Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
ANT 231-002 Honors (Spring 2019)
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 11:00-11:50 am
McKibben 351

Professor: Dr. Leslie Cecil
Department of Anthropology, Geography, and Sociology
Office: LAN 329
Phone: 468-3980
Email: cecillg@sfasu.edu
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 9:30-10:30 am,
Tuesdays and Thursdays 2-3 pm, Fridays 12-1 pm, or by
appointment

Course Description/Objectives:
This course is an introduction to the study of culture and its
function in societies. As a holistic study of the human experience, anthropology encompasses
information from the natural sciences and humanities. As a result of this approach, we explore
various topics central to humanity that range from social and political organization to how we
make sense of the multicultural world in which we live. During this journey, we will examine
modern cultures from around the world (as well as our own) and the ways that they/we
approach some of the same basic problems in unique ways.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:
1. understand the religious, political, economic, and social characteristics of different cultures.
2. recognize and apply anthropological methodology.
3. understand the similarities and differences of cultures in our multicultural world.
4. understand the value of and practice cultural relativism.
5. understand the ethical standards that anthropologists uphold.

Required Texts and Other Materials:

2) Brown, Nina, Thomas Mcilwraith, and Laura Tubelle de González. Perspectives: An Open

3) Additional readings (and videos) that can be accessed through D2L and readings.

4) All handouts for the course that are listed in the Reading/Class Schedule are available on the
course’s D2L page in the folder labeled Handouts.

You are expected to have read all of the material assigned for the class period before you come
to class. If you do not do the readings, class discussion will suffer as will your understanding of
the material. If the class appears to not complete the readings, quizzes over the readings will be
implemented. Part of your professionalism grade depends on your effort in class discussion.
In addition to assigned readings, we will be viewing some ethnographically based films. Each film will have a worksheet to make sure that you understand the more important aspects of the film and the information from the films will appear on exams. Therefore, films are a required part of the course. If you should miss a film, you must schedule a time with me to see it in the departmental office (no exceptions).

Course Requirements/Structure:
Class meets on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday for 50-minute segments for 15 weeks. If quizzes are implemented, the quizzes will be given from 11:00-11:10 a.m. If you are late for class, you will have less time to finish the quiz. If you come to class at 11:10 a.m. you will not be able to take the quiz. There are no make-up quizzes regardless of the reason for your absence. Therefore, you are expected to attend class and absences will be reflected in your attendance and professionalism grades.

Because this is an Honor’s section, we are going to do things a little bit differently. There will be no lecture from the professor. Instead, for each topic (see reading list), the professor will provide 2-3 discussion prompts on the opening d2l page for the course. We will talk about the topic, the world, and your points of view. We can stray from the topic and that is fine. The only caveat that I have is that no one threatens, demeans, or bullies another student or professor. We should be able to have a civil discussion—we can set an example for the US!

Assignments/Exams:
There are three short-answer exams and a group project that are required for this course. All exams will be given in class and the final exam period (exam 3) meets for two hours. The directions and all links for turning in your group project are on the course’s D2L page. Additionally, there will be opportunities to get extra credit throughout the semester and the due date for all extra credit is May 3, 2019 at 5 pm. Instructions for the extra credit are attached at the end of the syllabus after the project description and are on the course’s D2L page in the folder labeled Extra Credit Information. It is anticipated that you will send 6 hours a week outside of the class in preparation for class discussions.

I do not accept late work. If you miss an exam, you can take an essay make-up exam on Friday May 3, 2019 2:00-3:00 p.m. in room F G78. There are no exceptions to making up an exam—if you want to take it, you must take it on the May 3rd 2:00 p.m. You only will have one hour to complete the exam(s). If you are missing an exam grade after the make-up date and time, you will receive a 0 for that exam.
Grading:
By completing assignments, you are EARNING points. The total number of points that you earn will be your grade. There are no free points to be given out at will by the professor. There will be no rounding up of grades. The number of points that you earn is the grade that you will have in this class. THERE WILL BE NO BEGGING OR BARTERING FOR POINTS THAT YOU DID NOT EARN.

