

# ANT 2410 Cultural Anthropology

Summer B 2025 (online)

**Instructor:**

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**Course communications and office hours:**

For all course-related questions, first, review this syllabus to determine if the answer to your question is addressed. Please direct general questions about course requirements, assignments, activities, etc., to the student Q&A discussion board under "Discussion" on Canvas. You can also contact the instructor and teaching assistants via email.

However, please check if your question has already been addressed on one of the course's Canvas question board.

Do not post questions about individual assignments and grades on the Q&A discussion board. Please submit those inquiries by email. In the content of the email, specifically state the particular assignment that is at issue. We will respond to emails as quickly as possible during virtual office hours unless we are with another student. Please allow 48 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) before following up.

We will also be available to meet via Zoom by appointment. You can set up a virtual meeting with the instructor by email. Please email the TAs for access to their Zoom meeting rooms.

**Course Description**

Anthropology is the academic discipline that studies humanity across all space and time. Cultural anthropologists study the distinctive ways people create, negotiate, and make sense of their own social worlds in relation to the worlds of others. Through research in places both far away and near to home, anthropologists examine relations and events that influence and determine social belonging and exclusion, whether based

on gender, kinship, religion, language, political economy, or historical constructions of race, ethnicity, and citizenship. The scope of cultural anthropology is thus broad. Studying culture is crucial to understanding our increasingly connected planet, human relationships, and actions. An anthropological perspective is also essential to efforts that aim to resolve the major crises that confront humanity today.

This class provides an introduction to the discipline by considering topics and themes that are not only of vital relevance today but also hold an enduring place in the intellectual tradition of anthropology. This class aims to increase your familiarity and comfort with concepts of cultural analysis and to show how these notions can raise awareness and understanding of your own and others' life experiences. The course aims to enhance sensitivity to social differences while also underscoring the moral and ethical dimensions entailed by ethnographic research.

Students are encouraged to employ critical thinking and to rely on data and verifiable sources to interrogate all assigned readings and subject matter in this course as a way of determining whether they agree with their classmates and/or their instructor. No lesson is intended to espouse, promote, advance, inculcate, or compel a particular feeling, perception, viewpoint or belief.

### **Objectives and Learning Outcomes**

During this course, students will learn to identify, describe, and explain social institutions, structures, or processes. These courses emphasize the effective application of accepted problem-solving techniques. Students will apply formal and informal qualitative or quantitative analysis to examine the processes and means by which individuals make personal and group decisions and evaluate opinions, outcomes, or human behavior. Students are expected to assess and analyze ethical perspectives in individual and societal decisions.

Students will engage with diversity as a dynamic concept related to human differences and their intersections, such as (but not limited to) race, gender identity, class, ethnicity, religion, age, sexual orientation, and (dis)abilities. Students will learn to critically analyze and evaluate how social inequities are constructed and affect the opportunities and constraints across the US population. Students will learn to explore and reflect on the ways in which cultures and beliefs mediate their own and other people's understandings of themselves and an increasingly diverse U.S. society.

After successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

- Identify, recognize, and recall influential anthropological concepts and concerns
- Interpret and analyze ethnographic texts and films
- Express a basic understanding of anthropological modes of research and representation
- Practice skills for data collection and analysis
- Apply key anthropological concepts to everyday life experiences and real-world problems

- Demonstrate comprehension and appreciation of human cultural diversity
- Examine the social construction of difference and inequality through anthropological lenses
- Describe how the contemporary world is interconnected and how it is being transformed through globalization, development, migration, and dynamics of power
- Develop a sensitivity to the ethical implications of ethnographic fieldwork

### Course format

This online course uses Canvas to distribute and submit all course materials. You will find the syllabus, modules, quizzes, discussion boards, videos, grades, course updates, and announcements on the course website. The student is responsible for checking Canvas regularly.

