
Cultural Anthropology

Course:	Cultural Anthropology – ANT 2410 (4107)
Professor:	Andrew Tarter
Contact Info:	andrew.tarter@ufl.edu (preferred); Tel # (emergencies only): _____ (write in here)
Office Location:	TBA _____ (write in here)
Office Hours:	TBA _____ (write in here)
Classroom Location:	LIT 101
Course Meeting Times:	Daily, Monday through Friday, Period 4 (12:30-1:45)
Course web site:	https://lss.at.ufl.edu/

Equal Rights Statement

All activities in this course are open to all persons, with non-discrimination with respect to race, ethnicity, creed, color, religion, age, disability, gender, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations. However, intentional hate speech of any sort will not be tolerated in this course.

Course Overview and Objectives

This is an introductory course on *cultural* anthropology—one of four subfields of anthropology (the others being biological/physical anthropology, linguistic anthropology, and archaeology).

A major goal of cultural anthropology is to promote understanding, appreciation, and respect for our world's vast diversity of human beliefs and behaviors, and their interactions in sociocultural systems.

Complementary to meeting this goal, the course is designed to improve your knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation skills.

We meet these goals through watching films, reading and writing assignments, class discussions, and presentations, all conducted in a respectful and thought-provoking environment. Students will be exposed to different concepts, theories, methods and approaches of anthropological inquiry, contextualized through topics such as language, gender, race, ethnicity, kinship, social organization, art, political structures, applied anthropology, and many others (please see the reading list).

The specific objectives of this course are:

1. To develop *knowledge* of the different concepts, theories, methods, and epistemologies in cultural anthropology;
2. To *comprehend* how these ideas developed and have changed over time to define and distinguish the varied approaches of cultural anthropologists;
3. To *apply* your comprehension of anthropological approaches to a diversity of social and cultural belief and behavioral systems;
4. To *analyze* any benefits or drawbacks to different approaches applied in different contexts;
5. To *synthesize* your comprehension of anthropological approaches (consecutive writing assignments);
6. To critically *evaluate* ideas and behaviors from an anthropological standpoint, and articulate any shortcomings of your chosen approach (final presentation).

Required Texts

Please ensure you purchase the correct edition and year:

1. Schultz, Emily A. and Robert H. Lavenda. 2013. Cultural Anthropology: A Perspective on the Human Condition. 9th Edition. Oxford University Press.
2. Spradley, James and David W. McCurdy. 2012. Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology, 14th edition. Boston: Pearson Press.
3. Additional readings can and will be assigned, and are available through e-learning: (<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/>).

Course Structure & Requirements

EXAMS and FINAL

There are two (2) exams and one (1) comprehensive final exam in this class. The format for exams and the final is true/false and multiple-choice. Exams will be administered through the use of *Scantron* sheets. Students must bring their own #2 pencils on exam days.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

Writing assignments (3 total for the semester) are due every-other week. Writing assignments are to be 1 page (no more, no less), single-spaced, 12-point *Times New Roman* font (do not manipulate the margins), and should critically reflect on preceding readings and class discussions. Topics will be announced as the class progresses.

POP QUIZES

Ten pop (unannounced) quizzes will be administered throughout the course, and will cover the readings assigned for that day. Completing the assigned readings and coming prepared to discuss them are important parts of this course.

GROUP PRESENTATION

Every student will be required to participate in a final group presentation. You will be assigned to a group of 4-5 people, and provided class time to meet during the semester. Each group will eventually select a topic that we have touched on in class. Your presentation should analyze, synthesize, and evaluate that topic based on anthropological concepts and theories discussed in class and in the assigned readings. Presentations will occur during the last week of class. We will discuss the presentations in detail.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Attendance is important and expected, and represents 10% of your final grade. Attendance will be taken every day on roll sheets, or through pop quizzes.

Participation is important and expected, and represents 10% of your final grade. Participation is measured in two ways: (1) by your contribution to your groups' presentation (you will each anonymously assign participation points to the other members in your group); and (2) through your contribution (or lack of contribution) to class discussions and exercises.