Exam 1 50 points
Exam 2 50 points
Exam 3 50 points
Group Project 50 points
Professionalism 25 points

Grades are posted on D2L so that you can always figure out your grade in the course. Letter grades are as follows: A (100-90%); B (89-80%); C (79-70%); D (69-60%); and F (59% and below).

Attendance and Excused absences
http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/class_attendance_excused_abs.asp
Attendance is expected at all class meetings. Please do not confuse attendance with participation which counts for half of your professionalism grade. Class begins at 11:00 a.m. and you are expected to be on time. I will take attendance at 11:00 a.m. and if you are not in your seat, you will be counted as absent. Leaving class early without prior permission will result in you being counted as absent. If you fall asleep during class or do work from other courses in my class, you will be counted absent. You are allowed two absences for whatever reason. I do not need to see an excuse. After two absences, each time you are counted absent, two points will be deducted from your final point total.

Professionalism:
You are expected to act professionally at all times and to treat each other and me (the professor) with respect. Behaving unprofessionally will adversely affect your grade. You are expected to come to class having read the assigned materials and be prepared to discuss the content. Class participation counts for 12 of the professionalism points.

When you come to class, please turn off and put away your cell phones and other electronics including computers. There will be no text messaging or use of computers during class time. If you use your cell phone or computer during class time, you will lose all of your professionalism points. If you need to use a laptop computer, record the lectures, or need assistance with any disability, please see Disabilities Services for the required paperwork and I will be happy to accommodate your needs. Remember, if you are doing something other than paying attention in class you interfere with your classmate’s abilities to learn. Please be courteous to everyone in class.

Acceptable Student Behavior:
Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/ inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do
not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

**Students with Disabilities** [http://www2.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www2.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations.

**Academic Integrity (A-9.1):** [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)
Cheating and plagiarism on exams and projects will not be tolerated. Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

**Add/Drop Policy:** [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/add_drop.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/add_drop.asp)

**Withheld Grades (A-54):** [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/semester_grds.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/semester_grds.asp)
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.
Reading/Class Schedule:
Perspectives: An Open Invitation to Cultural Anthropology is abbreviated as P
Additional Readings found on D2L are abbreviated as AR
Handouts that you can download/print from http://d2l.sfasu.edu are HO
Core Objectives addressed are abbreviated as CO

Wednesday January 23
Introduction to course

**Topic 1: What is Culture and How Are We Defined?**
Friday January 25 and Monday January 28
What is Anthropology? The four fields and methods
P Chapter 3 “Doing Fieldwork: Methods in Cultural Anthropology”
AR Nanda Chapter 1
“Tricking and Tripping: Fieldwork on Prostitution in the Era of AIDS”
CO CT, SR, C

Wednesday January 30
What is Culture?
P Chapter 2 “The Culture Concept”
AR “Eating Christmas in the Kalahari”
“Body Ritual Among the Nacirema”
Mini Film “God Grew Tired of Us” (shown in class)
CO CT, C

Monday February 4
Race
P Chapter 9 “Race and Ethnicity”
AR “Race Without Color”
“Official Statement on ‘Race’”
“White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack”
CO CT, EQ, SR, C

Wednesday February 6 and Friday February 8
Historical and Sociocultural Linguistics
P Chapter 4 “Language”
AR “A Cultural Approach to Male-Female Miscommunication”
“A Suite for Ebony and Phonics”
HO Linguistic Handout
CO CT, C

Monday February 11, Wednesday February 13, and Friday February 15
Anthropological Ethics and Human Trafficking
P pp. 12-13, 18-20
AR “Human Rights, Sex Trafficking, and Prostitution”
“American Anthropological Association Ethics Statement”
Exam 1  Monday February 18

Topic 2: How do anthropologists define different structures within cultures?

