



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

**Instructor:** Afshan Kamrudin, MPH

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**Online office hours:** By appointment (via phone or video conference)

### 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 week of the exam, from Monday at 12:01 AM to Sunday at 11:59 PM.*** You may only take the exam once! 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:** (100 points) Each week, students are expected to create 2 posts (2 posts x 5 points each = 10 points). One post should be a question about the readings or something related to the topic for the class to answer. The other post needs 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 weekly grade. (10 weeks of discussion x 10 points a week = 150 points). ***Posts must be up by Sunday evening at 11:59 PM. However, the sooner you post your questions and responses, the better, so that people have time to respond to the question you post.*** I will post examples the first week of classes.

**Weekly Participation Quiz:** (50 Points) Each week, you will be assigned a 5 point quiz, consisting of 10 questions (worth ½ a point each) based on the readings and media (videos, articles, etc.) assigned to the class week. **You are allowed to take the quiz as many times as you want** and there is no time limit. The purpose of the quiz is to make sure you understand the major points from the readings to help you with the exams. ***Quizzes must be completed by Sunday evening at 11:59 PM.***

**Participant Observation Assignment:** (50 points)

Spend approximately 1 hour (60 minutes) in a public place (i.e. coffee shop, store, park) or a cultural event (i.e. sporting event, a frat party, or a protest rally) observing other peoples' social interactions. Make sure that there are enough people around for you to see and analyze interactions and be sure that it is okay to take notes (which you will type up later). During the observation exercise, ask yourself some of the following questions: How do people greet each other? What kinds of relationships are being demonstrated (i.e. families, friends, business partners, significant others)? What type of verbal and non-verbal communication is happening? What is being exchanged? Is there a difference in body language in different relationships? What about different ethnic or gender relationships? Does anyone say anything that caught your attention? How did people respond? While observing, draw a map of the area you are in. Note the time, the number of people and where they are, the spatial layout and other things you think are significant to this space. After the observation, please write a minimum one-page write-up from your field notes about cultural social interactions. Do you think these are unique to American culture? Did anything unexpected happen during your observation? How does this exercise use the methods and theories discussed in Chapter 3? **Please hand in the picture of the map, the typed up field notes, and write-up of the conclusion from your observation.** This assignment should be at least three pages (one page map [a picture or scan of it will work], at-least one page of field notes, and at-least one page for your conclusions), either double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt font, 1-inch margins on all sides. Each section (map, notes, conclusions) is worth 10 points. ***Due by 11:59 PM on October 22<sup>nd</sup> through dropbox in e-college.***

**Anthropology News Assignment:** (50 points x 2 = 100 Points) Each student must pick an article from "Anthropology News" and write a 1-page paper (12 point font, double-spaced, Times New Roman font) to discuss the cultural components of that article. I will post an example a week before the first one is due. The assignment is worth 50 points, 10 points for the media source and 40 points for the paper. You can turn this assignment in at any time before the deadlines. The first one is due ***October 1<sup>st</sup> by 11:59 PM*** and

the second one is due *on December 7<sup>th</sup> by 11:59 PM. All assignments are due through dropbox in e-college.*

### **Grading Criteria**

500 – 450 points	A
449 – 400 points	B
399 – 350 points	C
349 – 300 points	D
299 or less	F

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## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

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.

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

**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**

**Gege 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](#)

## COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

**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: August 25 – August 31 Course Introduction  
Kottak: Chapter 1: What is anthropology?  
Assignment: No assignments this week; reading only

Week Two: September 1 – September 7\*  
Kottak: Chapter 2: Culture  
Assignment: 2 posts in the discussion board and Participation Quiz

Week Three: September 8 – September 14\*  
Kottak: Chapter 3: Method and Theory in Cultural Anthropology  
Assignment: 2 posts in the discussion board and Participation Quiz

Week Four: September 15 – September 21\*  
Kottak: Chapter 5: Language and Communication  
Assignment: 2 posts in the discussion board and Participation Quiz

Week Five: September 22 – September 28

### Exam I

Week Six: September 29 – October 5\*  
Kottak: Chapter 9: Gender  
Assignment: 2 posts in the discussion board and Participation Quiz  
***Anthropology News Assignment #1 due October 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:59 PM***

Week Seven: October 6 – October 12\*  
Kottak: Chapter 6: Ethnicity and Race  
Assignment: 2 posts in the discussion board and Participation Quiz

Week Eight: October 6 – October 12

### Exam II

Week Nine: October 13 – October 19

### Fall Break

Week Ten: October 20 – October 26\*  
Kottak: Chapter 8: Political Systems  
Assignment: 2 posts in the discussion board and Participation Quiz  
***Participant Observation Assignment Due October 22, 11:59 PM***

Week Eleven: October 27 – November 2\*  
Kottak: Chapter 7: Making a Living (Economics)  
Assignment: 2 posts in the discussion board and Participation Quiz

Week Twelve: November 3 – November 9\*  
Kottak: Chapter 10: Families, Kinship and Descent  
Assignment: 2 posts in the discussion board and Participation Quiz

Week Thirteen: November 10 – November 16

**Exam III**

Week Fourteen: November 17 – November 23\*

Kottak: Chapter 12: Religion

Assignment: 2 posts in the discussion board and Participation Quiz

Week Fifteen: November 24 – November 30\*

Kottak: Chapter 14: The World System and Colonialism

Assignment: 2 posts in the discussion board and Participation Quiz

**Thanksgiving Break November 28 & 29**

Week Sixteen: December 1 – December 7

Kottak: Global Issues Today

***Anthropology News Assignment #2 due December 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 PM***

**Final Exam**

***Due by Wednesday, December 10 at 11:59 PM***