



US-World Cultures: Perspectives from Anthropology

ANTH 2351 71W | Fall 2021

Please, click on the following link to access A&M-Commerce Covid 19 Information,
<https://new.tamuc.edu/coronavirus/>

Instructor Information

Instructor: Jessica Totsch

Office Location: Virtual (via Zoom)

Office Hours: Wednesday, Friday 11am – 12pm or by appointment

Scheduling Link: https://calendly.com/jessicatotsch_tamuc

Email: Jessica.Totsch@tamuc.edu

Communication Response Time: within 24 hours; Monday to Friday 8am – 5pm

Course Information

Textbook & Readings

Required Textbook:

Cultural Anthropology: A Toolkit for a Global Age by Kenneth Guest. (Norton).

ISBN: 978-0-393-42852-0

Additional readings

Any additional assigned course readings will be posted on the D2L Brightspace course page. These readings will consist primarily of academic journal articles and book chapters, as well as occasional news articles and other materials. A detailed reading schedule will be at the end of the syllabus.

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 subfield of Cultural 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

This course requires at least basic skills in D2L Brightspace, participating in online discussion boards, opening a web browser, and using word processing programs like Microsoft Word.

Instructional Methods

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

Course Expectations & Tips for Success

1. Log into the D2L Brightspace page frequently to check for announcements, access course content, and stay up-to-date on assignments.
2. Keep up with assigned readings and videos by following the course schedule.
3. Respect others' right to hold opinions and beliefs that differ from your own. Challenge or criticize the idea, not the person, and maintain respect dialogue.
4. Support your statements when creating or responding to discussion posts. Provide a rationale for your statement and support it using arguments or examples from the lectures or assigned readings.
5. If you are struggling with a concept or need clarification on a topic, contact the instructor or visit office hours.

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.

Coursework & 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 a reading quiz for each module of the course 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 will be available during a 24 hour period and once you access the quiz you will have 15 minutes to complete the quiz.

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. **Reflections are due September 17, October 8, October 29, November 23, and December 10.**

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 October 15 and December 3.

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 22.

Grading

Assignments	Points possible
Weekly Discussions (15x 15 pts)	225 pts
Reading Quizzes (10x 15 pts)	150 pts
Unit Reflections (5x 10 pts)	50 pts
Video Reflections (2x 25 pts)	50 pts
Ethnography Project	50 pts
TOTAL	525 points

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	90 - 100%
B	80 - 89%
C	70 - 79%
D	60 - 69%
F	59% or Below

COURSE CALENDAR

Module/Name	Dates	Readings, Videos & Assignments
Module 1: Introduction to Anthropology	Week 1 8/30 - 9/3	Guest Ch. 1: Anthropology in a Global Age Guest Ch. 2: Culture Review "Getting Started" Module "About You" Discussion Post due 9/3
	Week 2 9/7 - 9/10	Guest Ch3: Fieldwork & Ethnography "Distant Mirrors" Ch. 1 & 3 (very short!) Discussion Post due 9/10
Module 2: Communication	Week 3 9/13 - 9/17	Guest Ch. 4: Language; Guest Ch. 17: Art & Media Video: Cultural Narratives Discussion Post due 9/17 Reflection #1 due 9/17
Module 3: Kinship, Family & Marriage	Week 4 9/20 - 9/24	Guest Ch. 9: Kinship, Family & Marriage Video: Tea for Two AND "The Women's Kingdom" Discussion Post due 9/24
	Week 5 9/27 - 10/1	Nanda 2000; Goldstein 1987 Discussion Post due 10/1
Module 4: Gender, Sex & Sexuality	Week 6 10/4 - 10/8	Guest Ch. 7: Gender AND 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 Reflection #2 due 10/8

<i>Module/Name</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Readings, Videos & Assignments</i>
Module 5: Religion & Ritual	Week 7 10/11 – 10/15	Guest Ch. 15: Religion; Evans-Pritchard 1957 Video: Witchcraft Among the Azande Discussion Post due 10/15 Video Reflection #1 due 10/15
Module 6: Race & Ethnicity	Week 8 10/18 – 10/22 Week 9 10/25 – 10/29	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 Ethnography Project due 10/22 Guest Ch. 6: Ethnicity & Nationalism Harriot 2017; Bernstein 2017; Sacco 2019 Discussion Post due 10/29; Reflection #3 due 10/29
Module 7: Class, Inequality, Politics & Power	Week 10 11/1 – 11/5 Week 11 11/8 – 11/12	Guest Ch. 10: Class & Inequality Videos: Inequality for all; The Racial Wealth Gap Discussion Post due 11/5 Guest Ch. 14: Politics & Power New York Times 2017 Discussion Post due 11/12
Module 8: Migration & Globalization	Week 12 11/15 – 11/19 Week 13 11/22 – 11/23 <small>*Thanksgiving Break 11/24-26</small>	Guest Ch. 13: Migration Short Clip: Charting Prehistoric Human Migration Video: Legal Immigration Video: The Other Side of Immigration Discussion Post due 11/19 Guest Ch. 11: The Global Economy; NYT Mag. 2013 Discussion Post due 11/23; Reflection #4 due 11/23
Module 9: Health, Illness & the Body	Week 14 11/29 – 12/3	Guest Ch. 15: Health, Illness & the Body Oppel, Gebeloff and Lai 2020 Video: Bias in Medicine Discussion Post due 12/3 Video Reflection #2 due 12/3
Module 10: Environment & Sustainability	Week 15 12/6 – 12/10	Guest Ch. 12: Environment & Sustainability Discussion Post due 12/10; Reflection #5 due 12/10

University Policies

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>

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>

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