Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
ANTH 2351.002
Spring 2024
Online

Professor: Dr. Leslie Cecil
Department of Anthropology, Geography, and Sociology
Office: LAN 337
Phone: 468-3980
Email: cecillg@sfasu.edu
Office Hours: Virtual (link in Brightspace) and in person: Monday and Wednesday 11-12:30, Tuesday and Thursday 1-2, 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.

Credit Hour Justification:
ANT2351 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (3 credits; fully online) spans 15 weeks. The course contains extensive written content that includes the same information students in a face-to-face lecture receive, requiring students to engage the online modules for at least three hours per week. Primary source readings and ethnographic films are included in the content to support key concepts. In addition to working through the modules, students are required to take a quiz/completing a written exercise at the end of each module, to complete three exams (one during final's week for a 2-hour period), and to do a group project (or core assessment project Spring semester of even years). For every hour a student spends engaging with the content, s/he is expected to spend the same amount of time completing assignments.

Required Texts and Other Materials:
1) Brown, Nina, Thomas McIlwraith, and Laura Tubelle de Gonzalez. Perspectives: An Open Invitation to Cultural Anthropology. Second Edition. This is an open access textbook. 
https://perspectives.americananthro.org/
Additional readings and videos are linked in the various modules on Brightspace/D2L.

**Course Structure:**
The online class meets Mondays through Fridays. There are no make-up quizzes, Stop and Think Exercises, or blogs, regardless of the reason. All of the deadlines and assignments are outlined in the Timeline.

I answer emails promptly (within a couple of hours if not immediately); however, there are times that I like to sleep (like at night), have meetings, or attending activities, when I will be unable to answer your concerns as they happen. I promise that I will get to them as soon as is humanly possible.

**Assignments/Exams:**
There are three exams, eight Stop and Think Exercises, two blogs, and one quiz that are required for this course.

**I do not accept late work.** If you miss an exam, you can take an essay make-up exam on **May 3, 2024** online (open from 5 am to 11:59 pm). There are no exceptions to making up an exam—if you want to take it, you must take it on May 3rd. 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>50 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>50 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>50 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stop and Think Exercises</td>
<td>80 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(10 points per 8 topics)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blogs</td>
<td>20 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(10 points per 2 topics)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz</td>
<td>10 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grades are posted on Brightspace/ 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**
**Institution Absences (**HOP 04-110**)**

An Institutional Absence may be granted to a student who participates as a representative of the University in academic (including research), extra- or cocurricular, or athletic activities. Students will be excused for institutional purposes from otherwise required academic activity only when a valid Institutional Absence is approved by the appropriate administrative unit or official and the documentation of approval is provided to the faculty member at least five (5) days in advance.
Institutional absences will not be approved for keystone events, defined as: a special or unique assignment, test, project, experience, or other academic exercise identified by the Faculty member as critical for successful completion of standards of the class and unable to be missed. These events must be identified on the syllabus at the beginning of the semester and communicated to the students. Events added to the syllabus at a later date will not qualify for Keystone Event status. Keystone Events where the date/time is changed will no longer be considered a Keystone Event. Students should make themselves aware of any Keystone Events identified in the syllabus to ensure there are no conflicts.

For keystone events where the assignment dates vary, it is incumbent upon the students to work with their faculty member to not select a conflicting date.

More information on Institutional Absences, including how to apply, can be found at https://www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents/student-resources/institutional-absences.

Professionalism:
You are expected to act professionally at all times and to treat each other and me (the professor) with respect. We practice cultural relativity in this course. While I hope that we will all feel free to have open exchanges in the course, the second that someone demeans or defames another, that student will be dealt with according to the policy on acceptable student behavior (see below). Please give me a chance to answer your emails. I do this rather promptly; however, I do sleep at night and will not respond to your emails from 5 pm-8 am. Please do not YELL at me in your emails.

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.

YELLING AT ME WILL NOT BE TOLERATED (that is an example of yelling at me).

Students with Disabilities
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 promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Academic Integrity: http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student_academic_dishonesty.pdf

The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.
Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.

Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.

Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

Add/Drop Policy:  http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/add_drop.asp

Withheld Grades:
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 coursework 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 to compute the grade point average. For additional information, go to https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf.

