

# Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

ANT 2410 Section 6974 Fall 2012



**Instructor:** Daniel S. Robinson  
**T.A.:** Ann Laffey  
**Schedule:** MWF 3:00-3:50 pm (Period 8)  
**Classroom:** L005 Turlington Hall

## Contact Information

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## Course Description

This course introduces core concepts and issues in cultural anthropology. In the first section, we will discuss the field of anthropology, the nature of anthropological research and the

concept of culture. In the second section, we will examine language, the role of the individual, ritual, and meaning. This discussion will also touch on the nature of power and the universal necessities of human life, and how they vary among cultures. Finally, we will look at society in terms of the relationships we share with other humans in forms of kinship, marriage, family, social groups, and the modern world system. Throughout the semester we will look at examples from specific cultural groups to both examine the realm of human diversity and the universality of basic human experiences.

### Course Objectives

In taking this course, you are expected to begin to:

- (1) **Apply** basic anthropological concepts to your own life,
- (2) **Understand** some central perspectives used in this field,
- (3) **Adopt** an inter-disciplinary approach to the study of people, and
- (4) **Appreciate** human diversity, past and present.

### Required Texts

Ember, Carol R. and Melvin Ember  
2011 Cultural Anthropology. 13<sup>th</sup> edition. New York: Prentice Hall.

Other reading materials will be provided by the instructor on E-Learning.

### Course Assessment

20%	Exam 1	Fri., September 14
25%	Exam 2	Mon., October 15
25%	Exam 3 (Final)	Weds., December 5
20%	Essay	DUE Fri., November 30
10%	Attendance	

### Grading

A = 100 - 92 (91.5+)	C = 76.99 - 74.0 (73.5+)
A- = 91 - 90 (89.5+)	C- = 73.49 - 70.0 (69.5+)
B+ = 89.49 - 87.0	D+ = 69.49 - 67.0
B = 86.99 - 84.0 (83.5+)	D = 66.99 - 64.0 (63.5+)
B- = 83.49 - 80 (79.5+)	D- = 63.49 - 60.0
C+ = 79.49 - 77.0	E = 59.99 or less

Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
GPA	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	0.67	0.0

## Exams

Exams will be taken in class. The final will focus on themes in the last portion of the class, but will also ask you to think about the major case studies in terms of those themes. Exams have a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. **Exams cover ALL of the readings, lectures, and other material for a given section.**

**Attendance at exams is critical.** Make-ups are allowed **only** for special circumstances. In the case of a planned absence, you need to contact the instructor well in advance of your absence. For emergencies, contact me as soon as possible. The validity of your absence for an exam, provided you bring a doctor's note or other documentation, will be determined by the instructor.

## Essay

The essay assignment will require you to analyze how various cultural topics we have discussed, such as class, ethnicity, and gender, have affected and played a role in your life, and contrast these roles with those of another cultural group that we have studied in class. A different topic may be explored if you receive prior approval from the instructor.

You **MUST** to submit an electronic copy formatted in MS Word (.doc) to E-Learning, utilizing turnitin.org, as well as a hard copy of the essay.

Attendance on the due date for the essay is crucial, as essay is due at the beginning of class on the assigned date. 10% of the final score will be deducted for each day that it is late. If you are going to be absent, make arrangements to turn in your essay early. Exceptions will be made only for illness or other special circumstances.

You may obtain assistance (for brainstorming, organization, and editing) from peers, or the writing center on campus. However, your ideas should be your own. As discussed below, the principles of academic honesty apply.

## Attendance

**You are responsible for all items covered in the readings, lectures, and other materials.** Regularly attending the lectures makes it much easier to keep up with the material covered, and prepare for the tests.

Attendance will be taken during lectures in the form of 10 pop quizzes given throughout the semester to ensure you are doing the readings and attending the lectures. These will be given at the discretion of the instructor. In the event that you do miss class, make sure you ask your fellow classmates for their notes about material covered that day.

### **Classroom Etiquette**

Cell phones are permitted in class only as [silent] clocks. If your phone rings in class or I notice that you are texting, I will ask you to step outside to take care of your business and not come back that day.

Laptops, tablets, and other computing devices can be used as note taking devices or study aids. However, you should not use these devices to surf the internet, work on other coursework, or play games in class. Please be courteous to your fellow students, so that everyone can learn without distraction. Failure to use your laptop, tablet, or computing device appropriately in class will result in me asking you to leave the lecture.

### **E-Learning**

Assigned readings, exam reviews, general announcements, essay submissions, and links to extra class material will be posted on the main E-Learning site. This site is labeled **ANT 2410 F2012**.

### **Dates for Dropping and Withdrawals**

Aug. 28	Last day to add, change grading options, or drop without a W.
Sept. 14	Last day to drop with a W, all courses.
Nov. 19	Last day to drop (without failing grades) by Petition.
Nov. 19	Deadline for withdrawal from UF (without failing grades).

Incompletes will be granted in cases of emergency. For undergraduates, after one year an Incomplete automatically turns into an F, if the work has not been completed.

### **Students with Disabilities**

The University of Florida complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students requesting accommodation should contact the Students with Disabilities Office, Peabody 202. That office will provide documentation to the student whom must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Please do let me know as soon as possible as well, and we will make every attempt we possibly can to make the necessary accommodations.

