

ANT 2410 – Summer B 2022

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology



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Course description: Anthropology is the academic discipline that studies humanity across 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 distant 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 confronting humanity today.

This class introduces 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 the life experiences of others and yourself. In so doing, the course aims to enhance sensitivity to social differences, while also underscoring the moral and ethical dimensions of 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 by the dynamics of power and through globalization, migration, and development
- 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 **online** course that uses Canvas to distribute and submit all course materials. You will find the syllabus, modules, quizzes, discussion boards, videos, grades, and course updates and announcements on the course website. 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 emailed directly to the instructor or your designated TA. Although we will do our best to respond to emails and the course questions discussion board as quickly as possible, please allow up to **48 hours** for a response, excluding weekends and holidays.

Office hours

The instructor and TAs are available to meet for office hours via Zoom. Please email your instructor or designated TA for access to their Zoom meeting rooms.

Required textbook (abbreviated in Course Schedule as AQ)

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

*****This course is participating in the UF All Access Program. To opt in for the reduced cost eBook, please visit: <https://www.bsd.ufl.edu/AllAccess/OptIn>
Print copies will also be available at the bookstore.*****

Additional readings and resources

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

Further resources

American Anthropological Association: <http://www.americananthro.org>

The Society for Cultural Anthropology: <https://cultanth.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 key concepts and ideas in Cultural Anthropology. You will actively participate in the **discussion boards** (7 total) and complete the **quizzes** (14 total) assigned **each week**.

You will also complete methodological and analytical **exercises** for **7 modules**.

The opportunity for **Extra Credit** is provided in this class. **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 term.**

Discussion Posts	7 x 10 points	70 points	20%
Quizzes	14 x 10 points	140 points	40%
Exercises	7 x 20 points	140 points	40%
Total		350 points	100%

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

Discussion Posts (20%) – 7 total

There will be **7 discussion boards** during the term. **Original posts** are **due by noon EST on Thursdays**. **Two responses** to your classmates' posts are **due by 11:59pm EST on Fridays**. 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 (40%) – 14 total

Each module (except for Module 1) includes a quiz, for a **total of 14 quizzes** during the term. Quizzes are **due by 11:59pm EST on Fridays**. Each quiz includes a set of 10 multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, or true/false questions. These are primarily based on the assigned textbook chapter, with 1-2 questions on supplementary readings. Quizzes have a **15-minute time limit**. Additional instructions and information can be found on Canvas.

Exercises (40%) – 7 total

You will be asked to complete methodological and analytical exercises for **7 modules**. These are short activities that should take about an hour to complete. They are meant to demonstrate your understanding of class concepts and encourage 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 class, or putting anthropological methods into practice. Complete details and instructions for each exercise can be found on Canvas under the Assignments tab.

Course schedule (subject to revision)