Wednesday February 20
Social Stratification and Bands, Tribes, Chiefdoms, and States
P Chapters 7 “Political Anthropology” (social integration sections in chapter), 8 “Family and Marriage” and 10 “Gender and Sexuality”
HO Bands, Tribes, Chiefdoms, States Study Sheet
CO C

Friday February 22
Kinship
P Chapter 8 “Family and Marriage”
HO Kinship Handout
CO C

Monday February 25 and Wednesday February 27
Gender
P Chapter 10 “Gender and Sexuality”
AR “Law, Custom, and Crimes Against Women: The Problem of Dowry Death in India”
“Afghan Women and the Return of the Taliban”
CO C

Friday March 1
Marriage
P Chapter 8 “Family and Marriage”
AR “Polygamy in America”
CO C

Monday March 4 and Wednesday March 6
Political Organizations “Political Anthropology”
P Chapter 7
CO CR, SR, EQ, C

Friday March 8
Film “The Secret State of North Korea”
CO CR, SR, EQ, C

Monday March 25 and Wednesday March 27
Economic Organizations
Exam 2  Friday March 29

Topic 3: Beliefs and Changes in the Face of Globalization

Monday April 1 and Wednesday April 3
Rituals and Rites of Passage
  AR Ferarro Chapter 14
  CO SR, C, EQ, CT

Friday April 5
Magic
  AR Ferarro Chapter 14
  CO SR, C, EQ, CT

Monday April 8
Film “Buying the Spirits”
  HO Film Guide
  CO SR, C, EQ, CT

Wednesday April 10
Witchcraft
  AR Ferarro Chapter 14
  CO SR, C, EQ, CT

Friday April 12
Film “Witchcraft Among the Azande”
  HO Film Guide
  CO SR, C, EQ, CT

Monday April 15, Wednesday April 17, Monday April 22
Religion
  AR Ferarro Chapter 14
  AR “The Power of Islam”
  HO Religion Study Guide
  CO SR, C, EQ, CT

Easter Break
  April 19 No Class

Wednesday April 24
Fundamentalism “God’s Warriors”
  HO Film Guide
  CO SR, C, EQ, CT
Friday April 26, Monday April 29, Wednesday May 1
Culture Change and Globalization
P Chapters 12 “Globalization” and 13 “Culture and Sustainability”
AR “The Price of Progress”
“Columbia's Last Nomadic Tribe”
CO SR, C, EQ, CT

Friday May 3
Film: Profit and Loss
HO Film Guide
CO SR, C, EQ, CT

Monday May 6-May 10
Presentation of your Station Eleven cultures and what if scenarios

!!!Extra Credit Due on May 3, 2018 at 5 pm
(submit to D2L Dropbox)

Final Exam Wednesday May 15, 2019
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
No Make-up Exams will be given for the Final!
Station Eleven Group Project

Read Station Eleven by Exam 1

You have been put in groups (see d2l for your group members and discussion boards). These groups represent your strengths/interests that you expressed at the beginning of the semester. You will post your group and individual responses under the group tab in the communication tools area of d2l. Due dates are indicated below and always due by 5 pm CST.

As far as you know, you are some of the few survivors after the Georgian Flu. It is day 30. Your group members are going to reconstruct society as you know it and/or want it to be. As a group you will work together to redefine humanity and how to interact with other potential groups out there….if there are any.

Some basics (posted by February 22 at 5 pm): Where are you all living? Describe the natural and built landscapes in your area. How far out have you explored personally and as a group? How many of your friends and relatives died? What was it like seeing them die and you did not?

There are four divisions of society that every society on the planet has: social, political, economic, and religious. As we discuss these in class, your group will redefine each of these kinds of organizations. The due dates are indicated below.

Social (posted by March 4 at 5 pm)
Power, wealth and prestige How are you dividing/defining yourselves socially? Is kinship important? Is marriage important? Is gender important? Do different categories have different positions/jobs in your society? How do you live together—if you live together? Also, everyone needs to provide a three generation kinship chart.

Political (posted by March 25 at 5 pm)
What kind of leadership do you have? If you have a leader, how was s/he selected? What kind of power/authority does that person have? What kind of government do you have, if you have one? Do people own property? How are disputes settled?

Economic (posted by April 2 at 5 pm)
How do you get the food and water that you need to survive? Are you going to do anything about technology? What kinds of technology do you have or are taking advantage of? What happens if a drought hits or flooding? What do you live in?

