTIONS	NO SECTIONS
Week 8 – NO CLASS Monday [Fall Break]	10/8/18	NO CLASS	NO CLASS	NO CLASS
Week 8, Module 14 Wednesday	10/10/18	Gender Film: KUS4	Film Guide KUS4	-
Week 9 Lab	Varies	Ethnicity and Race	Mixed Blood (PDF) Black, White, Other (PDF)	-
Week 9, Module 15 Monday	10/15/18	Ethnicity and Race	K 10	RQ 9
Week 9, Module 16 Wednesday	10/17/18	Ethnicity and Race, continued. Film: RPol	Film Guide RPol	Assignment 3: Implicit Bias
Week 10 Lab	Varies	Religion	AE 6.2 Adaptive Value AE 6.4 Understanding Islam	
Week 10, Module 17, Monday	10/22/18	Religion	K 9	RQ 10
Week 10, Module 18, Wednesday	10/24/18	Exam 2	-	-
Week 11 Lab	Varies	Globalization and Migration	AE 7.11 Population 7 Billion AE 7.2 Ruined	-
Week 11, Module 19, Monday	10/29/18	Globalizing World	K 13	RQ 11
Week 11, Module 20, Wednesday	10/31/18	Focus Lecture: Liz Thomas, Migration	*TBD	-
Week 12 Lab	Varies	Connections	AE 5.6 Poverty is Sexist AE 7.3 Price of Progress	-
Week 12, Module 21, Monday	11/5/18	World System	K 12	RQ 12
Week 12, Module 22, Wednesday	11/7/18	Applying Anthropology	K 11	RQ 13
Week 13 Lab	Varies	Virtual Section: Discussion Board (No in-class meeting) – Applied Anthropology	*TBD: Current Events in Applied Anthropology	No Pop Leaders
Week 13, Module 23 Monday	11/12/18	Focus Lecture: Brenna Raney, MAD STUDIES	*TBD	-
Week 13, Module 24 Wednesday	11/14/18	NO CLASS	NO CLASS	NO CLASS

[AAA]				
Week 14 Lab	Varies	NO SECTIONS	NO SECTIONS	NO SECTIONS
Week 14, Module 25 Monday	11/19/18	Chicken: Dangerous Transformation Part 1	-	-
Week 14, No Class Wednesday [Holiday]	11/21/18	NO CLASS	NO CLASS	NO CLASS
Week 15 Lab [LAST WEEK OF LABS]	Varies	Labor, Environment, and Key Closing Topics	*TBD: Current Events in Labor and Environment	<i>Last Pop Leaders...</i>
Week 15, Module 26 Monday	11/26/18	Chicken: Dangerous Transformation Part 2	-	-
Week 15, Module 27 Wednesday	11/28/18	A Deeper Dive: Environment & Health	-	Ethnography Response Paper Due
Week 16, Module 28 Monday [LAST DAY OF CLASS]	12/3/18	Group Study for Final Exam	-	-
FINAL EXAM	12/11/18 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM	Exam 3	-	-

*all TBD/current events readings will be provided 2 weeks before the class session on Canvas and will be approximately the same length as your usual reading loads.