



**Anth 2351- 01W GLB/US- World Cultures  
Fall 2016**

**Instructor: Ashvina Patel**

**University Email Address: PatelAshvina@tamuc.edu**

**Online office hours: Tuesday 1030am – 1130am; Thursday 1030am – 1130am**

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Materials –Required Text**

Kottak, Conrad. Cultural Anthropology, 16<sup>th</sup> edition. McGraw-Hill, 2014.  
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.

**Weekly Online Discussion** (150 points): Each week, students are expected to create 3 posts (3 posts x 5 points each x 10 weeks = 150 points):

- One **discussion question** about the readings or something related to the topic for the class to answer.
- One post **responding** to a question posted by myself or another student.
- One **news article** relating to that week's topic, and **three sentences** that include a summary of the article and an explanation of how it relates to the topic at hand. The article can be about current political events, pop culture, the arts, health, education, etc., but **please include a hyperlink of the material to which you are referring**. Although you may use any news source, recommended sources include:
  - [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)
  - [www.bbc.com/news](http://www.bbc.com/news)
  - [www.aljazeera.com](http://www.aljazeera.com)
  - [www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com)
  - [www.time.com](http://www.time.com)

In order to receive **full credit**, your posts should reference a total of **at least 5 concepts, examples, and/or vocabulary words from lecture slides and the textbook**. I am grading you on your engagement with class materials, not solely on your opinion. These points add-up over time and make the difference between a "B" and an "A," treat these assignments seriously and reserve appropriate time to complete them.

You may create as many posts as you like, but only 3 posts will be counted towards the weekly grade. **Posts must be up by Sunday evening at 11:59 PM, except for the weeks designated below. However, the sooner you post your questions and responses, the better, so that people have time to respond to the question you post. Be sure to read my graded comments to help guide you towards earning full credit.**

**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 designated days (see below).

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.

**Participant Observation Assignment (30 points): Due Sunday, October 30, 11:59 PM through dropbox in e-college.**

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.

- 1) **Please submit your detailed hand-drawn map of the space occupied**
- 2) **Typed up field note that are analysis-free; observations only. Feel free to make a bullet point list.**
- 3) **Write-up of an analysis based on your observations.** Include the following: 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?

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.

**Media Assignment (20 points): due Thursday, December 15 at 11:59 PM through dropbox in e-college.**

Each student must pick an **article, book, blog post, YouTube video, or other form of media** and write a **2-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, 5 point for syntax and grammar, and 10 points for the critical thinking and analysis. **In order to receive full credit for this assignment, you must use at least 10 concepts, examples, and/or vocabulary words from lecture slides and the textbook to support your analysis of the media source.** 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

## **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.

### **Campus Concealed Carry**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

### **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](#)

## **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 29 - September 4**

Kottak: Chapter 1: What is anthropology?

Assignment: No assignments this week; reading only

### **September 5<sup>th</sup> Labor Day**

### **Week Two: September 6 - 11**

Kottak: Chapter 2: Culture

Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board

### **Week Three: September 12 - 18**

Kottak: Chapter 3: Method and Theory in Cultural Anthropology

Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board

### **Week Four: September 19 - 25**

Kottak: Chapter 5: Language and Communication  
Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board.

**Week Five: September 26 - October 2**

**Exam I - Open Thursday, September 29, 12:00am – Sunday, October 2 11:59pm**

**Week Six: October 3 - 9**

Kottak: Chapter 9: Gender  
Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board.

**Week Seven: October 10 - 16**

Kottak: Chapter 6: Ethnicity and Race  
Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board.

**Week Eight: October 17 - 23**

**Exam II - Open Thursday, October 20, 12:00am – Sunday, October 23 11:59pm**

**Week Nine: October 24 - 30**

Kottak: Chapter 8: Political Systems  
Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board  
***Participant Observation Assignment Due Sunday, Oct 30, 11:59 PM***

**Week Ten: October 31 - November 6**

Kottak: Chapter 7: Economics  
Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board

**Week Eleven: November 7 - 13**

Kottak: Chapter 10: Families, Kinship, and Descent  
Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board.

**Week Twelve: November 14 - 20**

Kottak: Chapter 12: Religion (Chapter 12 will NOT be included in Exam III)  
**Exam III - Open Thursday, November 17, 12:00am – Sunday, November 20 11:59pm**

**Week Thirteen: November 21 - 22**

Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board (relate posts into Chapter 12 on Religion).  
*\*\*\*classes are in recess beginning Nov 23 at noon, therefore your due date is by 11:59 pm on the 23<sup>rd</sup> should you need the extra time. \*\*\**

**November 23 - 27 Enjoy Thanksgiving Break**

**Week Fourteen: November 28 - December 4**

Kottak: Chapter 14: The World System and Colonialism  
Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board.

**Week Fifteen: Dec 5 - Dec 9**

Kottak: Chapter 15: Anthropology's Role in a Globalizing World  
Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board (due **Friday, December 9**; one of your posts can be about the piece of media chosen for your media assignment)  
***Media Assignment due Thursday, December 15 at 11:59 PM***

**Final Exam – Open Saturday, December 10 12:00am - Tuesday, December 13, 11:59pm**