Module	Readings	Assignments
Week 1: June 27 – July 1		
1: Introduction	1) Syllabus & Start Here pages	none
2: Anthropology	1) AQ Chapter 1 2) “Why Anthropology Matters” statement by EASA	1) Discussion – 6/30 @ NOON EST + 2 replies – 7/1 @ 11:59pm EST 2) Quiz – 7/1 @ 11:59pm EST
3: Culture	1) AQ Chapter 2 2) Rothman	1) Quiz – 7/1 @ 11:59pm EST 2) Exercise 1 – 7/1 @ 11:59pm EST
Week 2: July 4 – 8		
4: Ethnography	1) AQ Chapter 3 2) Van Tilburg 1998	1) Quiz – 7/8 @ 11:59pm EST 2) Exercise 2 – 7/8 @ 11:59pm EST
5: Power	1) AQ Chapter 8	1) Quiz – 7/8 @ 11:59pm EST 2) Exercise 3 – 7/8 @ 11:59pm EST
6: Globalization	1) AQ Chapter 5 2) Holmes 2013	1) Quiz 7/8 @ 11:59pm EST 2) Discussion – 7/7 @ NOON EST + 2 replies 7/8 @ 11:59pm EST
Week 3: July 11 – 15		
7: Sustainability & Foodways	1) AQ Chapter 6	1) Quiz – 7/15 @ 11:59pm EST 2) Discussion – 7/14 @ NOON EST + 2 replies 7/15 @ 11:59pm EST
8: Economies	1) AQ Chapter 7 2) Newell 2006	1) Quiz – 7/15 @ 11:59pm EST 2) Exercise 4 – 7/15 @ 11:59pm EST
Week 4: July 18 – 22		
9: Language & Culture	1) AQ Chapter 4 2) Baldwin 1979	1) Quiz – 7/22 @ 11:59pm EST 2) Discussion – 7/21 @ NOON EST + 2 replies 7/22 @ 11:59pm EST
10: Race & Racism	1) AQ Chapter 10 2) Coates 2015 3) Gravlee 2009	1) Quiz – 7/22 @ 11:59pm EST 2) Exercise 5 – 7/22 @ 11:59pm EST
Week 5: July 25 – 29		
11: Gender, Sex, & Sexuality	1) AQ Chapter 10 2) Allen 2012	1) Quiz – 7/29 @ 11:59pm EST 2) Discussion – 7/28 @ NOON EST + 2 replies 7/29 @ 11:59pm EST
12: Social Ties	1) AQ Chapter 11	1) Quiz – 7/29 @ 11:59pm EST 2) Exercise 6 – 7/29 @ 11:59pm EST
13: Religion	1) AQ Chapter 12 2) Abu-Lughod 2002	1) Quiz – 7/29 @ 11:59pm EST 2) Discussion – 7/28 @ NOON EST + 2 replies 7/29 @ 11:59pm EST
Week 6: August 1 – 5		
14: Medical Anthropology	1) AQ Chapter 13 2) Singer 1992	1) Quiz – 8/5 @ 11:59pm EST 2) Discussion – 8/4 @ NOON EST + 2 replies 8/5 @ 11:59pm EST
15: Things	1) AQ Chapter 14 2) Condry 2013	1) Quiz – 8/5 @ 11:59pm EST 2) Exercise 7 – 8/5 @ 11:59pm EST

Grading

*****Note: Final grades will not be rounded.*****

Also note that a **minimum grade of C** is required for credit in major, minor, general education, Gordon Rule, or college basic distribution credit.

See UF's grading policy: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Grading scale:

93.0 – 100% = A
90.0 – 92.9% = A-
87.0 – 89.9% = B+
83.0 – 86.9% = B
80.0 – 82.9% = B-
77.0 – 79.9% = C+
73.0 – 76.9% = C
70.0 – 72.9% = C-
67.0 – 69.9% = D+
63.0 – 66.9% = D
60.0 – 62.9% = D-
00.0 – 59.9% = E

Letter grades assigned based on total percentage of points according to normal grade scale system.

Late policy

An assignment is considered late if it is not submitted electronically by the due date and time. Each additional 24 hours beyond that point will automatically reduce the maximum possible grade for the assignment by 5%. **Assignments will lose 5 percentage points for each day they are late (including weekends and holidays). No submissions will be accepted after a week from the deadline without arranged accommodation with the course instructor.**

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 within 48 hours after the coursework due date.

To arrange accommodation from the instructor to submit late work for this class, **you are required to submit the necessary written documentation.** This means a **doctor's note** if you are sick, or an **instructor notification** through the UF Dean of Students Office in the case of an emergency. The instructor notification process is outlined here:

<https://care.dso.ufl.edu/instructor-notifications/>

Any requests for **make-ups due to technical issues must** be accompanied by the **ticket number** received from the UF Computing Help Desk when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem and its resolution (further details in the following section). You **must** message your instructor **within 24 hours** of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

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 by calling 352-392-4357. The Help Desk is an excellent resource and is 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 alone sufficient excuses for missed or late assignments and require a Help Desk ticket number.** The Help Desk is located on the ground floor of the Hub on the UF campus. If technical difficulties that are beyond your control cause you to miss a due date, you **must** report the problem to the Help Desk and then email your instructor and the DSO. Include the ticket number that you are issued from the Help Desk in an email to the instructor to explain the late assignment submission.