Religious (posted by April 29 at 5 pm)
Since you have been completely devastated by the flu, do you all maintain the same religious beliefs that you did pre-flu? What is your religion? Please go into some detail with this because this is the foundation of your society—or is it? What kinds of rituals do you partake in individually and/or as a group? Do you have a religious leader? What does s/he do?

At the end of the semester during dead week, each group will present their culture to class. I will give you a few scenarios (depending on time) where all of the groups have to interact and come to a resolution about a cultural issue. We will do this in class. This should be interesting because you can develop your society any way you like.
Extra Credit Opportunity
Due on May 3, 2019, 5 pm

To get 10 points of extra credit (5 points per film/article), do the following:

1) Watch film(s) about anthropology. For a list of the films and how to access them, please see the Extra Credit module in D2L.

  OR

2) Read anthropology journal articles. You can find these in *National Geographic, Discover, Science, or Current Anthropology*.

  OR

3) Various cultural events announced in class throughout the semester.

In order to get credit for any option, you need to write a one page summary (one for each film and article) of the program/film/article. Include the last point discussed. Also include your opinion of the work and how the author/work contributes to the field of anthropology.

These instructions can be found in the course’s module titled “Extra Credit.”
Department of Anthropology, Geography, and Sociology Assessment Syllabus Insert

ANT231

Program Learning Outcomes

The sociology program states the following items as Program Learning Objectives (PLOs) for sociology majors.

**PLO1** The students will be able to identify, compare, and contrast sociological classical and contemporary theories.

**PLO2** The student will be able to identify the principles of good social scientific research design. Such principles include validity, reliability, precision in measurement, and sampling methodology.

**PLO3** The student will possess sociological knowledge as evidenced by the identification of the major concepts involved with social stratification, demography, race and ethnic relations, deviance, and globalization.

**PLO4** The student will be able to apply sociological knowledge and skills to a variety of settings.

**PLO5** The student will recognize the implicit assumptions behind claims of knowledge about the social world, will be able to evaluate and distinguish between strong and weak arguments, and will be able to draw conclusions from a set of premises.

**PLO6** The student will be able to read theoretical arguments and to identify their major strengths and weaknesses.

**PLO7** The student will be able to analyze a data set using statistical techniques and draw conclusions from the results.

This course addresses the following of these objectives:

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<tr>
<th>PLOs</th>
<th>Supported Course Objective</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PLO1</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLO2</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLO3</td>
<td>1, 3, 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLO4</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLO5</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>PLO6</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO7</td>
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**Skill Level**

Basic, Intermediate, Advanced

Core Objectives

**Critical Thinking:** to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information

**Communication Skills:** to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication

**Empirical and Quantitative Skills:** to include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions

**Social Responsibility:** to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities
**General Education Core Curriculum**

This course has been selected to be part of Stephen F. Austin State University’s core curriculum. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has identified six objectives for all core courses: Critical Thinking Skills, Communication Skills, Empirical and Quantitative Skills, Teamwork, Personal Responsibility, and Social Responsibility. SFA is committed to the improvement of its general education core curriculum by regular assessment of student performance on these six objectives.

Assessment of these objectives at SFA will be based on student work from all core curriculum courses. This student work will be collected in D2L through LiveText, the assessment management system selected by SFA to collect student work for core assessment. LiveText aPoints will be provided to all students enrolled in core courses through the university technology fee. You will be required to register your LiveText aPoint, and you will be notified how to register your aPoint through your SFA e-mail aPoint. If you forward your SFA e-mail to another aPoint and do not receive an e-mail concerning LiveText registration, please be sure to check your junk mail folder and your spam filter for these e-mails. If you have questions about LiveText call Ext. 1267 or e-mail SFALiveText@sfasu.edu.

The chart below indicates the core objectives addressed by this course, the assignment(s) that will be used to assess the objectives in this course and uploaded to LiveText this semester, and the date the assignment(s) should be uploaded to LiveText. Not every assignment will be collected for assessment every semester. Your instructor will notify you which assignment(s) must be submitted for assessment in LiveText this semester.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Course Assignment Title</th>
<th>Date Due in LiveText</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Critical Thinking Skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teamwork</td>
<td>To include the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal Responsibility</td>
<td>To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.</td>
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<td>To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.</td>
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