Course Instructor: Olga Lauter, Visiting Assistant Professor  
Email: olauter@utep.edu  
Telephone: 915-747-6679  
Lecture Location: Quinn Hall 206  
Class Meeting Times: Monday/Wednesday, 12:00pm - 1:20pm  
Duration: Monday 08/28/2023 through Wednesday 12/06/2023  
Instructor’s Office Location: Old Main Building 317  
Instructor’s Office Hours: email anytime, phone during business hours, office Monday-Thursday 1:30pm-2:30pm  
TA: Josue E. Lopez  
Email: jelopez5@miners.utep.edu  

Course Catalog Description:  
This course will introduce students to basic concepts, theories, and methods in cultural anthropology. It covers concepts used by anthropologists to understand human diversity and different ways of life throughout the world. The course includes a critical focus on race, gender, sexuality, kinship and relatedness, inequality, migration, material culture, and religion.  

Learning Objectives and Outcomes:  
- To recognize and respect cultural diversity, differences and similarities  
- To gain a better understanding of ourselves through the comparative study of other cultures  
- To become familiar with main anthropological concepts, methods, theories and ethical concerns, and to be able to apply them to practice  
- To think critically about the concepts of cultural relativism and of ethnocentrism  
- To analyze in what ways language, culture and environment impact the formation of beliefs and practices  
- To examine globalization, colonialism, cultural change, economic and political issues through an anthropological lens  
- To recognize and gain a fundamental understanding of diversity and multiculturalism in North America
Course Design and Requirements:

We will meet two times a week on Mondays/Wednesdays to discuss the readings and some articles. We will also watch and analyze some videos.

Course activities consist of the following:

- Weekly readings
- 1 Fieldwork exercise
- 3 Essays
- 1 Film Review
- 3 Exams

Required Texts:

- Additional course readings will be made available on Blackboard as PDF files or as class handouts.

Class Discussions (20%):

- The discussion activities will ensure a better understanding of the reading materials.
- You will receive an individual grade for each discussion. A zero grade will be given for unexcused absences. The two lowest grades during the semester will be dropped.

Fieldwork Exercise (10%):

- You will do short-term fieldwork in a place you find interesting.
- You will conduct a minimum of 2 hours of field observations of the environment and of the people’s behavior in this environment.
- Each student will conduct a short, oral presentation, analyzing your experience (anthropological observations, insights, methodological dilemmas).
- Further details will be discussed in class, they will also be made available on Blackboard.

Essays (30%):

- There will be 3 written assignments or essays (.doc or .docx, 4 pages, double spaced, in a 12 pt font, with 1 inch margins) over the course of the semester.
- The topics and the instructions will be provided well in advance on Blackboard.
- You will be graded based on the content quality. You will need to demonstrate your familiarity with the course material that we cover in class by addressing the assigned questions and by
incorporating anthropological concepts from the course, as reflected in excellent choice of supporting evidence.

- Although this is not a writing course, grammar and punctuation will be graded to help enrich and further develop student's skills.
- Essays written in your own words (using academic language) will be given a higher grade than ones made up heavy of direct quotations. Light, relevant use of quotations is encouraged.
- Essays will be evaluated for content primarily, but also for standard grammar, spelling, and style.
- Essays must be submitted via Blackboard by Saturday 8pm (El Paso time) on the due date.

Film Review (5%):

- We will watch several videos and films throughout the semester. You will need to watch all the videos and films and to write a short critical review of one film, applying your knowledge of the course material.
- A more detailed guideline of the film review will be provided in advance on Blackboard.

Exams (30%):

- All the three exams will cover the materials presented in class lectures, discussions, and readings.
- The exams will contain a mix of "objective" questions and more open-ended essay questions.
- No make-up work will be offered except for approved excused absences (medical and family emergencies).

Students can earn two or respectively three percent of their grade by showing up in the TA’s or respectively in the instructor’s office during their office hours at least once per semester.

**Important:** I can only accept assignments done in **Word (.doc or .docx)**. Please name your essay as follows: Last name, first initial, essay #.