Mental Health and Wellness
SFA values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students' mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:
SFA Counseling Service
www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices
Health and Wellness Hub (corner of E. College and Raguet)
936.468.2401
SFA Human Services
Counseling Clinic
www.sfasu.edu/human services/139.asp Human Services, Room 202
936.468.1041

Crisis Resources:
Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343S
National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
Suicide Prevention Lifeline:
1.800.273.TALK (8255) Crisis Text
Line: Text HELLO to 741-741
# Cultural Anthropology Timeline

All assignments and exams listed on this timeline are considered Keystone Events.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date and Core Component</th>
<th>Module and Topic</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| January 18-19           | Welcome Getting Started (on Course Home Page) | - Read Course Overview  
- Print Syllabus and Course Timeline.  
- Print Grading Rubric for Stop and Think Exercises and Blogs  
- Read and complete *Introduce Yourself Assignment*  
*Due Date for This Module: 1/19 11:59 p.m. CST* |
| January 22-26 CT, SR, C | Module 1: What is Anthropology and Module 2: Methods of Cultural Anthropology | - Read linked chapters and articles  
- Watch videos in modules  
- Complete the *Stop and Think* exercise  
*Due Date for These Modules: 1/26 11:59 p.m. CST* |
| January 29-31 CT, C     | Module 3: What is Culture? | - Read linked chapters and articles  
- Watch video in module  
- Complete the *Body Ritual Among the Nacirema Quiz*  
*Due Date for This Module: 1/31 11:59 p.m. CST* |
| February 1-5 CT, EQ, SR, C | Module 4: Race and Ethnicity | - Read linked chapters and articles  
- Browse Census categories  
- Complete the *Stop and Think* exercise  
*Due Date for This Module: 2/5 11:59 p.m. CST* |
| Feb 6-12 CT, C          | Module 5: Language and Society | - Read linked chapters and articles  
- Watch video clips  
- Complete the *Stop and Think* exercise  
*Due Date for This Module: 2/12 11:59 p.m. CST* |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Due Date for Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| February 13-16 SR, C, EQ, CT | Module 6: Anthropological Ethics  | • Read linked chapters and articles  
• Watch video in module 
• Complete the *Ethics Blog*  | 2/16 11:59 p.m. CST          |
| February 19 | Exam 1                                 | Exam is open from 5:00 a.m.-11:59 p.m. CST | 2/16 11:59 p.m. CST          |
| February 20-27 C | Module 7: Social Organization | • Read linked chapters and articles 
• Watch videos in module 
• Complete the *Stop and Think* exercise| 2/27 11:59 p.m. CST          |
| February 28-March 8 CR, SR, EQ, C | Module 8: Political Organization | • Read linked chapters and articles 
• Watch videos in modules 
• Read *New York Times*, *USA Today*, and *Pravda* (all on the same day) 
• Complete Google/Yahoo activity 
• Complete the *Stop and Think* exercise| 3/8 11:59 p.m. CST          |
| March 18-22 C, SR | Module 9: Economic Organization | • Read linked chapters and articles 
• Watch video in modules 
• Complete the *Stop and Think* exercise| 3/22 11:59 p.m. CST          |
| March 25 | Exam 2                                 | Exam is open from 5:00 a.m.-11:59 p.m. CST | 3/22 11:59 p.m. CST          |
| March 26-April 26 SR, C, EQ, CT | Module 10: Rituals, Magic, Witchcraft, and Religion | • Read linked chapters and articles 
• Watch videos in module 
• Complete the *Stop and Think* exercise 
• Complete *Religion Blog*| 4/26 11:59 p.m. CST          |
| April 29-May 2 SR, C, EQ, CT | Module 11: Culture Change and Globalization | • Read linked chapters and articles 
• Watch videos in module 
• Complete the *Stop and Think* exercise| 5/2 11:59 p.m. CST          |
| May 6 | Exam 3 (Final Exam)                     | Exam is open from 5:00 a.m.-11:59 p.m. CST | 5/2 11:59 p.m. CST          |
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLOs</th>
<th>Supported Course Objective</th>
<th>Skill Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SLO # or NA (not applicable)</td>
<td>Basic, Intermediate, Advanced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO1</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO2</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO3</td>
<td>1, 3, 4</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO5</td>
<td>1, 2</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO6</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLO7</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

General Education Core Curriculum

By enrolling in ANTH 2351 you are also enrolling in a Core Curriculum Course that fulfills the Critical Thinking requirement. The chart below indicates: a) The core objectives that are required to be taught in this course per the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), b) How the required core objectives will be addressed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Objective</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>How the Core Objective will be Addressed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Thinking Skills</td>
<td>To include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.</td>
<td>Stop and Think Exercises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>To include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas though written, oral, and visual communication.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empirical and Quantitative Skills</td>
<td>To include the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.</td>
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</tr>
<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>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Responsibility</td>
<td>To include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Responsibility</td>
<td>To include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>