



## Anth 2351-71W: World Cultures Spring 2014

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Online office hours: 2-4 Wednesday or by appointment

### COURSE INFORMATION

#### Materials –Required Text

Kottak, Conrad. Cultural Anthropology, 15<sup>th</sup> edition. McGraw-Hill, 2013.  
ISBN 9780078035005

#### Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the major concepts, theoretical frameworks and research methods of cultural anthropology. We will examine a range of societies from small-scale foraging bands to complex industrial nations from a global perspective. A broad range of topics will be addressed from a cross-cultural perspective, including: social, political and economic development; marriage and kinship; religion and magic; gender, and language. In addition to examining the diversity of human cultures throughout the world, we will focus on how anthropological theories and methods can be employed to help us understand *why* peoples' behaviors and beliefs vary cross culturally and how anthropologists go about uncovering the meanings of both cultural diversity and similarity.

#### Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to demonstrate **knowledge** of the interconnectedness of global processes (issues, processes, trends, and symptom).
2. Students will be able to **apply** knowledge of the interconnectedness of global processes
3. Students will be able to view themselves as **engaged** citizens within an interconnected and diverse world.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

#### Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Instructional method is primarily lecture and class discussion. Students will be assessed through the use of unannounced quizzes, short written assignments, and four exams spaced throughout the semester. Exams will be non-comprehensive.

**You are responsible for reading, understanding, and complying with the course requirements.** This course introduces concepts, methods, and theories with which most students are unfamiliar, therefore it is critical that you come to class each day prepared to discuss/write and ask questions about the assigned readings. To encourage you to complete the reading assignments as required, there will be various quizzes/in-class writing and homework assignments during the term. Each of these will be worth just ten points, however if you miss a substantial number or receive poor grades on them they will negatively impact your final grade. **I do not make extra credit assignments, however you may earn extra points by answering an optional three-point bonus question on each exam.** Please do not ask for extra credit assignments because I will not budge on this.

**Exams:** (200 points) There will be four exams during the semester, including a non-comprehensive final, each worth 50 points. The exams will cover all assigned readings, lectures, and any films shown during the term. Each exam will consist of some combination of multiple choice, short answer, and fill-in-the-blank questions. You will have 3 hours to complete the exam, and it can be taken any time during the specific day (within 24 hours). **Students who miss an exam due to documented illness, emergency, or a university-sanctioned activity will take a comprehensive exam for the final. Only one exam can be made up. Students, who miss more than one exam, will be dropped from the course. Try to avoid having to take the comprehensive final because it is difficult. The comprehensive final will be worth 100 points. Please be aware that you can only take the comprehensive final if you have my permission. This is not an opportunity to drop an unsatisfactory grade.**

**Weekly Online Discussion:** (180 points) Each week, students are expected to create 3 posts (5 points each). One post should be a question about the readings or something related to the topic for the class to answer. The other 2 posts need to be a response to a question posted by myself or another student. You may create as many posts as you like, but only 2 posts will be counted towards the grade. (12 weeks x 15 points = 180 points)

**Media Assignment:** (20 points) Each student must pick an article, book, blog post, YouTube video, or other form of media and write a 1-page paper (12 point font, double-spaced, Times New Roman font) to discuss the cultural components of that form of media. For example, if a student chooses to discuss “Gangnam Style” that student will identify what language the song is in, where “Gangnam” District is, and interesting facts about the culture that is associated with this song. The assignment is worth 20 points, 5 points for the media source and 15 points for the paper. If you have questions of what counts as media or would like suggestions, please contact me.

### **Grading Criteria**

400 – 350 points	A
349 – 300 points	B
299 – 260 points	C
259 – 200 points	D
199 or less	F

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<b>COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT</b>
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Please feel free to drop by during my online office hours. You can also email me or phone me through the contact information at the top of the first page.

<b>COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES</b>
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**Academic Honesty:** Students in this class and in all classes at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty. Cheating in any form is a serious matter. Anyone found guilty of cheating will receive an “F” in the course and may be subject to further disciplinary action by the University. Cheating can also affect your permanent record. Plagiarism (using the words and/or ideas of another without acknowledgment) is also cheating and is subject to the same penalties. **All work submitted for this class is to be done individually unless otherwise specified.** Do your own work on assignments, and exams, and do not provide unauthorized assistance to others, and you will not only uphold the ethical standards demanded at A&M-Commerce, you’ll learn more.

**Student Conduct:**

“All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.” (See Student’s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct). Entering class late, walking in and out of class, talking during lecture, and the use of cell phones (including text messaging) are all disruptive behaviors. If you must engage in them, **do so outside the classroom**. If you feel you must leave the room for whatever reason please do so quietly, and do not return.

**ADA Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**  
**Texas A&M University-Commerce**  
**Gee Library 132**  
**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835**  
**Fax (903) 468-8148**  
[StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)  
[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

<b>COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR</b>
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**Reading Schedule: Please note that the Reading Schedule may be subject to change as circumstances warrant. I will announce any changes as far in advance as possible.**

Week One: January 14-16 Course Introduction  
Kottak: Chapter 1: What is anthropology?

Week Two: January 21-23  
Kottak: Chapter 2: Culture

Week Three: January 28-30  
Kottak: Chapter 3: Method and Theory in Cultural Anthropology

Week Four: February 4-6  
Kottak: Chapter 5: Language and Communication

Week Five: February 11-13

**Exam I, Thursday, February 13**

Week Six: February 18-20  
Kottak: Chapter 7: Making a Living

Week Seven: February 25-27  
Kottak: Chapter 8: Political Systems

Week Eight: March 4-6  
Chapter 9: Economic Systems

**Exam II, Thursday, March 6**

Week Nine: March 10-14 **Spring Break**

Week Ten: March 18-20  
Gender—No reading assignment  
Kottak: Chapter 10: Families, Kinship and Descent

Week Eleven: 25-27  
Kottak: Chapter 11: Marriage

Week Twelve: April 1-3

**Exam III— April 3**

Week Thirteen: April 8-10  
Kottak: Chapter 12: Religion

Week Fourteen: April 15-17  
Kottak: Chapter 14: The World System and Colonialism

Week Fifteen: April 22-24  
Kottak: Global Issues Today

Week Sixteen: April 28-May 1  
Kottak: Chapter 14 Applying Anthropology

**Final Exams to be announced**