

Anthropology 1302: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (CRN 19087)
Tuesday and Thursday 1:30 pm to 2:50 pm
Chemistry Computer Science Building G.0208
Lectures from August 28th to December 7th, Final Paper Presentations Dec. 14th, 1 to 3:45 pm

Department of Sociology and Anthropology
University of Texas, El Paso
Fall 2017



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Office hours: T/Th 12 noon to 1:15 pm & by appt.

Student Support Services:

The Center for Accommodation and Support Services is available to register for services and to make necessary accommodations for quizzes, exams, and note takers (visit the Student Union East, Room 106, 747-5148). Please speak to me early in the semester to make arrangements to accommodate your needs.

The **Student Health Center** is located in the Union Building East, Suite 100, 747-5624. The **University Counseling Center** is located at 202 Union West, 747-5302, for walk in appointments and career, study skills, and support for anxiety, depression, and mental health needs please seek help.

The **University Writing Center** is located in the UTEP library Room 227 for drop in tutoring and assistance with your writing assignments and final paper. I strongly encourage you to seek help if and when you need it throughout the semester.

Student **food pantry** with canned goods and other items is located in the UTEP Student Union East on the first floor for students experiencing food insecurity. A second food pantry is located in the Women’s and Gender Studies office in Liberal Arts 233. Personal care items are also available.

COURSE GOALS:

This cultural anthropology course introduces key concepts, theories and methods used by anthropologists in examining cultural variation and similarities as a means of understanding our own humanity. Students will learn about anthropology’s sub-fields and will be exposed to a range of topics including language, gender, family, symbols, rituals, religion, globalization, and various lifestyles and worldviews. This class shows how anthropological theories and methods may be applied in everyday life and in a variety of professions including: education, business, health, politics, environmental management, social services, government, policymaking, business, non-profit organizations, and private consulting arenas. The final research paper will be based on students’ participation in Service Learning opportunities in a local community setting, a community-based project, **or** independent research on a topic, region, or culture of interest.

Use and Access to Technology. Students will need to have access to a computer with internet services to access email and Blackboard to write their online journals, take quizzes, and access email. If students cannot access their Blackboard accounts, please email professor at ggnunez@utep.edu directly. UTEP supports the use of technology to enhance learning, however, the inappropriate uses of laptops, cell phones, and texting, are disruptive to the learning process and are deemed disrespectful to your

classmates and professor. Please turn off your cell phones or place them on vibrate/silent mode while in class. Leave your laptops in its case or at home, unless you have a documented need to use it. Research indicates students learn more when they handwrite their notes, as opposed to typing notes verbatim (See <http://www.businessinsider.com/handwriting-helps-you-learn-2014-12>).

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

In this class, students will:

- Learn anthropological concepts and will apply these to their personal/professional lives and community;
- Learn about key anthropological values such as cultural relativism and holism;
- Apply anthropological theories and methods in conducting ethnographic research;
- Reflect on their own cultural backgrounds and critically examine their personal worldviews;
- Explore diverse cultures and perspectives to understand self, improve relationships with others, and to become more competitive in a global environment;
- Recognize their self-worth and understanding while increasing their awareness and understanding of differences and similarities in other cultures
- Develop listening skills, empathy, and compassion to improve the world we live in.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS:

Nanda, S. & Warmus, R. L. 2018. *Culture Counts: A Concise Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*. 3rd ed.

PDF Readings provided via Blackboard.

Academic Integrity. Students must present their own efforts in all of their work including tickets to class, assignments, quizzes, and exams. Cheating, plagiarism, and falsifying research data are unethical behaviors. **Plagiarism** refers to taking someone else's work and representing it as one's own. When in doubt, cite the author's last name, year of publication, and page number after a quote. Violations will be referred to the Dean of Students for appropriate action.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

This course is based on group/class discussions, lectures, readings, films, and personal research efforts. Students are expected to have read the assigned materials **prior** to coming to class. Participation in the form of questions, discussions, and introduction of relevant outside materials (e.g., news items, personal experiences, observations, and opinions, etc.) to class is encouraged. Students will be graded on:

A. Class Attendance and Participation (50 points).

Attendance and participation are required in this class. Students are expected to arrive on time and come prepared by doing their readings prior to coming to class. Students are expected to be prepared if called upon individually for class discussions and to participate in group work. Attendance will be based on **ten random** dates throughout the semester. Class attendance and participation will be assessed through "Tickets to Class," requiring students to neatly write or type up **three quotes and two discussion questions from the assigned reading, with each quote followed with your response affirming or challenging the quote.** *Quotes can also be followed with personal examples or reflections of past events or other course readings.* **Tickets to class** provide students with a tool for critical analysis and personal reflections. The selected quotes and questions generation will be the basis for course discussion and participation. Your selected quotes should cite the authors' last name, year of publication, and the page number from which the quote was taken. **See "What are Tickets to Class?" on Blackboard for an example of what a Ticket to Class looks like. These "tickets to class" serve as evidence of attendance and participation, so be prepared to turn these in class. Should be prepared on a weekly basis for class discussion on **Tuesdays. If you are absent the day your tickets to class are due, your Tickets will not**

be accepted for attendance and participation credit. In case of an absence, students will be held responsible for the material covered in class by first contacting a peer or accountability member in class.

