

Global Cultures ANTH 2322-001
Spring 2014
An Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
UH 09: Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 11:00-11:50

Instructor: Dr. Ritu G Khanduri
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Office: UH 417
Office Hours: Wed: 12:50-1: 50
& by appointment

Course Objectives:

The goal of this course is to introduce students to key anthropological concepts in order to develop a critical perspective of culture. Three central themes frame the selection of readings: Ethnographic Methods, Cultural Constructions of Reality, and Globalization. Readings focus on diverse geographical areas to encourage students to develop an analytical approach to better understand other cultures as well as their own everyday practices and beliefs.

Course Format:

The course format includes lectures, film screenings, discussions, debates, and team-based in - class exercises. Evaluation will be based on participation, an essay, quizzes, a mid -term exam and a final exam. In order to encourage debate, discussion, and active learning the class will be organized into teams. Extra credit for this course will be based on peer feedback and the team's collective performance. Additional details about Team Based Learning and participation grade will be explained on the first day of class.

Required Texts

Spradley, James, and David McCurdy. 2012. *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*. Allyn & Bacon; 14th edition.

Constable, Nicole, 2003. *Romance on a Global Stage*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Supplementary and optional readings will be available as a handout or electronically on the **course web site**

Other Requirements: Please plan to attend the South Asia Event on Monday, Feb 10 from 1:00-5:00 PM at the Central Library, 6th Floor. Details will be discussed in class.

Please switch off your cell phone and laptop (except when taking class notes) during class. No early exits or late entries are permitted. Professional conduct is required.

Requirements and Evaluation

Grades in the course will be assigned according to the following scale:

100-90 = A

80-89 = B

70-79 = C

60-69 = D 0-59 = F

Attendance in class is mandatory. You are allowed two unexcused absences during the semester. Any additional unexcused absences will result in the loss of two points for each absence from your final grade for the course. If you will be absent for religious holiday observance, sports activities, or other legitimate reasons, please provide appropriate documentation and make sure I know ahead of time. You are responsible for acquiring class notes for missed classes.

Class participation is required and expected. We will have regular in-class discussions of the course readings, films, lectures and host guest speakers. All students are expected to contribute to discussions by reading the assigned material by the due date and where applicable, submitting questions/comments and feedback. Participation counts for 10% of the overall course grade. Undocumented absences will affect your participation grade.

Quizzes, Essay, Exams and Participation:

3 Team Quizzes (10 points each)	= 40 points
Mid Term Exam (Quiz)	= 25 points
Final Exam (Quiz)	= 25 points
Participation	= 10 points
Total	= 100 points

Extra Credit up to **5 percentage points added to your final grade for this course** will be based on bonus points earned from team quizzes (including the Mid Term Exam and Final Exam). The three highest scoring teams in each quiz will earn bonus points. Details will be discussed in the introductory class.

Final Essay will be a take-home 800 word reflective piece of writing to be submitted in class. It will be based on a question posted on the course website in advance of the due date.

Quizzes: Multiple-choice questions based on the course material including lectures and films.

Make-up Quizzes and exams will only be given in the event of a documented illness or emergency.

Team Based Learning (TBL) requires you to attend class, prepare, and participate as a team on quiz days. In order to make TBL more effective you may be asked for one anonymous peer feedback during the semester. Peer feedback will be considered for partially determining the individual grade for participation.

Measurable Learning Outcomes

- Define basic anthropological concepts and apply them to everyday life.
- Identify, discuss and compare different cultural customs related to the family, economy, politics and religion.
- Describe theories developed by anthropologists that study human behavior.
- Observe cultural interactions and conduct ethnographic interviews in a culturally respectful way, and summarize findings clearly and effectively in written form.
- Question commonly held assumptions about what is “normal” or “natural in human experience.
- Discuss the way anthropology has been used to work on contemporary problems.

Email will be used as a means of communication with students. You will be responsible for checking your UTA e-mail regularly for class work and announcements.

The **course website** hosts a copy of the syllabus, supplementary and optional readings, and external links. If you are unable to access your email or course website after the second week of the semester then please contact UTA's OIT Help Desk at (817) 272-2208.

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://web.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

Americans with Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Academic Integrity: Students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule 50101*, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

Student Support Services: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and

federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located at the end of the corridor. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

Week 1: Jan. 13-17

Monday

- Introduction and Overview of the Course

Wednesday

- Film Screening: *American Tongues* by Louis Alvarez & Andrew Kolkar (1984)
- Discussion

Friday

- What is Anthropology? Key concepts

- “Genevieve Bell: Intel’s secret weapon” <http://www.tgdaily.com/hardware-opinion/50438-genevieve-bell-intel%E2%80%99s-secret-weapon>
- Anthropology of Romance and “Sites of desire”

Week 2: Jan. 20-24

Monday

- No Class: MLK Holiday

Wednesday

What is culture? What is fieldwork?

