

Anth 201: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

See also: [Video Prompt Assignment](#) | [Video Prompts](#)
[Community Action Project](#) | [Student Comments](#)

Syllabus Kathleen Saunders

Required Texts

Elvio Angeloni, ed. 2006. *Annual Editions in Anthropology*, 07/08.
Barbara D. Miller. 2007. *Cultural Anthropology*, 4th edition with AntroLab.
Optional: *Honky*

Course Objectives

The objectives of this course are:

1. to introduce the theoretical and methodological grounds of the discipline of anthropology
2. to provide the conceptual tools to think broadly and deeply about the concept of culture
3. to tie the concept of culture to such institutions as family, religion, governance, and economic life
4. to give students a rich appreciation of the "many ways of being human" developed through time and across peoples

Requirements

Students are responsible for the contents of the assigned readings, videos, lectures, and group exercises. I do not directly lecture the written material but I am always willing to discuss questions that arise from the readings. I strongly recommended that you make a "note buddy" with whom you can share notes in the event that you miss class for illness or emergency. The films are carefully chosen to provide ethnographic examples of concepts. If you miss a video, I recommended that you take the initiative to view it on your own.

Exams

There will be three objective exams (multiple choice and true/false) covering the course content including the Miller text, the Annual Edition readings, lectures, and videos. The final exam is not comprehensive. Make-up exams will be essay format. Students who miss a mid-term must request a make-up exam in writing and have a valid excuse for missing the exam.

*ESL students may use a dictionary during exams. The dictionary must be approved by the instructor or the TA prior to beginning the exam.

Assignments

Response Papers

You will write nine short papers (300 – 500 words) in response to the ethnographic videos shown in class. Ten opportunities to write response papers will arise during the quarter. Prompting questions about the videos are posted to Blackboard; students may use these prompts to guide their response papers or choose a topic of their own that the video provoked for them. Late papers will not be accepted. Guidelines, tips, and grading standards for response papers are posted on Blackboard. Outstanding response papers will be posted to Blackboard (with permission of the author) as models.

All response papers are due on Monday the week after the video is shown. Papers responding to the video shown during the last week of class are due in my faculty mailbox (AH 315E) by 10 AM Monday of finals week. Graded papers will be returned in your discussion groups one week after they are submitted.

Discussion Groups

Fridays are devoted to small group discussions about the Annual Editions articles assigned that week

with a discussion leader. Attendance will be taken for credit and assignments will be collected. The Friday assignment is always the same. First, extract the thesis of the AE article and write it in one sentence in your own words. Second, formulate a question for further research based on the article. You must do this two step assignment for each of the readings assigned that week. No partial credit will be given -- you get full credit for a complete assignment and no credit for a partial assignment. Your assignments must be typed according to the paper production guidelines.

Attendance

This is a large lecture class – attendance will not be taken except on Friday during small group discussions. Experience has shown, however, that there is a strong correlation between regular attendance and grade points earned. Despite the size, I attempt to make class an interactive space for a "community of learners." Your contributions are valuable – to your self and the other students.

Grading

3 Exams @ 100 pts each 300
6 Response papers @ 10 pts each 60
9 Annual Editions assignments 45
9 Attendance points 18
Ethics project 75
Total possible points 508

Letter grades assigned according to standard Western scale.

BLACKBOARD

Blackboard is Western Washington University's online system for course information and communication. Students should find this course listed from their "My Western" homepage. The course syllabus, reading and exam schedule, paper guidelines and topics, supplementary materials and reminders will be posted on Blackboard. You are responsible for checking this site often. If you use a non-Western email account, set your Western account to forward to the account you use daily. This way you will not miss late breaking announcements!

Please note: Western and the instructors are committed to equal opportunity and non-discrimination in education. The Office of Student Life, x3844, assists students who require accommodation or assistance to maximize their educational potential. Please advise the instructor during the first week of the quarter if you have specific needs to facilitate learning or testing.

Academic Honesty

Standards of academic honesty will be rigorously upheld. Consult your student handbook for WWU policies concerning academic honesty. (Online at <http://catalog.wwu.edu/content.php?catoid=5&navoid=463>).

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