B. Written Assignments (50 points).

Class written assignments focus on learning and applying anthropological theories and research methods, including participant observation research, ethnographic interviews, and personal reflection. Students can do **2 out of the 3** assignments.

1. Cultural Plunge (25 points). Assignment requires students to conduct participant observation research to increase their cross-cultural awareness of the U.S.-Mexico border region. This experience requires that students leave their comfort zones while exploring a public space of personal interest in their community. Field notes, a hand drafted map, and a **2- page paper** or a **5 minute video** of your observations and reflections are **due via Blackboard on Friday, 9/15th by 11:59 pm.**

2. Life and labor interview- (25 points). Students are to do a life and labor history interview of an elderly member of their family **or** of a person of a different ethnic background living in El Paso or Ciudad Juarez. Students can work alone or in groups of two or three to conduct the interview, record it, and submit a **2-page synthesis of the interview or a 5 minute video of the interview** (double spaced 12 font Times New Roman.) Papers are **due via Blackboard on Friday, 10/6th by 11:59 pm.**

3. Mobility Survey among older adults in El Paso, TX (25 points). This semester, we will be collaborating in an interdisciplinary research project in our local community. This project involves conducting surveys of the mobility patterns of older adults' mobility and transportation needs and behaviors. Students can conduct 2-3 surveys of older adults in El Paso. These surveys have been approved by UTEP's IRB and will be used in the development of a new application to help seniors move throughout El Paso. Students will write up what they learned from this research experience in a 2-page critical analysis/reflection via Blackboard by **Friday, 10/27th 11:59 pm.**

C. Online Quizzes (10 points per quiz. The top 10 scores will be added = 100 points possible). Quizzes will be administered via Blackboard on a weekly basis from **Fridays 5 pm to Sundays 11:59 pm** to encourage students to keep up with their readings, class participation and attendance.

D. Final Paper: Service Learning or Research Option (100 points).

The **UTEP Edge** is based on the benefits associated with participating in high impact practices and activities that enhance your classroom-based education. As such, you will have the following options:

1.) Service Learning. This class incorporates Service Learning, ethnographic research, and community engagement as a high impact practice. As such, students are strongly encouraged to gain research experience and real life experience by conducting a service-learning **practicum** in a local agency or organization in El Paso. A **minimum of 20 hours** are **required** to be spread over the length of the entire semester (approximately 2 hours per week over the length of 10 weeks). By dividing your time over the length of the semester, you will be more likely to establish rapport, gain a broader perspective on the organization of choice, enhance your personal insights, build your social networks, and develop work experience over the long run. Field notes of your participation should be taken during or immediately after each fieldwork session. Typed field notes will be attached to the final paper. Students conducting service-learning practicums are expected to follow through with their commitments while representing the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and UTEP with utmost respect and integrity in our community. Our Service Learning Partnerships are organized under the Center for Civic Engagement 747-7969; individual agreements may be arranged with the professor's approval prior to beginning your fieldwork. *Your paper should be 5-7 pages double-spaced, 1 inch margins, and 12 type font Times New Roman.*

OR

2.) Library- based Research. Books based on ethnographic research are found in our UTEP library. Using the major themes and topics discussed in class (language, gender, religion, identity, art, ways of making a living, family and marriage, etc.), students are to base their research on **one ethnographic study of choice** on a particular society, cultural region, or anthropological theme of interest. Students should seek the guidance of a **reference librarian** in the 2nd floor of the library to help identify and incorporate **five additional academic sources** (primarily journal articles and other books) to cite within the paper's text and listed in alphabetic order in a bibliography using APA citation style. *Your paper should be 5-7 pages double- spaced, 1 inch margins, and 12 type font Times New Roman.* Avoid "copying and pasting" (i.e. plagiarizing) from other publications and from the Internet, as many online sources may or may not be peer reviewed and academically sound. Note: Papers will be turned into the Dean of Students if there is suspected plagiarism.

Read and follow the paper guidelines and see your grading matrix to learn how your work will be evaluated. No late papers will be accepted except in cases of documented family or medical emergency.

E. Grade Breakdown	Points
Class Attendance and Participation /Tickets to Class	50 points
Two Short Written Assignment(s) of 2-3 pages each	50 points
Quizzes	100 points
Final Paper (5-7 pages double spaced)	100 points
	<hr/> 300 points

Grading Scale: 300-270 = A, 269-240 = B, 239-210 = C, 238-180 =D, 179- below= F

NOTE: Attendance and participation in class matter. Absences have been known to drop a student's grade and are likely to impact overall class performance.