Assignment	% of Total Grade
Exam I	10
Exam II	10
Final Exam	10
Writing Assignments (3)	30 (10% each)
Pop Quizzes (10)	10 (1% each)
Group Presentation	10
Attendance	10
Participation	10
TOTAL:	100

Grading

Grades will be determined based on the following breakdown:

Grading Breakdown												
Grade %	100-93	92.9-90	89.9-87	86.9-83	82.9-80	79.9-77	76.9-73	72.9-70	69.9-67	66.9-63	62.9-60	x<60
Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E, I, NG, S-U, WF
Grade Points	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.00	.67	0.00

Grade Posting

When they become available, grades will be posted on e-learning.
DO NOT WRITE THE INSTRUCTOR TO INQUIRE ABOUT INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT GRADES (check e-learning instead).

48-Hour Grade Dispute Policy

Students who wish to discuss grades on assignments and exams should contact the instructor within 48 hours of posting to arrange a meeting time. Please do not wait until the end of the semester to question grades or request special consideration. Forty-eight hours after posting, all grades are final.

Attendance and Make-up Policy

This is a short semester: Attendance is important and expected, and represents 10% of your final grade. Class sessions are crucial to learning in this course, and missing constitutes a serious loss. There are six weeks scheduled for this course. Students with 5 or more *unexcused* absences (1/6th of the entire course) will automatically receive a failing grade for the course. Note that 4 *unexcused* absences will still adversely affect your grade (see grade breakdown). Attendance will be taken faithfully, in the first two minutes of each class session. If you are not present for attendance, approach the instructor immediately after the session to receive ½ credit for arriving late. Oversleeping, missing the bus, or failure to find parking, are not considered valid excuses for absence¹.

Excusable absences (personal illness, family illness, emergency, etc.) must be accompanied by appropriate documentation. For example, students wishing to excuse an absence due to personal illness need to provide the instructor with a doctor's note with a phone number on the note, within one week of the illness. I follow up on all doctors' notes and other documentation.

Students anticipating an absence (job interview, religious holidays, etc.) should: (1) inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester; (2) send an email reminder a week before the scheduled absence; and (3) provide adequate documentation upon return. Documentation for anticipated absences must be verifiable, and will also be followed-up on. There are no make-ups for quizzes, exams, or final presentations, unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor².

Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty* (cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation, bribery, conspiracy, fabrication, etc.) will not be tolerated in any way. Students who

¹ If you consistently have this issue, a good strategy is to set your morning alarm clock back 15 minutes, to allow yourself ample time to get to class.

² Prior arrangements do not include a last-minute email; please follow the steps provided.

conduct themselves in an academically dishonest fashion will receive a zero grade for the course and will be reported to the proper university authorities. Papers will be checked for plagiarism through the “Turn It In” function of E-learning. Please consult the UF *Student Honor Code**, which all students agree to when registering for classes:

“In adopting this Honor Code, the students of the University of Florida recognize that academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students who enroll at the University commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the Honor Code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the Honor Code is bound by honor to take corrective action. Student and faculty support are crucial to the success of the Honor Code. The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon the community acceptance and enforcement of the Honor Code.”

*More information on academic honesty:

<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html>

Student Conduct

The use of cell phones, laptops, or other similar devices during the course is strictly prohibited. Researchers from Princeton and UCLA have found that ‘students who took notes on laptops performed worse on conceptual questions than students who took notes longhand’ and show that ‘laptop note takers’ tendency to transcribe lectures verbatim rather than processing information and reframing it in their own words is detrimental to learning’ (Mueller 2014: 1).

Furthermore, using laptops and cellphones is disrespectful to the instructor, and distracting to other students. The only exception to fulltime laptop use during seminars requires documentation from the Office of Disability Services (see above for contact info) or by special arrangement with the instructor, with supporting documentation (examples: student is a parent of small children, a caretaker, or other extenuating circumstance). I will follow-up thoroughly on exemption on requests.

Students are creative; I have seen many ingenious attempts to get around cellphone policies. However, there is nothing so interesting about your navel, your jacket pocket, or the bottom of your backpack or purse that requires your sustained and continued attention to these areas. Please respect this policy. Thank you.

