



## **ANTH 2351 01W**

### **World Cultures: Perspectives from Anthropology**

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2026

#### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: Mandy Jordan, M.S.

Office Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Office Hours: By appointment

University Email Address: <mailto:mandy.jordan@etamu.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 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition* 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 of academic journal articles and book chapters, news articles, documentaries, videos, recorded lectures, and other materials.

A detailed reading schedule will be provided.

## **Course Description**

Welcome to 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, using diverse cross-cultural examples from 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 = 450 – 500 points  
B = 400 – 449 points  
C = 350 – 399 points  
D = 300 – 349 points  
F = 299 points or below

## **Assessments**

### Discussions

In each module, you will create one discussion post related to that module’s topic and respond to two posts from other students for a total of three postings. With the exception of Module 1, which will include your module discussion and your introduction to your classmates' discussions. (8 discussions at 15 points each for a total of 120 points).

### 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. Quizzes are worth 15 points each, and there are 8 quizzes, equaling a total of 120 points.

### Fieldnotes & Analysis Assignments

There will be three (3) short written assignments and one (1) video-recorded assignment. Each will be worth 35 points. F&As require students to synthesize information from class readings, lectures, and discussions in response to specific prompts. (Total 140 points)

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change*

### 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 people's social interactions. This could include spaces like a park, a store, a coffee shop, or a 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 recorded video analysis based on your field notes. This assignment is worth 50 points.

### Final: Ethnographic Interview

One of the goals of this course is to help you apply anthropological methods beyond written exams. For the final project, you will conduct an anthropological interview with someone whose background differs from your own, such as a person from a different geographical region, cultural background, religious tradition, or life experience. This assignment allows you to practice ethnographic interviewing by preparing open-ended questions, listening carefully to another person's experiences, and analyzing their responses using concepts from cultural anthropology. You will submit your interview questions and notes, along with a short recorded analysis that connects the interview to at least two of the course modules, such as religion, migration, globalization, etc. This project emphasizes respectful inquiry, observation, and analysis rather than personal opinion and serves as a capstone to the skills developed throughout the semester. This assignment is worth 50 points.

### Course Analysis Essay

The course analysis essay provides an opportunity to synthesize key ideas, concepts, and materials from the semester. In a 1–2 page essay, you will identify one new concept, perspective, or example you learned in this course that deepened your understanding of world cultures or cultural anthropology. You should also discuss one topic, module, or case study that stood out to you academically, explaining why it was significant within the course. Finally, you may briefly note a topic related to world cultures that you wish had been included or explored further. This essay should focus on course content and learning outcomes rather than personal beliefs, and should demonstrate your ability to summarize, connect, and evaluate anthropological material. This assignment is worth 20 points.

### Extra Credit

There will be at least four (4) opportunities for extra credit in this course. Three (3) extra credit assignments are worth 10 points each and the final extra credit opportunity will be to submit your course survey to the university for 5 additional points. If you take advantage of all four opportunities, you will gain 35 points, the equivalent of one F&A.

**LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED  
WITHOUT A UNIVERSITY-APPROVED EXCUSE!**

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change*

### **Grades**

| <b>Assignments</b>               | <b>Points possible</b> |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Discussions (8x15pts)            | 120 pts                |
| Reading Quizzes (8 x15 pts)      | 120 pts                |
| Fieldnotes & Analysis (4x35 pts) | 140 pts                |
| Midterm Ethnography Project      | 50 pts                 |
| Final Anthropological Interview  | 50 pts                 |
| Course Analysis Essay            | 20 pts                 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                     | <b>500 points</b>      |

## **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

### **LMS**

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University 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](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](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**

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change*

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 or through virtual office hours. 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 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>

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>

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change*

## **Academic Integrity**

Students at East Texas A&M University 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**

East Texas A&M University Velma K.

Waters Library Rm 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/>

## **Nondiscrimination Notice**

East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M 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 East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903- 886-5868 or 9-1-1.

