

Debates in Cultural Anthropology
ANTH 3300-001: Fall 2017: Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-1: 50 UH 08
<http://www.uta.edu/profiles/dr-ritu-khanduri>

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Course Objectives

Was anthropology complicit with colonial politics? Does feminist anthropology have an awkward relationship with anthropology? Is ethnography a form of representation? Does globalization render "culture" an obsolete concept? This course explores these questions and key debates in anthropology through ethnographic readings and a selection of classical texts.

Measurable Learning Outcomes

- Define key anthropological theories and debates
- Analyze theories developed by anthropologists that study human behavior.
- Review ethnographies
- Discuss, debate and present the way cultural anthropology has been used to work on contemporary problems.

Required Books

Saamaka Dreaming by Price and Price, Duke University Press, 2017.

Visualizing Facebook by Miller and Sinanan. 2016. This is an online book you can download free:
<http://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/1543315/1/Visualising-Facebook.pdf>

Anthropological Theory by McGee and Warms. McGraw Hill. 5th edition. isbn 978-0078034886

Evaluation

Discussion Forum (Blackboard):	60
Essay:	10
Book Review:	10
Debate:	10
Participation:	10

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

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: At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator in student success. Each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I will take attendance sporadically. However, while UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients "begin attendance in a course." UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Blackboard. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study: Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 9 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

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://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

Disability Accommodations: UT 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)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. 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 disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a **letter certified** by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD) www.uta.edu/disability or calling 817-272-3364. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability.

Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) www.uta.edu/caps/ or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

Non-Discrimination Policy: *The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos.*

Title IX Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington (“University”) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. *For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or jmhood@uta.edu.*

Academic Integrity: Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses 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 in their courses by 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. Additional information is available at <https://www.uta.edu/conduct/>.

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>.

Campus Carry: Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in face-to-face and online classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” are 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 via the SFS

database is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. Students' anonymity will be protected to the extent that the law allows. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law and aggregate results are posted online. Data from SFS is also used for faculty and program evaluations. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: for semester-long courses, 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 hallway. 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 individuals with disabilities.

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 <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>.

Professional conduct and etiquette in the classroom, email and social media is required. Unprofessional conduct will lead to a grade cut.

Week 1

Thursday, August 24: Introduction and overview

Week 2

Tuesday, August 29: View debates (see Forum - discussion on Blackboard)

Thursday, August 31: Zora Neale Hurston (film)

Week 3: Nineteenth-Century Evolutionism

Tuesday, September 5

Thursday, September 7

Week 4: Marx

Tuesday, September 12 Assignment : Class visit: Walking the Line: The Diverse History of Organized Labor in Texas: UTA Library 6th Floor, Special Collections. <https://uta-ir.tdl.org/uta-ir/handle/10106/26620>

Thursday, September 14

*Forum (discussion on Blackboard)

Week 5: The Foundations of Sociological Thought

Tuesday, September 19

Thursday, September 21

*Debate 1 (All debates and links in announcements, Blackboard)

Week 6: Historical Particularism

Tuesday, September 26

Thursday, September 28

*Debate 2

Week 7: Functionalism and Culture and Personality

Tuesday, October 3

Thursday, October 5

Week 8: Visualizing Facebook

Tuesday, October 10

Thursday, October 12

*Forum (discussion on Blackboard)

Week 9

Tuesday, October 17: Film

Thursday, October 19: **Visualizing Facebook**

*Forum (discussion on Blackboard)

Week 10: Anthropology and Gender

Tuesday, October 24

Thursday, October 26

*Debate 3

Week 11: Symbolic and Interpretive Anthropology

Tuesday, October 31

Thursday, November 2: Bourdieu (Blackboard/Film) and Assignment/social media

Assignment: Vision Wall

The Vision Wall is a campaign in which students will answer the prompt displayed on the Central Library's glass foyer: "Imagine a world without relationship violence...what's different?" Participants will write their answers to the prompt on stickies to add to the display.

UTA Central Library: https://events.uta.edu/event/vision_wall#.WZ4iQLpFy00

Week 12: Background to Postmodernism

Tuesday, November 7

Thursday, November 9

*Debate 4

Week 13:

Tuesday, November 14: **Post Modernism and Its Critics**

Thursday, November 16: **Globalization, Power, and Agency**

*Essay due * (see course materials on Blackboard)

Week 14

Tuesday, November 21: *Samaka Dreaming*. How to write and publish a book review.

Thursday, November 23: **Thanksgiving!**

Week 15

Tuesday, November 28: *Samaka Dreaming*

Thursday, November 30: **No class. AAA conference.**

Week 16

Tuesday, December 5: Last class day: Debate: Violence and violation are at the heart of racism

Samaka Dreaming Book review draft (required) due in class. Meet for special office hours.

Final book review due online December 9

For

Against

Debate 1: _____

Debate 2: _____

Debate 3: _____

Debate 4: _____

Debate 5: _____

Debate topics link in “Announcements,” Blackboard. Pick two from the list. You will be assigned one of your picks. Sign-up sheet in the second week of class. Each debate will consist of five students. In all we will debate five topics from the list. (Explained on the first day of class).