### Course materials

There is one required **textbook**:

Welsch, Robert L. and Luis A. Vivanco. 2021. *Asking Questions About Cultural Anthropology: A Concise Introduction*. Third edition. New York: Oxford University Press.

**All additional required and recommended readings** will be posted on the Canvas course page. Students are required to integrate textbook chapters with additional resources (articles, videos, pictures, etc.).

### Additional resources:

- American Anthropological Association (<http://www.americananthro.org/>)
- The Society for Cultural Anthropology (<https://culanth.org/> )
- The Society for Applied Anthropology (<https://www.sfaa.net/> )
- The Society for Medical Anthropology (<http://www.medanthro.net/> )
- The Society for the Anthropology of Food and Nutrition (<https://foodanthro.com/>)

### Course requirements

This course consists of 15 modules. Each week, we will cover crucial concepts and ideas in cultural anthropology. You will be asked to actively participate in the discussion boards and complete the quiz assigned every week. You are also required to complete exercises and write an original paper as your final project.

Assignment Type	Load	Contribution to grade
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Quizzes	14 x 10 pts	140 points ~37%
Discussion Posts	7 x 10 pts	70 points ~18%
Exercises	6 x 20 pts	120 points ~32%
Final Paper	1 x 50 pts	50 points ~13%
Total	380 points	380 points 100%

\*Note: these point totals are subject to change if assignments are omitted or changed throughout the semester.

**The instructor will not assign Extra Credit assignments individually** at the end of the semester. Please do not contact the instructor or your assigned TA to request "make up" Extra Credit assignments at the end of the term.

### Discussions Posts

There will be seven discussion posts during the term. **Original** posts are due **by noon** EST on Thursday of each week. **Two responses** to your classmates' posts are due by **Friday at 11:59 pm** EST. Prompts and instructions can be found through the Discussions tab on Canvas.

Please read the Netiquette Guidelines before posting. Students are expected to adhere to these guidelines for all communication in this class.

### Quizzes

Each module (except for Module 1) includes a quiz for a total of 14 quizzes during the term. Quizzes are due at **11:59 pm on Fridays**. Each quiz comprises 10 multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and/or true/false questions. These are primarily based on the assigned textbook chapter, with one or two questions on supplementary readings.

Quizzes have a 15-minute time limit.

Additional instructions and information can be found on Canvas.

### Exercises

You will be asked to complete methodological and analytical exercises for six modules. These are short activities that should take 1-2 hours to complete. They are meant to show your understanding of class concepts and push you to apply anthropological observations and methods to everyday life, including analyzing a video or reading, commenting on current events and relating them to the class, or putting anthropological methods into practice. Complete details and instructions for each exercise can be found on Canvas under the Assignments tab.

### Final project

As their final project, students will write a short paper (750-1000 words) demonstrating their familiarity with critical anthropological concepts and their ability to connect those to everyday life experiences. Detailed instructions will be posted on Canvas.

### **Grading scale**

The following scale will be used for grades on all assignments and exams:

- 94-100=A
- 90-93=A-
- 87-89=B+
- 83-86=B
- 80-82=B-
- 77-79=C+
- 73-76=C
- 70-72=C-
- 67-69=D+
- 63-66=D
- 60-62=D-
- below 60=E (failing)

Requirements for grading are consistent with the university policy:  
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Also note that a grade of C- does not count for credit in major, minor, Gen Ed, Gordon Rule, or college basic distribution credit (for information regarding minus grades, go to: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/#gradingpolicies>)

### **Late work policy**

Given that this is an online class, students are responsible for ensuring they have a functioning internet connection and computer access. An assignment is considered late if it is not submitted electronically by the due date and time. **Late submissions will be accepted with a 10% penalty within 24 hours of the original due date.** Written assignments submitted more than 24 hours after the due date will not be accepted unless the student has a verifiable excuse that has been discussed with the instructor beforehand.

