

## Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

ANT 2410 Fall 2021

Tuesday | Period 8 & 9 (3 - 4:55 PM) - TUR L011

Thursday | Period 9 (4:05 - 4:55 PM) - TUR L011

**Instructor:** Cady Gonzalez

**Email:** [cadygonzalez@ufl.edu](mailto:cadygonzalez@ufl.edu)

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 2-3pm and Thursdays 2-4pm or by appointment. You will need to set up a meeting time in advance on Calendly (see Canvas). Meetings may be on Zoom or in-person (Turlington B331), which must be indicated before the meeting time.

### Course Description:

Anthropology is the discipline that studies humanity across space and time. Through research in places far away and close to home, anthropologists apply holistic approaches to examine questions on all aspects of human experience. Cultural anthropologists study the diverse ways people create, negotiate and make sense of their own social worlds, how they relate to each other and other cultures, and how they interact with their social-environmental contexts. Fundamental topics include kinship, gender, race, ethnicity, religion and belief systems, language and communication, economies and livelihoods, social organization, and human ecology, among others. Anthropology examines the commonalities and contrasts among human societies, how historical and current processes influence individual and societal well-being, and the ways that humans deal with societal and systemic challenges. While cultural anthropologists often focus on local and community levels, they also examine processes and linkages across local to global levels of analysis. Anthropology proposes, tests and critically examines theories with an aim to increase understanding, investigate problems, and identify possible solutions through a range of qualitative and quantitative methods. Many anthropologists incorporate interdisciplinary training and collaborative work as they investigate, analyze, and endeavor to address global conundrums. 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 essential to efforts to resolve the major crises that confront humanity today.

### Required Text:

Welsch, Robert and Luis Vivanco. 2019. *Asking Questions About Cultural Anthropology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

### Additional Required and Recommended Materials:

Additional required readings and materials, as well as recommended resources, will be available through Canvas.

**Class Objectives:** 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 appreciation for cultural diversity and sensitivity to social differences, while also underscoring the moral and ethical dimensions entailed by ethnographic research.

**Learning outcomes:**

- Identify, define, and explain central 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
- Express a basic understanding of anthropological modes of research and representation
- Develop awareness of the ethical implications of ethnographic fieldwork
- Apply key anthropological concepts to everyday life experiences
- Develop research questions and explore them in mini-projects.
- Practice participant observation

**Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access:** I value the perspectives of individuals from all backgrounds reflecting the diversity of our students. All individuals, irrespective of their gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religious affiliation, physical or learning ability, political affiliation, or any other perceived generalized differentiator, are welcome in this course. It is expected that we treat each other with respect and as equals. Treat one another as you want to be treated so that we can have valuable discussions in this course. Intolerant, inflammatory, or insulting behavior or speech is not acceptable.

**Communications and Netiquette:**

**Remember that all in-person and online communications -- discussion, posts, chats, email – should be respectful and polite.**

- Intellectual debate and contestation is an important part of learning and intellectual exchange. It is expected that students will have different perspectives and opinions, and everyone is welcome (and expected) to share their perspectives and understanding of information and concepts relevant to the course content. In all cases, the language and tone of the words is expected to remain respectful.
- Opinions, perspectives, personal experiences and hypotheses are valuable to share in a respectful manner. If you claim that something is a fact, you may be asked to support it with a verifiable and reputable source.
- When communicating with your instructor by email, please use professional language ("Dear XX...." and complete words and sentences (Not "r u available" but "Are you available..."). This is also good preparation for future business and professional communications.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please email your instructor. Emails are normally answered within 2 business days (usually sooner). If you do not receive an answer within 2 business days, please send the email again.
  - Before emailing your instructor with a question about course content or expectations, please check the information on Canvas thoroughly, including the Welcome page, the Course Overview and Policies, and the Syllabus.
- Please reach out for assistance regarding accommodations—I do not want inaccessibility to keep anyone from the opportunity to learn and grow. It is vitally important to keep your instructor informed if you are facing difficulties with meeting course expectations or deadlines. If you let me know promptly of difficulties that you are facing, I will work with you to find a

reasonable accommodation. Do not wait until the end of the semester. The sooner I learn of problems you may be encountering, the sooner I can find a way to address them or assist in finding resources that can help.

- Please wear a mask to show kindness and consideration for others.

