

**Global Cultures ANTH 2322-004**  
**Fall 2016**

**An Introduction to Cultural Anthropology**

UH 09: Tuesday/Thursday: 11:00-12:20

<http://www.uta.edu/profiles/dr-ritu-khanduri>

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**Office:** UH 417  
**Office Hours:** 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 and in-class exercises. Evaluation will be based on quizzes, participation, an essay, and several posts on discussion board and on social media.

**Required Texts**

Welsch, Robert L. and Luis A. Vivanco. [Cultural Anthropology: Asking Questions About Humanity](#). Oxford University Press. 2014

Daniel Miller et al eds. [How the World Changed Social Media](#). UCL. 2016

Supplementary and optional readings will be available on the **course web site** (Blackboard/Bb)

**Class participation** is required and expected. We will have regular in-class discussions of the course readings, films and lectures. 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. Weekly social media posts and discussion board comments (on Bb) count toward your participation. Participation counts for 5% of the overall course grade. Undocumented absences will affect your participation grade.

**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

**Quizzes, Assignments and Participation**

4 Quizzes (15 points each)	= 60 points
Social Media Post	= 15 points
Discussion Board notes	= 10 points
Essay	= 10 points
Participation	= 5 points
<b>Total</b>	<b>= 100 points</b>

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

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

**Social Media Post:** Weekly posts based on the course material, news items and current events of anthropological interest.

**Discussion Board Notes (Bb):** Multiple weekly prompts based on the ethnography

**Essay** will be a take-home 800 word reflective piece on anthropology, social media and ethics to be submitted in class and electronically. The question will be based on the ethnography (*How has the world changed social media*) and select chapters from your textbook (*Cultural anthropology: Asking questions about humanity*). The question and grading rubric will be posted on the course website in advance of the due date.

### 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.

**UTA Email and Blackboard** will be used as a means of communication with students. If you are unable to access your email or course website then please contact UTA’s OIT Help Desk at (817) 272-2208. You will be responsible for checking your **UTA e-mail and course website** regularly for class work, electronic readings, assignments, discussions, and announcements.

**Attendance is mandatory.** If you are absent more than two times for this course, your participation grade will go down for every other day that you are absent (from an A to an A-). It is important to be in class on time and for the entire duration of the class. Tardiness beyond five minutes of class time will count as an absence, after a first warning is given.

**Expectations for Out-of-Class Study** Students should expect to spend nine hours reading, studying, and completing class assignments per week.

The **course website** on Blackboard 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://wweb.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](http://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](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://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.

**\*Class Etiquette:** Please switch off your cell phones and electronic gadgets in class. Laptops may only be used for designated in-class activities. Professional conduct in class and email is required. No late entries or early exits without Dr. Khanduri’s prior permission. Unprofessional conduct will affect your final course grade.

**Week 1**

Thursday, August 25, 2016: Introduction

**Week 2**

Tuesday, August 30: Chapters Introduction-History and culture, *In* How the world changed social media (HWCSM)

<https://ucldigitalpress.co.uk/Book/Article/10/35/360/>

Thursday, September 1: Chapter 1. Anthropology: Asking Questions About Humanity (Cultural Anthropology)

**Week 3**

Tuesday, September 6: Chapter 2. Culture: Giving Meaning to Human Lives

\*Thursday, September 8, 2016: **Quiz 1**

**Week 4**

Tuesday, September 13: Chapter 3. Beyond Nature and Nurture

Dr. Reza Aslan's talk, mavspeaker.

Thursday, September 15, 2016. Chapters Defined studies of social media – Is ethnography a method or an end *In* HWCSM

**Week 5**

Tuesday, September 20: Chapter 4. Linguistic Anthropology

Thursday, September 22: Chapters What we did-Ethical issues *In* HWCSM

**Week 6**

Tuesday, September 27: Chapter 5. Ethnography: Studying culture

\*Thursday, September 29, 2016: **Quiz 2**

**Week 7**

Tuesday, October 4. Chapter 6. Globalization

Thursday, October 6. Survey results-media and conclusion *In* HWCSM

**Week 8**

Tuesday, October 11. Chapter 7. Foodways

Thursday, October 13. Chapters Background to the study- mediating study and conclusion *In* HWCSM

## **Week 9**

Tuesday, October 18. Chapter 8. Environmental anthropology

\*Thursday, October 20, 2016: **Quiz 3**

## **Week 10**

Tuesday, October 25. Chapter 9. Economics

Thursday, October 27. Chapters Work and commerce-online identity *In* HWCSM

## **Week 11**

Tuesday, November 1. Chapters 10 and 14. Politics and Religion (selections)

Thursday, November 3. Chapters Gender-What is inequality *In* HWCSM

## **Week 12**

Tuesday, November 8. Chapters 11, 12, and 13. Identity and Gender, sex and sexuality, and Marriage & Family (selections)

Thursday, November 10. Chapters Approaches to social media and inequality-conclusion *In* HWCSM

## **Week 13**

Tuesday, November 15. Chapter 16. The anthropology of art

Thursday, November 17, 2016: Film

Chapters Politics-Conclusion *In* HWCSM

## **Week 14**

Tuesday, November 22, 2016: Chapter 15. Medical Anthropology

Thursday, November 24, 2016: Thanksgiving Holidays

## **Week 15**

Tuesday, November 29: Chapters Visual images- conclusion *In* HWCSM

Social media ethics

Does social media make people happier? *In* HWCSM

\*Thursday, December 1, 2016: **Quiz 4**

## **Week 16**

\*Tuesday, December 6, 2016: Last class: Overview: **Essay due**