Assignments missed due to a documented illness or emergency may be rescheduled. However, the Instructor should be notified **48 hours prior** or as soon as possible thereafter (within a reasonable period). The student is responsible for contacting the instructor, providing documentation, and arranging the make-up. Documentation must be provided to both the Instructor and the Dean of Student Office at

<https://care.dso.ufl.edu/instructor-notifications/> for verification. Technology issues while turning in assignments or completing quizzes are handled differently and addressed in the "Getting help: technological difficulties" section below.

### **ChatGPT and Generative AI tools Policy**

To ensure all students have an equal opportunity to succeed and to preserve the integrity of the course, students are not permitted to submit text that is generated by artificial intelligence (AI) systems such as ChatGPT, Bing Chat, Claude, Google Bard, or any other automated assistance for any classwork or assessments. This includes using AI to generate answers to assignments, exams, or projects, or using AI to complete any other course-related tasks. Using AI in this way undermines your ability to develop critical thinking, writing, or research skills that are essential for this course and your academic success.

Students may use AI as part of their research and preparation for assignments, or as a text editor, but text that is submitted must be written by the student. For example, students may use AI to generate ideas, questions, or summaries that they then revise, expand, or cite properly. Students should also be aware of the potential benefits and limitations of using AI as a tool for learning and research. AI systems can provide helpful information or suggestions, but they are not always reliable or accurate. Students should critically evaluate the sources, methods, and outputs of AI systems. Violations of this policy will be treated as academic misconduct. If you have any questions about this policy or if you are unsure whether a particular use of AI is acceptable, please do not hesitate to ask for clarification.

### **Online Evaluation**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at Gator Rater (<https://evaluations.ufl.edu>). Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

### **Course Schedule**

Below is an overview of the course schedule. Complete information on the requirements for each module and due dates can be found on the Canvas home Page or in the Modules tab. Supplemental readings are subject to change.

\*Note: AQ = the required textbook, *Asking Questions About Cultural Anthropology: A Concise Introduction* (Welsch & Vivanco 2021).

### **Module Readings Assignments**

Module	Reading	Assignment
Week 1 June 30 <sup>th</sup> - July 6 <sup>th</sup>		
1. Introduction Students learn about course requirements, expectations, learning objectives, and other relevant policies.	Syllabus & Start Here pages	Discussion: Introduce Yourself
2. Anthropology Students learn about the scope of anthropology and its subfields. Students explore how anthropologists comprehensively view human cultures and ethical issues raised by anthropological research.	AQ Chapter 1 "Why Anthropology Matters" statement by EASA Abu- Lughod, "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving?"	Discussion 1 Quiz 1
3. Culture This week's materials identify the major features of culture and explore different theories that have sought to explain it. Students examine how anthropologists have used the culture concept to understand human diversity. Students also develop critical perspectives on the meaning and politics of cultural appropriation	AQ Chapter 2 Williams, "Key Words" Rothman, "The Meaning of 'Culture'"	Quiz 2 Exercise 1
Week 2 July 7 <sup>th</sup> - 13 <sup>th</sup>		
4. Ethnography The week's materials explain various fieldwork methods anthropologists have used to study their own and other societies. Students learn what is meant by "the native's point of view" and "cultural tunnel vision." Students also practice skills of observation and field notes through a smallscale ethnographic exercise.	AQ Chapter 3 Tsuda, "Is native anthropology really possible." Ethnographic Film "Sidewalk"	Quiz 3 Exercise 2

