Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, ANTH 201

Western Washington University

This is a fully online section of ANTH 201. During the quarter, we will explore human cultures in all their diversity with a focus on the dynamics shared by all cultures and culture change/evolution. Through readings, films, and discussions we will study indigenous cultures to understand how the interaction of basic structures have given rise to variation in human societies. As a result, we will have an expanded understanding of and respect for other cultures.

Instructor

Kathleen M. Kuba, Instructor, Department of Anthropology

Textbooks - There are two required textbooks that you must have access to before class begins. One text is a fully online, open, free textbook with chapters as pdf's embedded in each module. The other text you must purchase or use as a loan.

Brown, Nina, Laura Tubelle de Gonzales, and Thomas McIlwraith (eds). 2017. *Perspectives: An Open Invitation to Cultural Anthropology*. American Anthropological Association: SACC. (Free, online text)

Peters-Golden, Holly. 2012. *Culture Sketches, Case Studies in Anthropology*, 4th, 5th or 6th edition. 6th - ISBN 978-0-07-811702-2. (Copies of this textbook are available via online sources at reduced prices; there are copies in the Western book store as well - usually both new and used.) Please note that though you can use the previous edition of the Peters-Golden text, the course is based on the 6th edition and previous editions will vary in the chapter titles/numbers and other details.

The course chart ANTH 201 Course Chart SP2019.docx, lists all the readings, films, and assignments for each module.

Big Ideas

- Cultures are dynamic, changing systems.
- Surprisingly all human cultures have the same basic structures.
- Foragers, herders, gardeners, farmers, or industrialists – we are all part of one of these economies.
- Who can you marry? Who do you call "mother"? Social organizations are a complex set of rules.
- Political structures are shaped by economic and social strategies.
- Appealing to the supernatural is present in all human societies.
- Language and culture – the classic chicken and egg conundrum.
- Crafts, visual arts, music, dance, drama – how do you express yourself?
- Take a close look at a drum. Who made it? Can you identify the materials used? How is it used, by whom, when?

- If a photo is worth a thousand words, how many words is an ethnographic film worth?
- We are concerned about animal extinctions. What about ethnocide? Indigenous cultures and their languages are disappearing.
- What happens if we no longer use racial categories?

Objectives

After this course students will be able to:

1. Analyze the dynamics of cultures
2. Identify how cultural traits manifest in societies, artifacts, etc.
3. Illustrate cultural change via examples from class
4. Exemplify a non-ethnocentric view of cultural study
5. Assess the impact of globalization on cultural survival
6. Apply tools and strategies used by cultural anthropologists

Anthropology Degrees

If you are interested in majoring in Anthropology at Western review the department website at https://chss.wwu.edu/anthropology (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site. for details on what is required for each of the majors. You can always call the Anthropology Department to make an appointment to discuss the major options, 360.650.3620.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon graduation, anthropology majors will be able to:

1. demonstrate a deep understanding of humankind, both past and present.
2. acquire knowledge of principles and primary data in each of the four sub-fields and appreciate their interconnections (cultural anthropology; linguistic anthropology; archaeology; and biological anthropology) and understand professional ethics.
3. analyze and organize the knowledge gained in order to demonstrate an appreciation of the diversity of humankind.
4. know how to engage in the practical application of anthropology in the community.
5. view their education in anthropology as relevant to their lives post-graduation.

Canvas Learning Management System (LMS)

Success in this course is dependent on having regular access to Western's Canvas site and the potential to stream films. Currently Google Chrome is the most compatible browser, though others can be used. You can always access WWU Canvas and find your class via "Courses" in the far left menu with a blue banner. If you are new to Canvas I recommend that you review this introduction. For help with Western technology contact ATUS at 360.650.3333 or helpdesk@wwu.edu.

To help you navigate through the class and Canvas I have all materials organized into nine modules with the final exam for the shorter summer quarter. Modules are found in the column to the near left. The course chart in Module One is an at-a-glance "map" to the course with all themes, assignments, and due dates on one page. I make extensive use of Announcements (at top of near left column) to guide and support everyone though the course, so be sure to review them carefully.

Required Course Activity

Course activity includes readings in each module from one or both textbooks, a film to view via a streaming link, discussion questions, and assignments. All modules are organized in a similar format:

- Things To Do listing all that you need to complete for each module/week
- Notes that I provide for highlights of each chapter and film
- Discussion questions for all ten modules
- Assignment and rubric or quiz in four modules
- Final and rubric after Module 10

Students are expected to complete all the work of each module during the time frame. Responsibility for completing each module and the class falls to each student, though the instructor is active in class almost daily and is available to support students. For a passing grade or better, students should expect to spend 8 to 15 hours a week working on the readings, material in Canvas, links, and assignments for this 5-credit class. If you need help at any time email or call me.

Assignments, Points, and Grades

A total of 500 points is possible

Refer to the rubrics for the discussions, informant report with kinchart, artifact essay, and final essay exam for the grading criteria and points. Use each rubric as a guide to meet the goals of the assignment and to maximize your points. Rubrics are found in the modules with each assignment.