## **East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health**

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, 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](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

**A COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE IS PROVIDED BELOW.**

### COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR *(subject to change)*

| <i>Module / Topic</i>                                              | <i>Dates</i>                                        | <i>Readings, Videos &amp; Assignments</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Module 1:</b><br>Introduction to Anthropology and World Culture | Week 1<br>8/20 – 8/30<br>[This week has extra days] | Guest Ch. 1: Anthropology in a Global Age<br>Colwell, C. (2022). What Do Anthropologists Do?<br><b>Review “Getting Started” Module</b><br><b>“About You” Discussion Post due 8/27</b><br><b>Replies due 8/30</b>                                                        |
|                                                                    | Week 2<br>8/31 – 9/6                                | Guest Ch. 2: Culture<br>Guest Ch. 3: Fieldwork & Ethnography<br>Linton, R. (2016). One Hundred Percent American<br>Miner, H. (2016). Body Ritual Among the Nacirema<br><b>Discussion Post due 9/3</b><br><b>Replies due 9/6</b><br><b>Module 1 Reading Quiz due 9/6</b> |
| <b>Module 2:</b><br>Communication, Language & Art                  | Week 3<br>9/7 – 9/13                                | Guest Ch. 4: Language<br>Hall: Key concepts: Underlying structures of culture<br>TED Talk: How Language Shapes the Way We Think<br><b>Discussion Post due 9/10</b><br><b>Replies due 9/13</b>                                                                           |
|                                                                    | Week 4<br>9/14 – 9/20                               | Guest Ch. 17: Art & Media<br>TED Talk: The Danger of a Single Story<br>Film: The Miracle of the Little Prince [optional]<br><b>Fieldnotes &amp; Analysis #1 due 9/20</b><br><b>Module 2 Reading Quiz due 9/20</b><br><b>Extra Credit due 9/20</b>                       |
| <b>Module 3:</b><br>Kinship, Partnership, and Self                 | Week 5<br>9/21 – 9/27                               | Guest Ch. 9: Kinship, Family & Marriage<br>Video: Making your family kinship chart<br><b>Discussion Post due 9/24</b><br><b>Replies due 9/27</b>                                                                                                                        |
|                                                                    | Week 6<br>9/28 – 10/4                               | Video: Tea for Two<br>Video: “The Women’s Kingdom”<br>Nanda 2000; Goldstein 1987<br><b>Fieldnotes &amp; (Recorded) Analysis #2 due 10/4</b><br><b>Module 3 Reading Quiz due 10/4</b>                                                                                    |

|                                                                     |                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Module 4:</b><br>Religion & Ritual                               | Week 7<br>10/5 – 10/11  | Guest Ch. 15: Religion<br>Evans-Pritchard 1957<br>Video: Witchcraft Among the Azande<br><b>Discussion Post due 10/8</b><br><b>Replies due 10/11</b>                                                                                                                                                           |
|                                                                     | Week 8<br>10/12 – 10/18 | Review: Guest, K. (2020). Chapter 3<br>Video: Ethnographic Research Methods - Part 1:<br><b>Module 4 Reading Quiz due 10/18</b><br><b>Mid-term Ethnographic Observation 10/18</b>                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Module 5:</b><br>Class, Power, and Politics                      | Week 9<br>10/19 -10/25  | Guest, K. (2020). Chapter 10: Class and Inequality.<br>Subedi, M. (2011). Caste system: theories and practices in Nepal. Himalayan Journal of Sociology and Anthropology.<br>Newell, W. H. The Comparative Study of Caste in India and Japan.<br><b>Discussion Post due 10/22</b><br><b>Replies due 10/25</b> |
|                                                                     | Week 10<br>10/26 – 11/1 | Guest Ch. 14: Politics & Power<br>Film: Please Vote for Me (44:59)<br>Film: The Asante Market Women (50:44)<br><b>Fieldnotes &amp; Analysis #3 Assignment 11/1</b><br><b>Module 5 Reading Quiz due 11/1</b><br><b>Extra Credit due 11/1</b>                                                                   |
| <b>Module 6:</b><br>Illness, Health, Healthcare Access, and Fitness | Week 11<br>11/2 – 11/8  | Guest Ch. 16: Health, Illness & the Body<br>Kleinman: Comparison of Medical Systems as Cultural Systems<br>Janzen: Therapy Management in the DRC<br>Herselman: Health care through a cultural lens<br><b>Discussion Post due 11/5</b><br><b>Replies due 11/8</b>                                              |
|                                                                     | Week 12<br>11/9 – 11/15 | Film: Welcome to the World and Scheper-Hughes: Death Without Weeping<br>-OR-<br>Film: How to Slay a Dragon and Ennis-McMillan: Suffering from Water<br><b>Fieldnotes and Analysis #4 Due 11/15</b><br><b>Module 6 Reading Quiz due 11/15</b><br><b>Extra Credit Due 11/15</b>                                 |