I strongly suggest that you submit all your work with plenty of time to spare in case of a technical issue. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through Blackboard, please contact the UTEP Help Desk.

**Late Policy:** Essays that are turned in late will receive a full letter-grade penalty (equivalent to 10%) for each day they are late.

**Grading:**

90-100 = A  
80-89.9 = B  
70-79.9 = C  
60-69.9 = D  
below = F
The way the assignments and the class discussions will impact the final point score will be explained in Lesson 1, and it can be explained again during office hours.

Note: the syllabus is not a binding legal contract. It may be modified by the instructor when the students are given reasonable and advance notice of the modification.

### COURSE SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings/Assignments</th>
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</table>
| Monday, 8/28  | Introduction to Course, to Anthropology, to North American Culture | Read: The Syllabus  
On Being Different: Chapter 1  
Humanity: Chapter 1 |
| Wednesday, 8/30| The Development of Anthropological Thought (History of Anthropology) | Read:  
Humanity: Chapter 5 |
| No Class on Monday, 9/4!! |                                |                                                                                     |
| Wednesday, 9/6 | Culture and Cultures                           | Read:  
Humanity: Chapter 2  
On Being Different: Chapters 2, 8  
**Blackboard: Essay #1 is due by Saturday, September 16th, 8pm** |
| Monday, 9/11  | Culture and Language                           | Read:  
Humanity: Chapter 3  
On Being Different: Chapter 15  
Fieldwork exercise discussion |
| Wednesday, 9/13| Culture and Languages                          |                                                                                     |
| Monday, 9/18  | Anthropological Theory and Research Methods     | Read:  
On Being Different: Chapter 4  
Humanity: Chapter 6  
Blackboard: Malinowski on Fieldwork  
Fieldwork exercise discussion |
| Wednesday, 9/20| Fieldwork                                      | **Fieldwork oral reports (presentations)**                                          |
| Monday, 9/25  | Fieldwork                                      |                                                                                     |
| Wednesday, 9/27| Fieldwork                                      |                                                                                     |
| Monday, 10/2  | Culture and Nature, Anthropology and Economy   | Read:  
Humanity: Chapters 7-8  
Midterm exam review  
**In-Class Midterm Exam I on Wednesday 10/11** |
<p>| Wednesday, 10/4| Fieldwork                                      |                                                                                     |
| Monday, 10/9  | Fieldwork                                      |                                                                                     |
| Wednesday, 10/11| Fieldwork                                      |                                                                                     |
| Monday, 10/16 | Fieldwork                                      |                                                                                     |
| Wednesday, 10/18| Fieldwork                                      |                                                                                     |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Read:</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, 10/23</td>
<td>Kinship and Culture</td>
<td>On Being Different: Chapter 16</td>
<td>Blackboard: Essay #2 is due by Saturday, October 21st, 8pm</td>
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<td>Wednesday, 10/25</td>
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<td>Read:</td>
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<td>Monday, 10/30</td>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Human: Chapter 10</td>
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<td>On Being Different: Chapter 11</td>
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<td>Wednesday 11/1</td>
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<td>Read:</td>
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<td>Monday, 11/6</td>
<td>Politics and Culture</td>
<td>Human: Chapter 12</td>
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<td>Wednesday, 11/8</td>
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<td>Midterm exam review</td>
<td>In-Class Midterm exam II on Wednesday 11/8</td>
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<td>Monday, 11/13</td>
<td>Social Structure</td>
<td>Human: Chapter 13</td>
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<td>Wednesday, 11/15</td>
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<td>On Being Different: Chapter 13</td>
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<td>Monday, 11/20</td>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>Human: Chapter 14</td>
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<td>Wednesday, 11/22</td>
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<td>On Being Different: Chapter 6</td>
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<td>Monday, 11/27</td>
<td>Art and Culture</td>
<td>Human: Chapter 15</td>
<td>Essay #3 due by Saturday, December 2nd, 8pm</td>
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<td>Wednesday, 11/29</td>
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<td>Read:</td>
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<td>Monday, 12/4</td>
<td>Globalization</td>
<td>Human: Chapter 17</td>
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<td>Wednesday, 12/6</td>
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<td>On Being Different: Chapter 3</td>
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<td>Course Wrap-Up</td>
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<td>Final Exam Review</td>
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<td>Week of Finals</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<td>(December 11th-15th)</td>
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**Professionalism:** I reserve the right to add or deduct up to 20 points from your final grade based on professionalism. Professionalism includes, but is not limited to, being on time to all class sessions; being respectful of the professor, teaching assistant, and your peers; demonstrating a strong effort and enthusiasm in your work; and actively engaging in class discussion.
Academic Honesty: Students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional and courteous manner, as prescribed by the Standards of Conduct: https://www.utep.edu/hoop/section-2/studentconduct-and-discipline.html.

