



**Anth 2351- 71W GLB/US- World Cultures  
Spring 2018**

**Instructor: Ashvina Patel**

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**Office: Virtual**

**Phone: 903-886-5332\***

**Office Hours: Virtual Office Hours by appointment via Skype or Facetime**

**\* This is the main office line. You will need to leave a message. The most efficient way to get a hold of the instructor will always be via email.**

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Materials –Required Text**

Kottak, Conrad. Cultural Anthropology, 16<sup>th</sup> edition. McGraw-Hill, 2014.  
ISBN 9780078035005

**Course Description:**

This course undertakes the study of culture and society from a cross-cultural perspective. It provides an introduction to the major concepts, research methods, and theoretical frameworks of cultural anthropology. Topics focus on marriage and family practices, gender roles and identities, subsistence strategies, political and economic systems and religion. The course will help students to better understand variations in behaviors and beliefs cross-culturally while also providing important insights into U.S. Culture. 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 quizzes, short written assignments, and four exams spaced throughout the semester. Exams will be non-comprehensive.

**Technology Requirements:**

This is not a self-paced course. You will be required to login to the eCollege system regularly to understand daily, weekly, and semester requirements. This requires a stable Internet connection with an eCollege compatible browser. You will be asked to view PowerPoints, Videos, and interactive media presentations. All assignments and exams will be submitted online. Technical concerns should be referred to 1-866-656-5511; the instructor cannot assist with technical issues.

**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; do NOT embed the article.** 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 recommend placing these in bold.** 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, March 26, 11:59 PM through dropbox in e-college. Do NOT email me your assignment; do NOT upload it to DocShare**

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, you may want to ask yourself some of the following questions, but do not limit yourself to these:

- 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 essay** from your field notes that offer a cultural analysis of your observations. Dig a bit deeper in your analysis; fieldnotes should provide a detailed description, your analysis should attempt to explain your observations.

**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 Wednesday, May 10 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 place in bold 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.

## 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. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html](http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html)

### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

### **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)

<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: Jan 16 - 21**

Kottak: Chapter 1: What is anthropology?

Assignment: No assignments this week; reading only

**Week Two: Jan 22 - 28**

Kottak: Chapter 2: Culture

Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board

**Week Three: Jan 29 - Feb 4**

Kottak: Chapter 3: Method and Theory in Cultural Anthropology

Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board

**Week Four: Feb 5 - 11**

Kottak: Chapter 5: Language and Communication

Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board.

**Week Five: Feb 12 - 18**

**Exam I - Open Thursday, February 15, 12:00am – Sunday, February 18 11:59pm**

**Week Six: Feb 19 - 22**

Kottak: Chapter 9: Gender

Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board.

**Week Seven: Feb 26 - Mar 4**

Kottak: Chapter 6: Ethnicity and Race

Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board.

**Week Eight: Mar 5 - 11**

**Exam II - Open Thursday, March 8, 12:00am – Sunday, March 11 11:59pm**

**Spring Break March 12 - 16**

**Week Nine: Mar 19 - 25**

Kottak: Chapter 8: Political Systems

Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board

***Participant Observation Assignment Due Sunday, Mar 25, 11:59 PM***

**Week Ten: Mar 26 - Apr 1**

Kottak: Chapter 7: Economics

Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board

**Week Eleven: Apr 2 - 8**

Kottak: Chapter 10: Families, Kinship, and Descent

Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board.

**Week Twelve: Apr 9 - 15**

Kottak: Chapter 12: Religion (Chapter 12 will NOT be included in Exam III)

**Exam III - Open Thursday, April 12, 12:00am – Sunday, April 15 11:59pm**

**Week Thirteen: Apr 16 - 22**

Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board (relate posts to Chapter 12 on Religion)

**Week Fourteen: Apr 23 - 29**

Kottak: Chapter 14: The World System and Colonialism

Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board.

**Week Fifteen: April 30 – May 6**

Kottak: Chapter 15: Anthropology's Role in a Globalizing World

**Media Assignment due Wednesday, May 2 at 11:59 PM**

**Final Exam – Open Monday, May 7 11:59 PM - Thursday, May 10 11:59 PM**