Students also discuss the ethical challenges of conducting ethnographic fieldwork and the difficulties and opportunities involved in studying one's own society.		
<p>5. Power</p> <p>Anthropologists have theorized how differences in economy, scale, and leadership relate to distinctive types of political systems. This week's materials describe the principle anthropological theories of power relations and explore how different societies organize themselves politically. Students also apply anthropological insights to explain political conflicts and violence in the contemporary world.</p>	AQ Chapter 8 Harcourt, "Making Docile Bodies"	Quiz 4 Exercise 3
<p>6. Globalization &amp; Migration</p> <p>This week's materials discuss what transnational flows of people, finance, and information mean for understanding global cultural dynamics. Students are encouraged to critically assess the idea that people everywhere want to be "developed" and reflect on dilemmas facing anthropologists who wish to study globalization and transnational mobilities ethnographically.</p>	AQ Chapter 5 Holmes, "Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies"	Quiz 5 Discussion 2
Week 3 July 14 <sup>th</sup> - July 20 <sup>th</sup>		
7. Sustainability & Foodways Anthropologists have studied	AQ Chapter 6 Bestor, "How Sushi Went	Quiz 6 Discussion 3



<p>sustainable and non-sustainable relationships between humans and the natural world. This week's materials explain different modes of food production and describe how people create meaning and social relationships around food. Students discuss the social and ecological impacts of industrialized agriculture and economic globalization and demonstrate how environmental degradation reflects and reinforces patterns of social inequality.</p>	<p>Global"</p>	
<p>8. Economies This week's materials explain the major theories and debates regarding the relationship between culture, economies, and value. Topics of discussion include cultural meanings of money, basic principles involved in gift exchange, consumption of goods, and diverse forms of capitalist economy.</p>	<p>AQ Chapter 7 Cronk, "Reciprocity and the Power of Giving" Newell, "Estranged Belongings"</p>	<p>Quiz 7 Exercise 4</p>
<p>Week 4 July 21<sup>st</sup>- July 27<sup>th</sup></p>		
<p>9. Race &amp; Racism This week's materials explore the relationship between racialization, social power, and bodies, focusing on the rise and persistence of racial categories in North America. Students will critically discuss prejudice, discrimination, and privileges that uphold an unequal social order</p>	<p>AQ Chapter 9 AAA Statement on Race, 1998 Coates, "Between the World and Me" Gravlee, "How Race Becomes Biology"</p>	<p>Quiz 8 Exercise 5</p>

<p>10. Language &amp; Culture</p> <p>Anthropologists have studied language and linguistic symbols and their relationship to culture. This week's materials focus on the way in which the language habits of a community shape the way people perceive the world. Students also explore how language use reflects and reinforces patterns of power, social inequality, and domination.</p>	<p>AQ Chapter 4</p> <p>Baldwin, "If Black English Isn't a Language..."</p> <p>Shankar, "Speaking Like a Model Minority"</p>	<p>Quiz 9</p> <p>Discussion 4</p>
<p>Week 5 July 28<sup>th</sup>- August 3<sup>rd</sup></p>		
<p>11. Gender, Sex, &amp; Sexuality</p> <p>Anthropologists have studied masculinity, femininity, and gender spectrums cross-culturally. Through the lenses of feminist and queer anthropology, students examine power relations based on gender.</p>	<p>AQ Chapter 10</p> <p>Allen, "' Brides' without Husbands"</p>	<p>Quiz 10</p> <p>Discussion 5</p>
<p>12. Social Ties</p> <p>This week students learn about the diverse forms marriage and family can take in different societies. Students also analyze how social forces and institutions beyond the individual family (e.g., religion, economics, transnational mobility) can influence kin relations.</p>	<p>AQ Chapter 11</p> <p>Scheper- Hughes, "No More Angel Babies on the Alto do Cruzeiro"</p>	<p>Quiz 11</p> <p>Exercise 6</p>
<p>13. Religion</p> <p>This week's materials explain how anthropologists have approached the study of religion and its role in human societies. Students learn about the diverse forms of religion takes and analyze how politics relates to religion.</p>	<p>AQ Chapter 12</p> <p>Gmelch, "Baseball Magic"</p> <p>"Chasing Celebrity: Akan witchcraft and New York City."</p>	<p>Quiz 12</p> <p>Discussion 6</p>