### **Evaluative Components**

Total points: 230

- Quizzes: 5 Quizzes, 10 pts each (50 pts total)
- Discussion posts & peer commentary: 7 posts, 5 pts each (35 pts total)
- Team activity posts: 5 posts, 5 pts each (25 pts total)
- Two Mini-projects: 25 pts each (50 pts total)
- Midterm: 25 pts
- Final Essay: 20 pts
- Final Exam: 25 pts

### **Note on Evaluations**

- All of the assignments will be submitted online.
- Quizzes and exams will be online.
- Lecture PowerPoints and chapter outlines will be posted on Canvas as resources.
- Assignments will be posted on Canvas with detailed instructions, expectations and wide time frames between the opening time and the deadline.

### **Grading Policy**

**The course will be graded by standard percentages:**

A	100% to	94%
A-	< 94.0% to	90.0%
B+	< 90.0% to	87.0%
B	< 87.0% to	84.0%
B-	< 84.0% to	80.0%
C+	< 80.0% to	77.0%
C	< 77.0% to	74.0%
C-	< 74.0% to	70.0%
D+	< 70.0% to	67.0%
D	< 67.0% to	64.0%
D-	> 64.0% to	61.0%
F	< 61.0% to	0%

- Late Submissions: Late submissions of assignments will be discounted 10% per day. This is simply fair to those in the class who meet deadlines, otherwise they would be disadvantaged relative to those who take more time. Exceptions will be made for those who have documented illnesses and emergencies, or make prior arrangements to due to religious, athletic, or academic-related commitments.
- Policy on Plagiarism / Cheating: Plagiarism in written assignments (i.e. the copying of material without citation of the source) is unacceptable. It will lead to a zero on the assignment or paper if it is of a minor degree (less than a paragraph), and to a failing grade in the course in cases of extensive copying without citation. If you have doubts about when and how to cite sources, your instructor will be glad to answer your questions.

**Emergencies:** If you have a medical or family emergency that prevents you from completing an assignment or exam on time, or results in extended absence, bring it to the attention of professor as

soon as possible. Reasonable accommodations will be made with proper documentation. Medical conditions must be documented by a doctor's note. Other emergencies must be documented by an appropriate authority (check UF policies and with Cady).

#### **Class Attendance Policy:**

**If you have been exposed to a contagious disease (COVID19, flu) or if you are not feeling well for any reason – DO NOT COME TO CLASS.**

- **If you are feeling ill or have been exposed to a contagious disease, you do NOT need a doctor's note to miss 1-2 classes** (you WILL need a doctor's note to miss multiple consecutive classes due to illness or quarantine).
- If you need to miss a class for any reason, you need to email the instructor an explanation of why you are or will be absent. It is always acceptable to have absences for religious observances and university sponsored athletic or scholarly events (e.g., conferences, musical performances, etc). You must advise the instructor of such absences.
- Attendance is mandatory and critical to your success in this course.
- There are no attendance points for this class, so you do not lose points for missing class.
- If you are withheld from campus, then you cannot attend class until you are cleared.
- You are responsible for all material and information shared in class. It is a good idea to find classmates with whom you can exchange notes.
- If you miss a class and want to discuss missed material, make an appointment with your instructor to go over what you missed.
- **If you are ill or otherwise unable to complete assignments on time, then you will need to provide documentation (e.g., doctor's note)** to get an extension to submit a late assignment, quiz or exam.
- This class conforms to UF Attendance Policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/#illnesspolicytext>

**This course is aligned with the UF policies below.**

- **Contact Hours:** "Contact Hours" refers to the hours per week in which students are in contact with the instructor, excluding office hours or other voluntary contact. The number of contact hours in this course equals the number of credits the course offers.
- **Workload:** As a Carnegie I, research-intensive university, UF is required by federal law to assign at least 2 hours of work outside of class for every contact hour. Work done in these hours may include reading/viewing assigned material and doing explicitly assigned individual or group work, as well as reviewing notes from class, synthesizing information in advance of exams or papers, and other self-determined study tasks.
- **Accommodation for Student with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability

#### **Additional Course Policies and Information**

##### **Honor Code**

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.”*

In addition, students may not publish (including sharing with other students) any recording of a class lecture without the written consent of the lecturer. (See In-Class Recording below)

The Honor Code ([sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/](http://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-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 TA in this class.