- James Spradley, ‘Ethnography and Culture’ in Spradley and McCurdy (All readings, unless specified, are from this textbook)
- Culture and Ethnography
R. B. Lee, ‘Eating Christmas in the Kalahari’

Friday

- George Gmelch, ‘Nice Girls Don’t Talk to Rastas’
- Claire E. Sterk, Fieldwork on Prostitution in the Era of AIDS

Week 3: Jan 27-31

Monday

Language and Communication

- Bohannan, ‘Shakespeare in the Bush’

Wednesday

- Guy Deutscher, ‘Whorf Revisited’
- Deborah Tannen, ‘Conversation Style: Talking on the Job’ Chpt. 9

Friday

- Sarah Boxer, ‘Manipulating Meaning’
- Film Screening: *Brokpa: The Outsiders* by Chaitali Mukherjee

Week 4: Feb 3-7

Monday

Ecology and Subsistence

- Richard Lee, ‘The Hunters: Scarce Resources in the Kalahari’
- Richard Nelson, ‘Eskimo Science’
- Richard Reed. ‘Forest Development the Indian Way’

Wednesday

- **Quiz 1**

Friday

- Film Screening: *N!ai – Story of a !Kung Woman* by John Marshall & A. Miesmer (1984)

Week 5: Feb 10-14

Monday

*Please plan to attend the South Asia Event in the Central Library, 1:00-5:00 PM

Economic Systems

- Lee Cronk, ‘Reciprocity and the Power of Giving’

Wednesday

- Kack Weatherford, ‘Cocaine and the Economic Deterioration of Bolivia’
- Sonia Patten, ‘Malawi Versus the World Bank’
- Philippe Bourgois, ‘Poverty at Work’

Friday

- Film Screening: *Life and Debt* by Stephanie Black (2001)

Week 6: Feb 17-21

Monday

Kinship and Family

- Nancy Scheper-Hughes, 'Death Without Weeping'

Wednesday

- Debate: 'Is it Natural for Adopted Children to Want to Find Out about Their Birth Parents?' (Blackboard)

Friday

- Margery Wolf, 'Uterine Families'

Week 7: Feb 24-28

Identity and Groups

Monday

- Brenda Mann, 'You @Work'
- Dianna Shandy and Karine Moe, 'The Opt-Out Phenomenon'

Wednesday

- Lila Abu Lughod, 'Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving?'

Friday

- Jefferson Fish, 'Mixed Blood'

Week 8: March 3-7

Law and Politics

Monday

- Anne Sutherland, 'Cross-Cultural Law'
- Marvin Harris, 'Life Without Chiefs'

Wednesday

* **Mid-Term Exam**

Friday

- 'Letter to America' (Blackboard) and Discussion

Week 9: March 10-14

No Class: Spring Break

Week 10: March 17-21

Religion, Magic and World View

Monday

- Stanley Freed and Ruth S. Freed, 'Taraka's Ghost'
- George Gmelch, 'Baseball Magic'

Wednesday

- Jill Dubisch, 'Run for the Wall'

Friday

- Discussion
- Nicole Constable, *Romance on a Global Stage* (Introduction)

Week 11: March 24-28

Globalization

Monday

- Theodor Bestor, 'How Sushi Went Global'
- Arjun Guneratne and Kate Bjork, 'Village Walks'
- Nicole Constable, Chapters 2-3

Wednesday

- Discussion

Friday

- Nicole Constable, Chapter 4-5
- **Quiz 2**

Week 12: March 31-Apr 04

Monday

- Joyce Canaan, 'Why a "Slut" Is a "Slut": Cautionary Tales of Middle-class Teenage Girls' H. Varenne, ed. *Symbolizing America*, Lincoln, NE: The University of Nebraska Press. 1986. Pp. 184-208. (Blackboard)
- Nicole Constable, Chapter 6

Wednesday

- Nicole Constable, Chapters 7-8

Friday

- Film screening: *Cheerleader* by Kimberlee Bassford (2003)

Week 13: Apr 7-11

Monday

- Dianne Shandy, 'The Road to Refugee Resettlement' in Spradley and McCurdy, Chpt. 31

Wednesday

- Nancy Scheper Hughes, 'The Global Traffic in Human Organs: A Report' (Blackboard)
- E. V. Daniel, 'Unexpected Destinations' (Blackboard)
- Discussion

Friday

- Discussion

Week 14: Apr 14-18

Globalization

Monday

- Barbara Ehrenreich and Ariel R. Hochschild, 'Global Women in the New Economy'

Wednesday

- Film Screening: *No Logo* by Naomi Klein

Friday

- **Quiz 3**

Week 15: Apr 21-25

Ethics and Practice: Anthropology in the Public and Applied domain

Monday

- Anthropology in the War Terrain: A Debate (Blackboard)

Wednesday

- Hoyt Alverson, 'Advice for Developers'

Friday

- Ron Barrett, 'Leprosy on the Ganges'

Week 16: Apr 28-May 02

Ethics and Practice: Anthropology in the Public and Applied domain

Monday

- “Improving the effectiveness of corporate culture: Interview with Elizabeth Briody.”
<http://www.aaanet.org/cmtes/copapia/upload/Briody.pdf>
- Barbara Pillsbury, “Applied anthropology and executive leadership.” *Annals of Anthropological Practice*, 29 (1):131–151. 2008. (Blackboard)
- Rachel Stryker, ‘Public Interest Ethnography’

Wednesday

- Discussion

Friday

- Discussion

Final Exam: Wednesday, May 07, 11:00-1: 30 PM. UH 09