

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

ANT 2410 – Fall 2022



Bearden (1964), *Young students*

Instructor:

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Virtual office hours*: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:30 to 1:00 pm

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* Note: instructors office hours are the period when each will have dedicated availability for e-mail or discussion replies. Zoom meetings are available during these times upon request. Other Zoom meetings outside of contact hours can be scheduled if needed.

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 vis-à-vis 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 in 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 which aim to resolve the major crises that confront humanity today.

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

Student learning outcomes

- Identify, recognize, and recall influential concepts and concerns of cultural anthropology
- Demonstrate a comprehension and appreciation of the diversity of cultural phenomena
- Describe the interconnectedness of the contemporary world and how it is being transformed through globalization, development, migration, and dynamics of power
- Practice skills of textual interpretation
- Express a basic understanding of anthropological modes of research and representation
- Develop a sensitivity to the ethical implications of ethnographic fieldwork
- Apply key anthropological concepts to everyday life experiences
- Develop research questions

Course format

This is an asynchronous **on-line** course that uses **Canvas** to distribute and submit all course materials. You will find the course syllabus, modules, reading assignments, quizzes, discussion boards, videos, grades, and course updates and announcements on the course website. In addition to course management and the posting of readings and assignments, Canvas will be used as a contact interface between students, the instructor, and the TAs. Questions can be sent to the instructor through Canvas messaging. The student is responsible for checking Canvas regularly.

Course communications

We have several avenues for communication in this course. First, there is a general Course Questions Discussion Board where you are encouraged to ask general questions about the course contents and assignments. Private questions should be sent through Canvas messenger or email directly to the instructor or TA. You can expect a prompt reply if you email/message during posted office hours. The instructor and TAs are also available to meet via Zoom by request.

Required textbook & readings

Robert Welsh & Luis Vivanco, *Asking questions about cultural anthropology: A concise introduction*, Oxford University Press, 2018. ISBN: 978-0190878078

Additional readings will be posted on Canvas. The students are required to integrate the book chapters with additional resources (articles, videos, pictures, etc.). These resources will be available on Canvas and will cover, together with the textbook, the different topics/concepts discussed each week.

**Please note that weekly quizzes will test your comprehension of all the materials provided, and not just the textbook.*

Course requirements

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 seven discussion boards and complete the quiz assigned for every week (total of 14). You are also required to submit six exercise writing assignments during the semester and write an original paper as your final project.

Quizzes (14 x 10 pts) = 140 points, or ~37%

Discussion Posts (7 x 10 pts) = 70 points, or ~18%

Exercises (6 x 20 pts) = 120, or 32%

Writing = 50, or 13%

Total 380 points (100%)

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

Discussions: 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. Always provide a proper reference when using or quoting another source. Please be succinct and always respectful. You will receive 0 points if any content from another student or the internet is copied. You will receive 0 points in case of late submission without an anticipated and approved valid excuse.

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 includes a set of 10 multiple choice, fill-in-the blank, and/or true/false questions, each worth one point. These are primarily based on the assigned textbook chapter, with one or two questions on supplementary readings. If an approved, excused absence is not provided, students should expect to receive a zero (0) for the quiz. If you have a question about a quiz prior to the due date, please use the Course Questions discussion board, or communicate with the instructor or TA no less than 48 hours before the deadline. When quizzes are made available, you may begin them at any time, but each quiz will have a fifteen (15) minute time limit. Please allow enough time to take the quiz in one sitting, as you will not be able to stop and come back to it. All quizzes are open book/note. 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 your everyday lives, which might include 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 a final project students will write a short paper (1000 words) in which they demonstrate their familiarity with key anthropological concepts as well as their ability to connect those to everyday life experiences. Detailed instructions will be posted on Canvas.

Grading scale

See <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html> for calculating grade point averages. 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: <http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>)

The grading scale for this course is as follows: 93% - 100% = A; 90% - 92% = 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

Make-up policy

No make-up work will be offered except for approved excused absences. Requirements for make-up exams, assignments and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

If you have an event scheduled on the day coursework is due, plan to do the work early. All coursework is available 24/7 on Canvas. Students unable to complete assignments due to documented, excused absences must provide documentation to the instructor no less than 48 hours before the absence. Verification for excused absences due to illness must be received one week after the coursework due date. Technology issues while turning in assignments/completing quizzes are handled differently and are addressed in the following section.

