



**ANTH 2351- 01W GLB/ US-World Cultures: Perspectives from Anthropology**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2020**

## **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Ashvina Patel

**Office Location:** Online

**Office Hours:** Virtual only (Skype, FaceTime); by appointment

**Office Phone:** 903-886-5332 message only

**Office Fax:** n/a

**University Email Address:** Ashvina.Patel@tamuc.edu

**Preferred Form of Communication:** PatelAshvina@tamuc.edu

**Communication Response Time:** 24 hrs on weekdays, 48 hrs on weekends

## **COURSE INFORMATION**

### **Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings**

**Textbook(s) Required:**

Kottak, Conrad. Cultural Anthropology, 17<sup>th</sup> edition. McGraw-Hill, 2014.

ISBN-13 978-1259818448; ISBN-10: 1259818446

(There is not too much of a difference between 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> editions but know that the class schedule is based off the 17<sup>th</sup> edition)

**Software Required:**

Access to the Internet, PowerPoint, and Microsoft Word

All are available at the Lee Library

## **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.

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**Student Learning Outcomes** (Should be measurable; observable; use action verbs)

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**

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

Using the learning management system, using Microsoft Word and PowerPoint

### **Instructional Methods**

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

### **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

**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.

## **GRADING**

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

## **Assessments**

**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.

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- One **news article from 2019-2020** 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 or embedded link 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, March 24, 11:59 PM.**

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?

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- 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 (not Google map location)**

**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 1 at 11:59 PM.**

Each student must pick a modern-day **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.

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

### Browser support

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will determine the best course of action for resolution. Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers.

Supported browsers are the latest or most recent browser versions that are tested against new versions of D2L products. Customers can report problems and receive

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support for issues. For an optimal experience, D2L recommends using supported browsers with D2L products.

Maintenance browsers are older browser versions that are not tested extensively against new versions of D2L products. Customers can still report problems and receive support for critical issues; however, D2L does not guarantee all issues will be addressed. A maintenance browser becomes officially unsupported after one year.

Note the following:

- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.
- For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
- The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers.

### Desktop Support

Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)	Maintenance Browser Version(s)
Microsoft® Edge	Latest	N/A
Microsoft® Internet Explorer®	N/A	11
Mozilla® Firefox®	Latest, ESR	N/A
Google® Chrome™	Latest	N/A
Apple® Safari®	Latest	N/A

### Tablet and Mobile Support

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
Android™	Android 4.4+	Chrome	Latest
Apple	iOS®	Safari, Chrome	The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or <b>point</b> release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor

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Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
			<p>or <b>point</b> release of that major version). For example, as of June 7, 2017, D2L supports iOS 10.3.2 and iOS 9.3.5, but not iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version.</p> <p>Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.</p>
Windows	Windows 10	Edge, Chrome, Firefox	Latest of all browsers, and Firefox ESR.

- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
  - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
  - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
  - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- You must have a:
  - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
  - Speakers or headphones.
  - \*For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.
- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: [JAVA web site http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp](http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp)
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.

Pop-ups are allowed.

JavaScript is enabled.

Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:

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- [Adobe Reader](https://get.adobe.com/reader/) <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
  - [Adobe Flash Player](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/) (version 17 or later) <https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>
  - [Adobe Shockwave Player](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/) <https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/>
  - [Apple Quick Time](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/) <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>
- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

## 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.



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## **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**

The instructor will communicate with you primarily via email; expect a 24 hours response time on weekdays and maybe a bit longer, up to 48 hours on weekends. I will have assignments graded with comments to you within 7 days of your submission, sometime longer writing assignments may take longer, but I will always communicate with you via *announcements* if this is the case.

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Course Specific Procedures/Policies**

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.

### **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>

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## **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](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

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

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

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## **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**

**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 13 - 19**

Kottak: Chapter 1: What is anthropology?

Assignment: No assignments this week; reading only

**Week Two: Jan 20 - 26**

Kottak: Chapter 2: Culture

Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board

**Week Three: Jan 27 - Feb 2**

Kottak: Chapter 3: Method and Theory in Cultural Anthropology

Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board

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**Week Four: Feb 3 - 9**

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

**Week Five: Feb 10 - 16**

**Exam I - Open Thursday, February 13, 12:00am – Sunday, February 16, 11:59pm**

**Week Six: Feb 17 - 23**

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

**Week Seven: Feb 24 - Mar 2**

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

**Week Eight: Mar 3 - 9**

**Exam II - Open Thursday, March 6, 12:00am – Sunday, March 9, 11:59pm**

**Week Nine: Mar 10 - 16**

Kottak: Chapter 8: Political Systems  
Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board  
***Participant Observation Assignment Due Sunday, Mar 16, 11:59 PM***

**Spring Break March 17-21**

**Week Ten: Mar 24 – Mar 30**

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

**Week Eleven: Mar 31 - 6**

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

**Week Twelve: Apr 7 - 13**

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

**Exam III - Open Thursday, April 10, 12:00am – Sunday, April 13, 11:59pm**

**Week Thirteen: Apr 14 - 20**

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

**Week Fourteen: Apr 21 - 27**

Kottak: Chapter 14: The World System and Colonialism

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Assignment: 3 posts in the discussion board.

**Week Fifteen: April 28 – May 4**

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

**Media Assignment due Wednesday, April 30 at 11:59 PM**

**Final Exam – Open Monday, May 5, 11:59 PM - Thursday, May 8 11:59 PM**

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