Additionally, every single student must uphold the *Student Honor Conduct Code*.* Appropriate action as defined by University of Florida policy will be taken if students fail to uphold the Student Honor and Conduct Code.

- More info on Student Conduct:
<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studentguide/studentconductcode.php>

Special Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities must register with the Dean of Students office. Contact the Assistant Dean of Students/Director of the Disability Resources Program at:

P202 Peabody Hall
Gainesville, FL 32611-5055
Phone (352) 392-1261 (V), 392-3008 (TDD)

UF Counseling Services

If you are experiencing resolvable stress related to course material, please come see me during as soon as possible (see office hours on first page). If you need emotional and/or psychological support, please contact the Counseling Center: 301 Peabody Hall - Phone (352) 392-1575 (www.counsel.ufl.edu).

Course Meeting, Reading, & Assignment Schedule

WEEK 1

(June 29-July 3)

- M: Welcome**
Introduction to the course, review syllabus, expectations, class survey
- T: What is anthropology? What is culture?**
READING³: Schultz & Lavenda (S&L): Chapters 1 and 2
- W: Anthropological ideas, theories, fieldwork, and ethnography I**
READING: S&L: Chapters 3 and 4
- R: Anthropological ideas, theories, fieldwork, and ethnology II**
READING: Spradley and McCurdy (S&M): Chapter 1
WRITING ASSIGNMENT # 1 DUE
*Form Groups and Meet to Discuss Final Presentations
- F: Language and Communication**
READING: S&L: Chapter 5, S&M: Chapter 2

WEEK 2

(July 6-10)

- M: Ecology, Subsistence, and Livelihoods**
READING: S&L: Chapter 9, and S&M: Chapter 3
- T: Economic Systems**
READING: S&M: Chapter 4
- W: Meaning, Myth, Art, Ritual, Worldview and Religion I**
READING: S&L: Chapter 6 and 7

³ Readings are listed on the day they will be discussed in class; if a reading is listed on Tuesday, read it on or before Monday.

R: Meaning, Myth, Art, Ritual, Worldview and Religion II

READING: S&M: Chapter 8

*Review for Exam I

F: EXAM I

WEEK 3

(July 13-17)

M: FILM: T.B.A.

T: Kinship, Family, Sex and Gender I

READING: S&L: Chapter 10

W: Kinship, Family, Sex and Gender II

READING: S&M: Chapter 5

R: Marriage and Conjuality

READING: S&L: Chapter 11

F: Identity, Roles, and Groups

READING: S&M: Chapter 6

WRITING ASSIGNMENT # 2 DUE

WEEK 4

(July 20-24)

M: Social Inequality

READING: S&L: Chapter 12

T: Power

READING: S&L: Chapter 8

W: War I

READING: T.B.A.

R: War II

READING: T.B.A.

*Review for Exam II

F: EXAM II

WEEK 5

(July 27-31)

M: Globalization and Development I

READING: S&L: Chapter 14

T: Globalization and Development II

READING: S&M: Chapter 9

W: Law and Politics

READING: S&M: Chapter 7

WRITING ASSIGNMENT # 3 DUE

R: Culture Change and Applied Anthropology I

READING: S&M: Chapter 10

F: Culture Change and Applied Anthropology II

READING: S&L: Chapter 13

WEEK 6
(August 3-7)

- M: GROUP A - PRESENTATIONS**
*Group Evaluations By Groups B, C, and D
- T: GROUP B - PRESENTATION**
*Group Evaluations By Groups A, C, and D
- W: GROUP C - PRESENTATIONS**
*Group Evaluations By Groups A, B, and D
- R: GROUP D - PRESENTATIONS**
*Group Evaluations By Groups A, B, and C
*Course Evaluations
*Review for final exam
- F: FINAL EXAM (NO MAKEUPS!)**

[Have a great summer!]

[Please sign and submit the last page (below) to your instructor]

Cultural Anthropology ANT 2410 (4107), Summer B, 2015

Read the above syllabus closely, fill out the fields below, remove this page from your syllabus, and turn it in to the instructor:

By signing below, you indicate that you have read and understand the above syllabus, and you understand your obligations and what is required of you to succeed in this class:

_____ (Student name, printed)

_____ (Student signature)

_____ (Today's date)