



ANTH 2351: World Cultures

COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2020

MWF 10-10:50 AM

SS 312

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Julia Meszaros, Assistant Professor

Office Location: Ferguson Social Science Room SS230

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:00PM to 1:00PM and by appointment and 3 to 4 PM Wednesdays ONLINE

Office Fax: 903-886-5330

University Email Address: Julia.Meszaros@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: 24-48 Hours; Monday to Friday 9-5

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook Required: Humanity: An Introduction to Cultural Anthropology by Peoples and Bailey (Any edition is fine)

Course Description

This course introduces major concepts, theoretical frameworks and research methods of cultural anthropology. We will examine societies from small-scale foraging bands to complex societies; students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of global dynamics (issues, processes, trends and symptoms). A range of topics will be addressed from a global perspective including, social, economic and political development and underdevelopment; marriage, religion, gender, and language. In addition to examining the diversity of human cultures', students will be able to apply knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics. Through cross-cultural study students will be able to view themselves as engaged citizens within an interconnected and diverse world.

Course Objectives and Student Learning Objectives

1. Students will be able to identify the main theories and methods of Anthropology as a discipline. This learning objective will be assessed in the Exams, Online quizzes, the group ethnography and in class assignments.

2. Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics. Assessments will test knowledge about concepts like gender, religion, values across various global cultures and historical time frames.
3. Apply anthropological concepts to their daily lives and view themselves as engaged citizens within an interconnected and diverse world. This learning objective will be assessed in the Exams, Online quizzes, the mini ethnography and in class assignments.
4. Demonstrate intercultural competencies by comparing issues across cultures. This learning objective will be assessed in the Exams, Online quizzes, the mini ethnography and in class assignments.

Instructional Methods

Main Course Meetings: Students are required to attend their registered course meetings where the method of instruction will consist of a combination of lectures, discussions, and group work.

Classroom Expectations:

1. Students must come prepared to participate in group work and come prepared to take notes and complete work in class with a group of their peers
2. Students must come prepared to learn. That's why it is essential to come to class and be prepared for lecture by reading the chapter ahead of time. You are also encouraged to seek extra help from on campus tutoring resources if you do not do well on the first exam.
3. **CELL PHONE POLICY:** Anyone who uses cell phones during class time will cause the entire class to get a pop quiz.
4. Please treat everyone with respect. Disrespectful behavior towards anyone in the classroom will not be tolerated.
5. Everyone is entitled to 2 absences a semester; after that each absence counts towards 2% less of your overall grade.

Assessments:

4 Exams @ 100 points (Total 400 Points): Exams will include multiple choice, fill in the blank and T/F questions and will be non-cumulative.

Weekly Online Reading Quizzes and Assignments (15 X 10 points: 150 points Total): You will be expected complete weekly online quizzes on D2L. They will be due every Friday evening at 11:59 PM. Everyone will be allowed to miss one quiz and have me unlock it for them to take, but only one.

Attendance and Participation (100): Come to class weekly prepared to participate and be present. Measured by group submissions, pop quizzes and daily attendance.

Group Ethnography Assignment (300): Paper (200 points) Check Ins (100 points) Presentation (50 points)

Students will have to conduct a group ethnography of life on campus at Texas A&M Commerce (which can include off campus locations in Commerce).

Students will choose three to four of their peers to work with for the semester. Student groups will work with one another to do observations of daily life in their chosen place. They will take copious field notes individually and begin to come up with theories together based on patterns that multiple group members observe.

Groups will turn in one five page write up that analyzes any interesting patterns or surprises they may encounter, and must include everyone's field notes. Your group ethnography will include the notes you all took, and your write up must make intercultural connections about values, behaviors, and norms that you witness in your ethnography and how they compare to other cultures. Your write up should be 5 pages double spaced and have a clear argument that links things you observed to class materials. The five page paper will be worth 200 points. You should be citing the textbook to provide support for your arguments. This will be added to your e-portfolio and you must receive a passing grade (70%).

Total Class Points: 1000 Points

Grade Scale: A 900-1000

B 800-899

C 700-799

D 600-699

F Below 600

Grade Policies: For incompletes, you must speak with me ahead of time and have completed most of the course work. I do not round grades, and I do not change grades after they have been submitted. Grades are available on D2L so you can track your up to date progress in the course.

Extra Credit: You are allowed to do three extra credit assignments. You must attend an on campus event and write a paragraph that relates the events to class materials. They are worth 5 points each. You are limited to three events per semester.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Brightspace Support

Need Help?

Student Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words “click here” to submit an issue via email.



System Maintenance

Please note that on the 4th Sunday of each month there will be System Maintenance which means the system will not be available 12 pm-6 am CST.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

I prefer communication via email. I rarely answer my office phone and am much more likely to respond to email. I will respond to email within 24 to 48 hours, between normal business hours of 8am to 5pm. Please be sure that when you email me, you use a proper greeting (Dr. Meszaros Professor Meszaros) an email body, and an appropriate closing. You should never send an email with just an attachment and no email body. Be sure you have an appropriate and informative subject line and include the name and section of the course you are enrolled in. See the attached page for some email expectations that would serve you well in all future communication with any professors or potential employers.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

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/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

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>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

ADA Statement

Students with Disabilities

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- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

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 Statement

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 the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

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.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week One (1/13-1/17):

Chapter One Study of Humanity

Assignment: Quiz Week One

Week Two (1/20-1/24): NO CLASS ON MONDAY 1/20 FOR MLK JR DAY

Chapter 2 Culture

Online Quiz Due

Week Three (1/27-1/31):

Chapter 3 Culture and Language

Online Quiz Due

Friday: First Group Check In Due class time

Week Four (2/3-2/7)

Chapter Four: Cultural Diversity & Globalization

Online Quiz

Week Five (2/10-2/14):

Chapter Five Development of Anthropology

Exam One (2/14)

Week Six (2/17-2/21):
Chapter Six: Methods of Investigation
Online Quiz
Friday: Second Group Check in Due in class

Week Seven: (2/24-2/28)
Chapter Seven: Culture and Nature, Economic Exchange
Online Quiz

Week Eight: (3/2-3/6)
Chapter Eight: Marriage & Families, Kinships
Exam Two (2/28)

SPRING BREAK (3/9-13)

Week Nine (3/16-3/20)
Chapter Nine: Gender in Comparative Perspective
Online Quiz
Friday: Third Group Check in due during class

Week Ten (3/23-3/27):
Chapter Ten: Organization of Political Life
Online Quiz

Week Eleven (3/30-4/3):
Chapter Eleven: Social Inequality and Stratification
Online Quiz
Friday: Fourth Group Check in due during class

Week Twelve (4/6-4/10):
Chapter Twelve: Religion and Worldview
Exam Three (11/13)
Friday: Meet with Group to finish writing paper together in class

Week Thirteen (4/13-4/17):
Chapter Thirteen: Art & Aesthetic
Online Quiz
Friday (4/17): GROUP PAPER DUE: meet with group to go over final edits and submit paper in class

Week Fourteen (4/20-4/24)
Chapter Fourteen: Ethnicity and Ethnic Conflict

Week Fifteen (4/27-5/1):
Group Ethnography Presentations

FINALS WEEK: Exam 4 DATE AND TIME GIVEN BY UNIVERSITY