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ANTH 2351 71W

US-World Cultures: Perspectives from Anthropology

COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2023

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Jessica Totsch

Office Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 11:00 am – 12:00 pm, or by appointment

University Email Address: Jessica.Totsch@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: within 24 hrs. during regular business hours (M-F 8-5)

Please include your course section number in all email communications

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook Required:

Cultural Anthropology: A Toolkit for a Global Age by Kenneth Guest. (Norton).
ISBN: 978-0-393-42852-0

Optional Texts and/or Materials:

Any additional assigned course readings and videos will be posted on the D2L Brightspace course page. These materials will consist primarily of academic journal articles and book chapters, as well as occasional news articles, documentaries, video clips, recorded lectures, and other materials. A detailed reading schedule will be provided.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change

Course Description

Welcome to US-World Cultures: Perspectives in Anthropology! This course will provide you with an introduction to the field of Anthropology and will explore how the subfields of Anthropology can help us understand complex multicultural issues in our increasingly global world. Using anthropological methods, theories, and techniques we will explore a variety of topics including globalization, race, ethnicity, gender, kinship, marriage, religion, inequality, and politics using diverse cross-cultural examples from the United States and around the world.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Develop a foundational knowledge of basic anthropological methods and theories
2. Define key anthropological terms for understanding cross-cultural phenomena
3. Examine contemporary multicultural issues within a global context
4. Recognize the value of using an anthropological, interdisciplinary approach to understanding human behavior
5. Demonstrate an understanding of key course concepts through reflective writing assignments

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

The course requires at least basic skills in D2L Brightspace, participation in online discussion boards, opening a web browser, and using word processing programs such as Microsoft Word or similar to submit assignments.

Instructional Methods

This course is 100% online and is taught asynchronously. Instruction will be a combination of lecture and class discussion. Students will be assessed through written assignments and reading quizzes.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

1. Log into the course D2L Brightspace page frequently to check for announcements, access course content, and stay up-to-date on assignments and course progress.
2. Keep up with assigned readings, recorded lectures, and documentaries by following the course schedule.
3. Respect others' rights to hold opinions and beliefs that differ from your own. Challenge or criticize the idea, not the person, and maintain a respectful dialogue.

4. When creating or responding to discussion posts support your statements. Provide a rationale for your statement and support it using arguments or examples from the lectures, readings, or other assigned materials.
5. If you are struggling with a concept or need clarification on a topic, contact the instructor by email, use virtual office hours, or schedule a time to meet virtually.

You are not expected to agree with everything in the assigned readings and videos. Rather, these are meant to serve as examples of the types of dialogues individuals can have regarding multicultural topics and should serve as “jumping off points” for your own ideas and discussions.

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

Total points corresponding to the final letter grades

- A = 486 - 540 Points
- B = 432 - 485 Points
- C = 378 - 431 Points
- D = 324 - 377 Points
- F = < 323 Points

Assessments

Weekly Discussions

Each week you will create one discussion post related to that week’s topic and respond to two posts from other students for a total of three postings each week (15 weekly discussions at 15 points each for a total of 225 points). Your discussion post can include a question from the readings or lecture, or you can post about a news article relating to that week’s topic. If you choose to post a statement about a news article, make sure to include an explanation of how it relates to the weekly topic as well as the link to the article. News articles should come from a reliable source. Some examples include NY Times, BBC, Reuters, and Time. You are welcome to reply to as many posts as you would like, however, only three posts will be counted towards your weekly discussion grade. Make sure that your posts are thought-provoking and engage with the readings and/or lecture material rather than just stating opinions.

Reading Quizzes

There will be an online reading quiz at the end of each module to test your reading comprehension and evaluate your mastery of core concepts for that module. Quizzes may be any combination of multiple choice, fill in the blank, or short answer questions.

Unit Reflections

Each student will write five (5) short reflections (400-500 words, 10 points each) on units covered in class. Unit reflections require students to synthesize information from class readings, lectures, and discussions in response to unit-specific prompts. Prompts for each reflection will be available on D2L Brightspace.

Unit Reflections are due September 17, October 1, October 15, November 12 and November 26.

Video Reflections

Each student will write two video reflections (600-750 words, 25 points each), each on a different film chosen from the available options posted on D2L Brightspace. We will watch more than two films over the course of the semester – it is up to you to choose which two films you reflect upon for these assignments. Short video clips do not count, and a list of video options will be posted on the assignment page. Video reflection papers should include a brief summary of how the film depicts the culture or topic at hand, opinions you have on this depiction, and how the film relates to other course materials read or discussed for that week's topic.

Video reflections are due November 5 and December 10.

Midterm: Ethnography Project

One of the goals of this course is to train you to think like an anthropologist. Instead of a traditional midterm exam, you will spend one hour (60 min.) in a public place observing peoples' social interactions. This could include spaces like a park, a store, a coffee shop, or the public library. You may also choose to conduct your mini ethnography at a cultural event such as a sporting event, protest rally, festival, or similar event. Please be mindful of your environment, respect the privacy of the people there, and be sure that it is okay to take notes. For the ethnography assignment you will turn in a typed copy of your field notes describing your observations, a map of the area or space you observed, and a written analysis based on your field notes.