Course technology

If you have technical difficulties with the course, you must contact the UF Computing Help Desk either by filling out an online request form or calling (352) 392-4357. The Help Desk is an excellent resource and they are very quick to resolve issues. Once you contact them, they will issue a ticket number detailing the problem and its resolution. Technological problems (hardware, software, Canvas, etc.) are not sufficient excuses for missed or late assignments without a Help Desk ticket number.

• <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu> • (352) 392-HELP

It is strongly recommended when taking an online exam or quiz that you use a wired connection not a Wi-Fi signal. It is also strongly advised you do not wait until the last few hours to complete any assignment so you can deal with a computer or internet failure. In addition, you should be using the most up to date version of Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox when using UF's e-Learning interface. If you have any issue with UF e-Learning, you must contact the UF Computing Help Desk immediately at 352-392-4357 to create a ticket that you will then send to your professor so that they

may follow up with the issue. The instructor will be the one who decides if the issue warrants further action.

University Policies

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful **feedback on the quality of instruction** in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluer.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/>. Please note that your instructor and TAs also welcome your feedback at any point during the semester. If there is something that we can do to help you and your peers learn better (or if we are doing something that you find especially helpful), you don't have to wait until the end of the semester to say so. We encourage you to attend our office hours or make an appointment with one of us to discuss your suggestions.

University policy requires that you be provided with the following link to information on current **UF grading policies** for assigning grade points: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>. You may notice that this information classifies W, H, I, N, and U as “non-punitive grades,” which implies that other kinds of grades may in fact be punitive. Please note that the instructor unequivocally rejects the idea of any grades as punitive. A grade is simply an instructor's assessment of a student's learning outcomes in a given course—no more, no less. The idea that grades are punitive is pedagogically unjustifiable, counterproductive to effective teaching and learning, and has no place whatsoever in the instructor's philosophy or practice of teaching.

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 honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On 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 a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Course Schedule Summary

	Dates	Topic	Readings	Assignments
Module 1	8/24-8/27	Introduction		Discussion 1
Module 2	8/28-9/2	Anthropology	AQ 1 EASA, "Why Anthro Matters"; Abu-Lughod, "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving"	Quiz 1, Discussion 2
Module 3	9/3-9/9	Culture	AQ 2 Williams, "Key Words"; Rothman, "The Meaning of Culture"	Quiz 2, Exercise 1
Module 4	9/10-9/16	Ethnography	AQ 3; Lee, "Eating Christmas in the Kalahari"; Van Tilburg, "Interviews of the Unspoken"	Quiz 3, Exercise 2
Module 5	9/17-9/23	Power	AQ 8; Harcourt, "Making Docile Bodies"	Quiz 4, Exercise 3
Module 6	9/24-9/30	Globalization	AQ 5; Holmes, "Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies"	Quiz 5, Discussion 2
Module 7	10/1-10/7	Sustainability & Food	AQ 6; Bestor, "How Sushi went Global"	Quiz 6, Discussion 3
Module 8	10/8-10/14	Economies	AQ 7; Cronk, "Reciprocity and the Power of Giving"; Newell, Estranged Belongings"	Quiz 7, Exercise 4
Module 9	10/15-10/21	Race & Racism	AQ 9; AAA Statement of Race (1998); Coates, "Between the World and me"; Gravlee, "How Race Becomes Biology"	Quiz 8, Exercise 5
Module 10	10/22-10/28	Language & Culture	AQ 4; Baldwin, "If Black English Isn't a Language..."	Quiz 9, Discussion 4
Module 11	10/29-11/4	Gender & Sexuality	AQ 10; Allen, "Brides without Husbands"	Quiz 10, Discussion 5
Module 12	11/5-11/11	Social Ties	AQ 11; Scheper-Hughes, "No More Angel Babies in the Alto do Cruzeiro"	Quiz 11, Exercise 6
Module 13	11/12-11/18	Religion	AQ 12; Gmelch, "Baseball Magic"	Quiz 12, Discussion 6
Module 14	11/19-11/29	Medical Anthro	AQ 13; Singer, "Why does Juan Garcia Have a Drinking Problem?"	Quiz 13, Discussion 7
Module 15	11/30-12/7	Sociality of Things	AQ 14; Condry, "Love Revolution"	Quiz 14, Final Project

NOTE: Please refer to the schedule in e-Learning for all due dates, it will be the most up to date if any deadlines should change during the semester. You will be notified of any revisions to this schedule via email and e-Learning.