Extra-Credit Opportunities. Participation in designated school lectures, films, and community events is strongly encouraged as a way of linking classroom acquired knowledge with our community and the world we live in. Students can bank extra points by writing a 1 to 2 page, double-spaced essay describing and reflecting on 5 key quotes or observations of an event for up to 5 points possible.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead

US anthropologist & popularizer of anthropology (1901 - 1978)

"The purpose of anthropology is to make the world safe for human differences." - Ruth Benedict

Note on photography and video. Students are welcome to add photographs and videos to their assignments. Students should have the consent of the person to interviewed, photographed, and/or videotaped. Some people simply do not want their pictures taken and we need to respect their choice. Students should be aware that there are cultural and religious beliefs that influence people's decisions not to be photographed.

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments*
Anthropology 1302: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

Dates	Lecture Topics, Readings, and Due Dates
Week 1 8/29 8/31	Course Introduction and Ch 1: What is Anthropology? Course Overview. Read Syllabus, Chapter 1 of <i>Cultural Anthropology</i> and PDF of Body Rituals of the Nacirema on Blackboard by Thursday. Practice Tickets to Class for Thursday's class based on the Body Rituals PDF reading based on three quotes and your responses + 2 discussion questions to these. Type up your tickets and bring them with you to class for this TH. Online quiz Closes out by Monday night by 11:59 pm via Blackboard.
Week 2 9/5 9/7	Ch 2 Culture Counts in <i>Culture Counts</i> Read Ch. 2 of <i>Culture Counts</i> and <i>Queer Customs</i> PDF <i>before coming to class</i> . Do Tickets to Class on a combination on Ch 2 (3 quotes and 2 discussion ?'s). Center for Civic Engagement Presentation. Online quiz Closes out by Monday night by 11:59 pm via Blackboard.
Week 3 9/12 9/14	Ch 3: Doing Cultural Anthropology in <i>Culture Counts</i> Read Chapter 3 of <i>Culture Counts</i> <i>before coming to class</i> . Do Tickets to Class for <i>Tuesday's</i> class. Select a practicum site or an ethnography and sources of interest by Thursday. Online quiz Closes out by Monday by 11:59 pm via Blackboard. *Cultural Plunge Paper due Friday, 9/15th by 11:59 pm
Week 4 9/19 9/21	Ch 4: Communication in <i>Culture Counts</i> <i>Rapport-Talk and Report-Talk, and The Sounds of Silence</i> PDF's Bring tickets to class based on this week's readings for TH Online quiz Closes out by Monday by 11:59 pm via Blackboard.
Week 5 9/26 9/28	Ch 5: Making a Living of <i>Culture Counts</i> and Ch 6 Economics Online quiz Closes out by Monday by 11:59 pm via Blackboard. Blackboard
Week 6 10/3 10/5	CAPS presentation Writing Center Presentation *Life and labor interview- Friday, 10/6th by 11:59 pm via Blackboard
Week 7 10/10 10/12	Ch 7: Political Organization of <i>Culture Counts</i> Online quiz Closes out by Monday by 11:59 pm via Blackboard.
Week 8 10/17 10/19	Ch 8: Stratification: Class, Caste, Race, and Ethnicity of <i>Culture Counts</i> and AAA Race Project at http://www.understandingrace.org/humvar/index.html . Online quiz Closes out by Monday by 11:59 pm via Blackboard.

Week 9 10/24 10/26	Ch 9: Marriage, Family and Kinship of <i>Culture Counts</i> Film Blossoms of Fire with Guided Questions. Online quiz Closes out by Monday by 11:59 pm via Blackboard. *Senior Mobility Surveys and Reflection paper due Friday, 10/27th 11:59 pm
Week 10 10/31 11/2	Ch 10: Sex and Gender of <i>Culture Counts</i> <i>Arranging a Marriage in India</i> PDF Online quiz Closes out by Monday by 11:59 pm via Blackboard.
Week 11 11/7 11/9	Ch 11: Religion <i>Baseball Magic</i> PDF
Week 12 11/14 11/16	Ch 12: Creative Expression: Anthropology and the Arts Online quiz Closes out by Monday by 11:59 pm via Blackboard.
Week 13 11/21	11/21 Class potluck Thanksgiving Break No Class on TH 11/23
Week 14 11/28 12/1	Ch 13: Power, Conquest, and a World System Online quiz Closes out by Monday by 11:59 pm via Blackboard.
Week 15 11/5 11/7	Ch 14: Culture, Change, and Globalization Online quiz Closes out by Monday by 11:59 pm via Blackboard.
Week 16 Finals Week	Final Papers and Presentations will be due Thursday, 1 pm to 3:45 pm on Dec. 14th * Note: Course assignments and schedule dates are subject to change. Another reason why it is important to attend class.

Accountability Partners/Learning Community Members

Name:	Contact Info: Email/Phone