Proof of technological fault must be provided by the student, which will then need to be verified through appropriate channels:

- <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu>
- 352-392-4357

Time management and technical issues

It is strongly recommended that you **do not wait until the last few hours to complete an assignment** in case you encounter a technical issue. Be advised that waiting until the last few hours to complete an assignment limits your options to solve a computer or internet failure. **A computer crash or internet dropping out at your location is not an appropriate excuse to retake an assignment.** A system-wide failure with Canvas that is confirmed by UF IT as the responsibility of UF is an appropriate excuse to retake an assignment. In such a circumstance, an announcement will be made to all students.

Online materials and communication

- **You are responsible for materials posted on E-Learning (Canvas)** at <https://elearning.ufl.edu/>, including required readings, announcements, emails, details on assignments, and other supplementary material. Canvas technical support available at <https://elearning.ufl.edu/student-help-faqs/>.
- The instructor and the TAs may use email through Canvas or Outlook to make general class announcements or to contact you directly about your work. **You are responsible for checking your official UF Outlook and Canvas email regularly** to be aware of communication from your instructors. There are no allowances for students who fail to read their email announcements or whose inboxes are full at the time an announcement is sent.

Class demeanor or Netiquette

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions, and chats. Please use proper greetings and salutations when writing to your instructors and be clear, kind, and respectful. Friendliness goes a long way and it will help you to succeed in this course and in life in general.

Online course evaluations – GatorEvals

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.aa.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.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

UF policies

Accommodating Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the

disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs as early as possible in the semester. **Ideally, student accommodation should be communicated to the instructor by the end of week 1.**

Academic Conduct: Cheating, copying other's work, plagiarism, and other acts of academic misconduct are unethical. UF and the instructor consider these to be serious offenses. 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 (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/students/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 questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or your designated TA in this class.

This course uses systems (such as Turnitin) that check for plagiarism from websites, publications, and fellow students at UF and other educational institutions. (Your instructor and TA can Google, too!) If there is an infraction, you will receive a warning as well as a zero (0%) for the assignment and you will be reported to the Dean of Students Office. After receiving a warning, if cheating persists, you will receive a zero (0%) for the subsequent assignment, you will be reported to the Dean of Students Office again, and you will incur further penalties that are administered by the Dean of Students Office.

Once you have been reported for cheating or plagiarism, you cannot drop the class. Plagiarism includes copying from websites, from other students, or from previous work that you have submitted. **Self-plagiarism** is real and will not be tolerated: you **cannot** duplicate your work from other courses. Any direct quotes should be properly cited with the author, date or publication, and page number(s). If you have questions about this, please review citation at https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html and/or use the Course Questions discussion board or email your instructor or TA 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.

Basic guidelines for not plagiarizing:

- Do not copy and paste from any website
- Write in your own words
- Do not collaborate with fellow students on any assignment unless otherwise instructed
- Use in-text citations when using direct quotes, when paraphrasing, or when citing original research (see https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html)

Harassment and discrimination

"Harassment" is defined as conduct that (1) is of any type (written, oral, graphic, or physical), (2) is directed towards or against a person because of their personal status (i.e., race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, political affiliation, national origin, age, disability, marital status, pregnancy or others), and that (3) unreasonably interferes with the individual's work, education, or participation in activities or programs at UF or creates a working or learning environment that a reasonable person would find threatening. "Discrimination" is defined as a

conduct that (1) adversely affects any aspect of an individual's employment, education, or participation in activities or programs at UF, and (2) is based on one or more personal characteristics listed above. Any student who feels that his/her rights have been violated may speak to the instructor who will direct the complaint through the proper university channels, or the student may directly file a complaint with UF Department of Human Resources.

Campus resources

Students experiencing personal problems that are interfering with their academic performance are encouraged to contact Student Affairs, DRC, and/or the Counseling and Wellness Center

- UF Student Affairs: <https://ufsa.ufl.edu/> or <https://care.dso.ufl.edu/>
- Disability Resource Center (DRC): www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/
- Counseling and Wellness Center: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>, 392-1575
- Health and Wellness U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or (352) 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Academic resources

- E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learningsupport@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>
- Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
 - Anthropology Library Page:
<http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/c.php?g=963561&p=6959964%5C>
 - **Ginessa Mahar** (anthropology Librarian): gjmahar@ufl.edu, office: Library West Room 500
- Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers or presentations. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>