Submitted work should be unmistakably your own. Professors are required to report academic dishonesty and any other violation of the Standards of Conduct to the Dean of Students. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as one's own. Avoid plagiarism by giving credit where credit is due, using quotation marks when using words directly from another source, and preferably putting things in your own words. I prefer your own phrasing, even if it is imperfect, to a beautifully phrased statement that is borrowed from some other source.

Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. If academic dishonesty is suspected, the Dean of Students office will be contacted for adjudication. A temporary grade will be issued if their investigation extends beyond the grading period.

Some of your course work may be submitted to SafeAssign, a plagiarism detecting software. SafeAssign is used to review assignment submissions for originality and will help you learn how to properly attribute sources rather than paraphrase.

Cell phones: Please silence your mobile devices or put them into a vibrate mode for the duration of class - they are disruptive for your fellow students.

Disabilities & Accomodations: If you have a disability and need accommodations, please contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 915-747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass.

COVID-19 Statement: Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area. For more information about the current infection rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org.

Title IX Statement: The University of Texas at El Paso is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any federally funded educational programs or activities. Title IX protects students, employees, applicants for admission and employment, and other persons from all forms of sex discrimination including sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, and acts of sexual violence. Title IX prohibits institutions from excluding, separating, denying benefits, or otherwise treating individuals differently on the basis of sex. Sex based discrimination is prohibited at UTEP both by law and by University and UT System policies. In accordance with Texas Education Code § 51 ("SB 212"), all UTEP employees who witness or receive information regarding an incident reasonably believed to constitute sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking, and which is alleged to have been committed by or against a person who
was a UTEP student or employee at the time of the incident, must promptly report all relevant information of the incident to UTEP’s Title IX Coordinator or a Deputy Title IX Coordinator.

**UTEP designated Title IX Coordinators and Deputy Coordinators:**

Gabriel Ramirez, J.D.  
Title IX Coordinator  
Overssees Title IX investigations and policy implementation  
Institutional Compliance  
Kelly Hall 312  
915-747-8358  
gramirez2@utep.edu

William A. Epperson  
Deputy Title IX Coordinator  
Primary Investigator  
Institutional Compliance  
Kelly Hall 312  
915-747-8797  
waeperson@utep.edu

Beatriz Tapia  
Deputy Title IX Coordinator  
Director  
for Equal Opportunity  
Equal Opportunity  
Kelly Hall 304  
915-747-5839  
betapia@utep.edu

Dr. Charlie Gibbens  
Deputy Title IX Coordinator  
Associate Vice President  
for Student Engagement  
Student Affairs  
Assistant Vice President for Student Support  
Union East 301  
915-747-5076  
cegibbens@utep.edu

Julie Levesque  
Deputy Title IX Coordinator  
Senior Associate Athletic Director/SWA  
for Athletics  
Athletics  
Brumbelow Building 104
Other Related Resources:

UTEP Police Department, 3118 Sun Bowl Drive, 911 Emergency, or 915.747.5611

U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 1620, Dallas, Texas 75201, Tel:  214.661.9600

Course Resources:

Technology Resources

• Help Desk: Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance.

Academic Resources

• UTEP Library: Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.

• University Writing Center (UWC): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.

• RefWorks: A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial, Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.

Individual Resources

• Military Student Success Center: Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.

• Center for Accommodations and Support Services: Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.

• Counseling and Psychological Services: Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.