Week 6 August 4 <sup>th</sup> – August 10th		
<p>14. Medical Anthropology This week students learn how anthropologists have understood the relationship between culture, on the one hand, and the body, health, and illness, on the other. This week's discussions include the process of medicalization, nonWestern healing practices, medical authority, and holistic analyses on global health problems.</p>	<p>AQ Chapter 13 Singer et al., "Why Does Juan Garcia Have a Drinking Problem?"</p>	<p>Quiz 13 Discussion 7</p>
<p>15. Things Anthropologists have studied how people use objects to channel desires, aspirations, and consumption patterns and manipulate others. In the final project, students analyze multiple social dimensions of human-made things using anthropological frameworks they have learned this semester.</p>	<p>AQ Chapter 14 Condry "Love Revolution"</p>	<p>Quiz 14 Final project</p>

## University of Florida Policies

**University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities:** Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392- 8565, <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The DRC will provide an accommodation letter to the student, which must be presented to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive; therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term they seek accommodations.

**University Policy on Academic Misconduct:** Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states:

*We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the*

*Student Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by Students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "Oh my honor, I have*

*neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."*

The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies the number of behaviors that violate this code and the possible sanctions.

Your Instructor and TAs must report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to the appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the Instructor or TAs in this class. Plagiarism and/or cheating on any exam, assignment, or quiz will not be tolerated. Students found to be engaging in these behaviors will receive zero (0) points for that assignment and be reported to the Dean of Students Office. After receiving a warning, if cheating persists, the student will receive a zero (0) for the subsequent assignment, be reported to the Dean of Students Office again, and incur any further penalties administered by the Dean of Students Office.

Once a student has been reported for cheating or plagiarism, they cannot drop the class. Plagiarism includes copying from websites or other students. Self-plagiarism will not be tolerated: you cannot duplicate your work from other courses. Any direct quotes should be appropriately cited with the author, date, and page number(s). If you have questions about this, please use the Course Questions discussion board or email your Instructor and TAs directly. You are strongly discouraged from sharing your notes for this class on any online website. You are not permitted to distribute screenshots of any course content. **Remember that using and posting assignments on Course Hero or similar websites constitutes a violation of the UF Student Honor Code.**

Basic guidelines for not plagiarizing:

- Do not copy and paste from any website
- Write your own words
- Do not collaborate with fellow students on any assignment unless otherwise noted
- Use in-text citations when using direct quotes, when paraphrasing, or when citing original research ([https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/teacher\\_and\\_tutor\\_resources/preventing\\_plagiarism/index.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/teacher_and_tutor_resources/preventing_plagiarism/index.html)) **Netiquette: Communication Courtesy** All class members are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions, and chats. Students should treat others with respect. Using clear and concise language, full sentences, and correct spelling and grammar is helpful. Students should be careful when providing personal information and remember that using all CAPS can be interpreted as yelling.

Additional information can be found at

[http://teach.ufl.edu/wpcontent/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCo](http://teach.ufl.edu/wpcontent/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf)

[urses.pdf](http://teach.ufl.edu/wpcontent/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf). **Getting Help**

## Technical Difficulties

For issues with technical difficulties with E-learning in Canvas, please contact the UF Computing Help Desk at:

- [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu)
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 1
- <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/> \*\* Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the ticket number received from ELS when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You MUST email your Instructor within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up. **UF Counseling Services** If you are experiencing personal problems that are interfering with your studies, you are encouraged to take advantage of the available university resources:
- U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) or 352-392-1575 so that a team member can contact the student. Also, see <http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/>
- UF Counseling and Wellness Center: <https://counseling.ufl.edu>, 352- 3921575
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services: Student Health Care Center, 352- 3921161
- University Police Department: 352-392-1111 Other resources are available at <http://distance.ufl.edu/getting-help/> for:
- Counseling and Wellness Resources
- Disability resources
- Resources for handling student concerns and complaints

Library Help Desk support. Should you have any complaints about your experience in this course, please visit.