I look forward to learning with and from you in this class. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you might have. It is very important to me that you feel comfortable meeting with or e-mailing me when you have questions or feel that you need additional assistance.

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is a serious violation of the Student Honor Code. The Honor Code prohibits and defines plagiarism as follows:

Plagiarism. A student shall not represent as the student's own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to):

- a.) Quoting oral or written materials, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution.
  - b.) Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student.
- (University of Florida, Student Honor Code, 15 Aug. 2007  
<<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/honorcode.php>>)

University of Florida students are responsible for reading, understanding, and abiding by the entire Student Honor Code.

Important Tip: You should never copy and paste something from the internet without providing the exact location from which it came.

### **Other Helpful Resources**

University Counseling and Wellness Center: 3190 Radio Road, 392-1575

-Offers personal and career counseling, as well as health care.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS): Student Health Care Center, 392-1161

-Offers sexual counseling and help.

Career Resource Center: Reitz Union, 392-1601

-Offers career development assistance and job counseling.

Reading & Writing Center: Broward Hall, 392-0791

-Offers writing assistance, study skill development, and test preparation help.

### **COURSE SCHEDULE (Tentative)**

#### **Introduction to the Course**

##### **Week 1 – August 22-24**

W Introduction. The Anthropological Perspective

F Anthropology and Its Subfields

Read: Ember Ch 1.

#### **Introduction to Anthropological Theory**

##### **Week 2 – August 27-31**

M The Concept of Culture

Read: Ember Ch 2.

W An Overview of Theoretical Trends

Read: Ember Ch 3.

F The Comparative Approach

Read: Miner 1956 on E-Learning.

**Anthropological Approaches to Research****Week 3 – September 3-7**

- M **Labor Day: NO CLASS**
- W Types and Kinds of Anthropological Research  
Read: Ember Ch 4.
- F Ethical Dilemmas in Research  
Read: Dreger 2011 on E-Learning

**Introduction to Language and Culture****Week 4 – September 10-14**

- M Language and Culture  
Read: Ember Ch 5.
- W Cross-cultural Perspectives on Color and Review for Exam 1  
Read: Berlin and Kay 1969 on E-Learning.
- F **EXAM 1**

**Making a Living****Week 5 – September 17-21**

- M The Anthropology of Food and Nutrition  
Read: Ember Ch 6.
- W Hunter-Gatherers: The Original Affluent Society?  
Read: Lee 1968 and Sahlins 1968 on E-Learning.
- F Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Ethnobiology  
Read: Article on E-Learning, TBA.

**Week 6 – September 24-28**

- M Making a Living  
Read: Ember Ch 7.
- W Distribution and Exchange: The Trobriand Islanders  
Read: Article on E-Learning, TBA.
- F Social Stratification  
Read: Ember Ch 8.

**Anthropology, Human Diversity, and Social Institutions****Week 7 – October 1-5**

- M Race and Ethnicity  
Read: Lewontin 1972 on E-Learning.
- W Social Systems and Relationships  
Read: Ember Ch 13 and 14.

- F Power and Society  
Read: Bourdieu on E-Learning.

**Week 8 – October 8-12**

- M The Individual in Culture  
Read: Ember Ch 9.
- W Resistance and Political Action  
Read: Article on E-Learning, TBA.
- F Review Exam 2

**Week 9 – October 15-19**

- M Exam 2**
- W Sex and Gender  
Read: Ember Ch 10.
- F Women and Culture  
Read: Article on E-Learning, TBA.

**Anthropology and Families**

**Week 10 – October 22-26**

- M Marriage and the Family  
Read: Ember Ch 11.
- W Children and Growing  
Read: Article on E-Learning, TBA.
- F Lineages and Descent Groups

**Week 11 – October 29- November 2**

- M Residence and Kinship  
Read: Ember Ch 12.
- W The Structure of the Human Family  
Read: Article on E-Learning, TBA.
- F Film: TBA

**Spirituality and Ritual**

**Week 12 – November 5-9**

- M Religion and Society  
Read: Ember Ch 15.
- W Magic and Ritual  
Read: Gmelch 1992 on E-Learning.
- F **HOME COMING: NO CLASS**

### **Cultural Expression and Globalization**

#### **Week 13 – November 12-16**

- M **HOMECOMING: NO CLASS**
- W Visual and Artistic Variation  
Read: Ember Ch 16.
- F Globalization and Its Problems  
Read: Ember Ch 17.

#### **Week 14 – November 19-23**

- M Film: TBA
- W **THANKSGIVING: NO CLASS**
- F **THANKSGIVING: NO CLASS**

### **Anthropology and Global Processes**

#### **Week 15 – November 26-30**

- M Migration and Alienation  
Read: Article on E-Learning, TBA.
- W Cultural Exchange and Survival: Human Rights  
Read: Article on E-Learning, TBA.
- F **Essay Due; Applying and Integrating Anthropology**  
Read: Ember Ch 17.

### **Course Conclusion**

#### **Week 16 – December 3-5**

- M Final Wrap Up, Exam 3 Review, and Class Evaluations
- W **Exam 3**