Online Discussion participation, 15 points for each module, = a total of 150 potential points for 10 modules

Students are expected to be active throughout each module/week by posting to the Discussion Monday through Sunday at 11 pm with substantial postings to each of the four questions and a thoughtful reply to a posting by someone else. More postings and short comments are encouraged. Five are necessary to potentially gain full points for each discussion group. Points are awarded per module with a maximum of 15 points.

Postings close each Sunday at 11 pm and are graded in a day or two. New questions release each Monday at 12:01 am. Review the Online Discussion rubric found in Module One. It will describe the grading criteria and point values.

Written assignments, 140 points

Interview Report and Kinchart, 70 points   Review assignment in module three

Artifact Essay, 70 points   Review assignment in module seven

Quizzes, 120 points

Two quizzes consisting of a mix of multiple choice, T/F, and short answer questions are worth 60 points each. Quizzes are in modules five and nine and are available from 6 am on Saturday until 11 pm on Sunday.

Final Essay Exam, 90 points

You will be asked to respond to two questions composing a 2- to 3-page essay for each. With each essay worth 45 points, the total for the final is 90 points. The Final Essay Exam is found in the Final module once it releases on the last day of the quarter. I will provide more details about the exam in the final weeks of class.

ANTH 201 Course Chart SP2019.docx is your reference for all assignments and the due dates; they are listed in the right column.

Final grades will be assigned per points accumulated during class

A	=	**450 points or higher**
B	=	**400 to 449 points**
C	=	**350 to 399 points**
D	=	**300 to 349 points**
F	=	**299 points or less**

EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES

I use Announcements in the Canvas class to communicate with students. Check it often!

In Case of Absence

All work must be completed by the due dates. In an emergency situation, please get in touch with me about the reason for the late assignment (i.e., that it was an emergency) at your first possible opportunity.

Submission of Work

The course is structured in weekly modules. As all information builds on material from previous weeks, participants are expected to stay current with discussions and assignments. Assignments are submitted via a link with each assignment or via Discussion thread

Rules of Engagement

This class is founded on the standpoint that *diversity in humankind is a strength*. Students are expected to treat those with differing opinions, attitudes, abilities, and learning styles with respect. Students are encouraged to always interact in a positive and respectful manner. At no time are participants allowed to disrespect others on a personal, socio-cultural, or on any other basis that may not be cited here. My role and goal is to foster a climate of respect, engagement, and inclusion throughout the course. For guidelines on Netiquette (i.e., etiquette for online communications) please see http://www.studygs.net/netiquette.htm (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site..

Prompt Feedback

I work to provide timely feedback and grading of assignments when assignments are submitted by deadlines. Comments are included on all written assignments, via frequent replies in Discussions, sometimes in email messages, and sometimes in Announcements. Comments on Discussion postings is ongoing with grading taking place a day or two after the close of a module. Quizzes are usually graded in two days. Commenting on and grading written assignments takes five to seven days to complete; I return assignments once complete the grading of all on-time submissions.

Technology

Students are expected to have a basic working knowledge of computers, the internet, email, and word processing when taking online classes. You will need:

- Regular access to a computer with a high speed internet connection
- A recent media player such as Windows Media Player or VLC Media Player
- Microsoft Office or another office suite
- Adobe Acrobat or other PDF reader

Technology Support

A wide variety of technology support is available ATUS Help Desk. For help with Western technology contact ATUS at 360.650.3333 or helpdesk@wwu.edu.

Statement of Flexibility and Spontaneity

As the instructor, I reserve the right to update, amend, and retool the schedule and syllabus during the quarter if necessary; and at times will add unannounced content to the workshop. However, fair warning will be given the material will not unduly add to the existing workload nor affect final completion requirements. Most such additions are an extension to the material already listed for the course.

Academic Honesty

Students are responsible for reading, understanding, and following the policy and procedures regarding academic dishonesty as set forth in the *WWU Academic Honesty Policy and Procedure* (see Appendix D of the University BulletinLinks to an external site.).

For additional information on Academic Integrity, refer to the WWU Academic Integrity web page.Links to an external site.

Be sure to cite the source of any text, graphic, or idea that is not your own. You must avoid plagiarism; that is presenting others' work as your own work in whole or in part without acknowledging the source. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Using another person's written or spoken words
- Using information from an Internet site or other electronic sources
- Using statistics, graphs, charts, maps and photos
- Paraphrasing, which is using someone's argument without acknowledging the source by imitating the argument using other words

Reasonable Accommodation Policy

It is the policy of Western Washington University to provide reasonable accommodation to the known physical, sensory, or mental limitations of qualified individuals except where such accommodation would impose undue hardship on the institution. To request accommodation, contact WWU disAbility Resources for Students (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site. or call at 360-650-3083.

Third-Party Software and FERPA

Though not required by this instructor during the course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software (i.e. Google Docs, YouTube). Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname (ensuring the facilitators know how to identify you). Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identifiable/sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.

Course Evaluation Process

All students will be given the opportunity to evaluate the instructor and the content of the course at the end of the quarter. This feedback will be anonymous and will not count in the participant's completion requirements. The University takes all feedback seriously and we encourage you to complete the evaluation at the end of the quarter.

Copyright

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as media clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to Fair Use and/or Creative Commons licensing. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items without permission. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

References

There are many references including books, articles, and websites that you will find listed throughout the class in "notes" provided by the instructor and in the textbooks.