### **UF Resources**

University Police: The UF police are together for a safe campus. Phone: 392-111 (911 for emergencies)  
<http://www.police.ufl.edu>

Career Connections Center: (352-392-1601 | [CareerCenterMarketing@ufsa.ufl.edu](mailto:CareerCenterMarketing@ufsa.ufl.edu)) connects job seekers with employers and offers guidance to enrich your collegiate experience and prepare you for life after graduation.

Counseling and Wellness Center (352-392-1575) provides counseling and support as well as crisis and wellness services including a variety of workshops throughout the semester (e.g., Yappy Hour, Relaxation and Resilience).

Dean of Students Office (352-392-1261) provides a variety of services to students and families, including Field and Fork (UF's food pantry) and New Student and Family programs

Disability Resource Center([DRCaccessUF@ufsa.ufl.edu](mailto:DRCaccessUF@ufsa.ufl.edu) | 352-392-8565) helps to provide an accessible learning environment for all by providing support services and facilitating accommodations, which may vary from course to course. Once registered with DRC, students will receive an accommodation letter that must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodations. Students should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Multicultural and Diversity Affairs (352-294-7850) celebrates and empowers diverse communities and advocates for an inclusive campus.

Office of Student Veteran Services (352-294-2948 | [vacounselor@ufl.edu](mailto:vacounselor@ufl.edu)) assists student military veterans with access to benefits.

ONE.UF is the home of all the student self-service applications, including access to:

- Advising
- Bursar (352-392-0181)
- Financial Aid (352-392-1275)
- Registrar (352-392-1374)

**Official Sources of Rules and Regulations:** The official source of rules and regulations for UF students is the Undergraduate Catalog and Graduate Catalog. Quick links to other information are provided below:

- Student Handbook
- Student Responsibilities, including academic honesty and student conduct code
- e-Learning Supported Services Policies includes links to relevant policies including Acceptable Use, Privacy, and many more
- Accessibility, including the Electronic Information Technology Accessibility Policy and ADA Compliance
- Student Computing Requirements, including minimum and recommended technology requirements and competencies

Week	Date	Topic	Readings & Additional Materials	Assignments
1	1/6	Introduction: Overview		Introduce Yourself Discussion post TBL Survey
2	1/11 & 1/13	Culture and Social Institutions: Core Concepts	Chs. 1 & 2 Why does anthropology matter?	Quiz 1 Team activity post
3	1/18 & 1/20	Research Methods & Ethics	Ch. 3 Brandt 1978	Discussion post & peer commentary
4	1/25 & 1/27	Language and Culture	Ch. 4 Baron 2000	Quiz 2 Team activity post
5	2/1 & 2/3	Globalization and Culture	Ch. 5	Discussion post & peer commentary Mini-project 1
6	2/8 & 2/10	Sustainability	Ch. 6 Oysters...	Quiz 3 Team activity post
7	2/15 & 2/17	Economics, Consumerism & Materiality	Ch. 7 & 14 Wilk 2012 The Invention of Money	Discussion post & peer commentary
8	2/22 & 2/24	Politics	Ch. 8	Discussion post & peer commentary
9	3/1 & 3/3	<b>Midterm Week</b> <i>No Class</i>	<b>None</b> <i>Cady at Workshop</i>	<b>Midterm Exam</b>
10	<b>3/8 &amp; 3/10</b>	<b>Spring Break - No Class</b>		
11	3/15 & 3/18	Understanding Identity and Social Inequality: Race, Ethnicity, Class	Ch. 9 Diaz 2020 American Arithmetic (Video) On a Mission for Preservation	Discussion post & peer commentary

12	3/22 & 3/24	Gender, Sex, and Sexuality	Ch. 10 Allen	Quiz 4; Team activity post
13	3/29 & 31	Kinship, Marriage & Family	Ch. 11	Discussion post & peer commentary; Mini Project 2
14	4/5 & 4/7	The Body, Health and Well-Being	Ch. 13 <i>Lissa</i> (entire novel)	Quiz 5; Team activity post
15	4/12 & 4/14	Religion, Spirituality and Ritual	Ch. 12 Gmelch 1992	Discussion post & peer commentary
16	4/19 & 4/21	Envisioning a Better World	Epilogue	
17	4/26 & 4/28	<b>Finals Week</b>		<b>Final Exam due Thursday 4/28</b>