The ethnography project is due October 29.

Grades

Assignments	Points possible
Weekly Discussions (16x15pts)	240 pts
Reading Quizzes (10 x15 pts)	150 pts
Unit Reflections (5 x10 pts)	50 pts
Video Reflections (2 x 25 pts)	50 pts
Ethnography Project	50 pts
TOTAL	540 points

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements.

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

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.

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

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. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

It is important to actively engage in class activities and materials. Students are encouraged to ask questions via email, virtual office hours, and the “Have a Question? Ask it Here!” discussion board. Since this is an online course it is important to reach out about any concerns or issues you may have regarding the completion of this course or your progress throughout the semester.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific 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:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

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 Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

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

Students with Disabilities-- 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

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 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.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

A COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE IS PROVIDED BELOW.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

<i>Module / Topic</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Readings, Videos & Assignments</i>
Module 1: Introduction to Anthropology	Week 1 8/28 – 9/1	Guest Ch. 1: Anthropology in a Global Age Review “Getting Started” Module “About You” Discussion Post due 9/3
	Week 2 9/5 – 9/8	Guest Ch. 2: Culture Guest Ch. 3: Fieldwork & Ethnography “Distant Mirrors” Ch. 1 & 3 (very short!) Discussion Post due 9/10 Module 1 Reading Quiz due 9/10
Module 2: Communication	Week 3 9/11 – 9/15	Guest Ch. 4: Language Guest Ch. 17: Art & Media Video: Cultural Narratives Discussion Post due 9/17 Unit Reflection #1 due 9/17 Module 2 Reading Quiz due 9/17
Module 3: Kinship, Family & Marriage	Week 4 9/18 – 9/22	Guest Ch. 9: Kinship, Family & Marriage Video: Tea for Two Video: “The Women’s Kingdom” Discussion Post due 9/24
	Week 5 9/25 – 9/29	Nanda 2000; Goldstein 1987 Discussion Post due 10/1 Unit Reflection #2 due 10/1 Module 3 Reading Quiz due 10/1
Module 4: Gender, Sex & Sexuality	Week 6 10/2 – 10/6	Guest Ch. 7: Gender Guest Ch. 8: Sexuality Video Clip: What’s it like to be Intersex? Video Clip: What does Two-Spirit Mean? Discussion Post due 10/8 Module 4 Reading Quiz due 10/8
Module 5: Religion & Ritual	Week 7 10/9–10/13	Guest Ch. 15: Religion Evans-Pritchard 1957 Video: Witchcraft Among the Azande Discussion Post due 10/15 Unit Reflection #3 due 10/15 Module 5 Reading Quiz due 10/15

Module 6: Race & Ethnicity	Week 8 10/16-10/20	Guest Ch. 5: Race & Racism; Raff 2019 Short Clips: White Flight in Chicago; Reverse Racism Video: Shine on with Rese: America Ferrera Discussion Post due 10/22
	Week 9 10/23-10/27	Guest Ch. 6: Ethnicity & Nationalism Harriot 2017; Bernstein 2017; Sacco 2019 Discussion Post due 10/29 Module 6 Reading Quiz due 10/29 Ethnography Project due 10/29
Module 7: Class, Inequality, Politics & Power	Week 10 10/30-11/3	Guest Ch. 10: Class & Inequality Videos: Inequality for all; The Racial Wealth Gap Discussion Post due 11/5; Video Reflection #1 due 11/5
	Week 11 11/6 - 11/10	Guest Ch. 14: Politics & Power New York Times 2017 Discussion Post due 11/12 Unit Reflection #4 due 11/12 Module 7 Reading Quiz due 11/12
Module 8: Migration & Globalization	Week 12 11/13-11/17	Guest Ch. 13: Migration Short Clip: Charting Prehistoric Human Migration Videos: "Legal Immigration" & "Homeland: Refugees" Discussion Post due 11/19
	Week 13 11/20-11/22	Guest Ch. 11: The Global Economy; NYT Mag. 2013 Discussion Post due 11/26 Module 8 Reading Quiz due 11/26 Unit Reflection #5 due 11/26
	11/23-11/24	NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING
Module 9: Health, Illness & the Body	Week 14 11/27 - 12/1	Guest Ch. 16: Health, Illness & the Body Oppel, Gebeloff and Lai 2020 Video: Bias in Medicine Discussion Post due 12/3 Module 9 Reading Quiz due 12/3
Module 10: Environment & Sustainability	Week 15 12/4 – 12/8	Guest Ch. 12: Environment & Sustainability Discussion Post due 12/10 Module 10 Reading Quiz due 12/10 Video Reflection #2 due 12/10