

INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY
11847-ANTH 1302-007
University of Texas at El Paso
Fall Semester 2023
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Online Course

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Office Hours: By appointment

M - 12 pm – 1:00 pm

T- R-12 pm – 1:00 pm

Class Schedule: ONLINE

Class Code: ANTH 1302 – 007- 11847

Class Schedule: Online Course

From 08/28/2023-12/07/2023.



Picture: La Perla, Old San Juan, Puerto Rico. By Dr. Vázquez, 2019. La Perla is a historical and impoverished community that has been used in many ethnographic studies throughout the 20th Century such as “La Vida, A Puerto Rican Family in the Culture of Poverty - San Juan and New York”. by Oscar Lewis (1967).

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

Updated 08.24.2023

This course will introduce the students to the study of human cultures in different parts of the World. The course is based on readings about the work of anthropologists, as well as videos and other ethnographic materials. The students will learn about anthropology holistic approach to society and the recent contributions of ethnographic studies. The main goals of the course are:

- 1- Giving the students a new perspective for looking at the world, and encouraging them to consider that the Western worldview is just one of the many ways to approach human reality.
- 2- Giving a broad idea of the techniques anthropologists use to study other cultures.
- 3- Familiarizing the students with the main thematic areas of Cultural Anthropology.
- 4- Applying anthropological knowledge to real life scenarios that students can experiment in their own lives.

Requirements:

This class will be delivered online mode. Students are responsible for reading all assignments in the time frame indicated and for completing all activities (discussions, debates, papers) within the announced time span. Each lesson will expire one week after its activation date and cannot be accessed after that. Exceptions will be made only for documented medical emergencies There will be debates, discussion and written paper that represents a significant portion of your grade. Students are responsible to acquire the course materials Books/ Readings and Audiovisuals (documentaries and movies). The midterm movie Even the Rain (2010) is available on Netflix. The movie Milk (2008) is available on amazon prime. You can rent it in order to watch it. Each class lesson has their instructions, rubric, readings, short documentaries and the due date submission for the assignments and debates.

Courses Penalties

For late submission or grammar error – (-5 points for late submissions) (-5 points for grammatical error).

For improper language (-5 points for improper language in the assignments or debates).

For plagiarism (you will refer to The University of Texas Disciplinary committee).

For utilization of photos taken from the web (-5 points).

Course Fieldtrip to Downtown El Paso

In order to gather the information for the final paper is highly recommended to participate in the course fieldtrip to downtown El Paso (will be in September or October Saturday from 9 am – 12 pm). In the case that you live outside El Paso is highly recommended that you visit any other Downtown areas in order to analyze the urban problems for the final paper.

Photos guidelines

All the photos must be taken by yourself. Respect the human integrity no photos on persons are allowed without authorization.

Course advices

Familiarity with Spanish is not required although it will be highly advantageous when searching for additional materials.

This is a reading, audiovisual and writing intensive course designed to challenge pre-conceived ideas and understandings. The subjects matter for this course will include adult themes. Students are required to be respectful and mature while dealing with these sensitive topics. If, for any reason, anyone becomes uncomfortable with the topics. I recommend to communicate with the professor through email vmvazquezro@utep.edu

Grading:

120 points - In class exercises (assignments and debates)

50 points – Community Description Oral Report

30 points - Mid-term essay word format

50 points - Final Written Paper “Ethnographic reflection on Urban Problems El Paso”.

Grade Breakdown

A – 250 pts. -225 pts.

B- 224 pts. – 200 pts.

C- 199 pts. -177 pts.

D- 176 pts. -149 pts.

F- 148 pts. -0 pts.

250 points totals

***Note* There are more possible points available in the class**

All assignments may be written in English or Spanish

Course Work

Course activities will consist of reading, written discussions posted on discussion boards, and long written assignments. In general, it is expected that the course will require approximately nine hours each week, including reading, exercises, discussions, and all other activities.

Using the Lessons/Reading Guide. The goal of each lesson is to give you a guideline for close, detailed reading of the books; this takes the place of lecture from the professor. Take advantage of it! It will make a big difference in discussion and on your papers, as this level of detail and understanding is what I am looking for. Please note: you do not need to write out answers to the questions (unless that would help you personally) and you do not need to submit the answers to the professor. Instead, you should review the questions before you read each set of pages indicated in the book, and have the questions by your side as you read. Not every question can be answered directly in the reading; some are there to make you think or to point out implications rather than direct statements.

The Midterm - It will also cover your knowledge of concepts that we discuss in class.

Debates- Elaborate a short opinion focused on concepts and topics discussed in class. This is a critical thinking exercise.

Final Ethnographic reflection: The final essay will require you to critique the different social problems (social, economic, political). You will also be required to provide your own interpretation and solutions. I expect you to write a critical account of the different perspectives advanced by the authors we have read and discuss on class.

All the written paper (assignments and final paper) must be written in APA Format 1.5 – 2.0 Times New Roman font and include ACADEMIC references.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism, cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited and will be referred to the Office of the Dean of Students. Students must do their own work on all class papers and exams.

Work submitted formally (i.e., Papers) will be evaluated for content and for standard grammar and style. Contributions to discussions will be permitted somewhat greater deviation from standard practice for formal submission.

Standard practices of academic integrity are required in the course. All material submitted must be the student's own work. Ideas and expressions cited from the work of others must be credited appropriately. The course will follow the University of Texas at El Paso 's policies on academic honesty. These policies can be found at the Student Affairs webpage.

Usage of Artificial Intelligence:

Since writing, analytical, and critical thinking skills are part of the learning outcomes of this course, all work submitted in this course must be your own and completed in accordance with the **UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures Chapter 1 Section 1.2.3**. AI generated submissions that use ChatGPT, Grammarly, Chegg or other AI composition software is prohibited, will be treated as cheating, and reported to the Dean of Students.

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or 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 Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID 19 testing.

Copyright Notice

Many of the materials that are posted within this course are protected by copyright law. These materials are only for the use of students enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further retained or disseminated.

Technical Requirements

You will be taking this entire course, and possibly other courses, on your computer. You must have the minimum hardware and software to successfully complete this course. If you are in the market for a new system, please consider spending a bit more to upgrade to a more optimal system. Please refer to the Getting Started off the course for more information on technical requirements.

Technical Support

The University of Texas at El Paso provides free 24/7 Helpdesk support to academic students and faculty members teaching on-line. The Helpdesk can provide answers to questions about using technology and services, as well as, technical support. Please visit the Technical Support Page for more information.

Academic Assistance and Disability Statement

In Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, if a student needs an accommodation, then the Center for Accommodations and Support Services located at UTEP need to be contacted. If you have a condition that may affect your ability to perform successfully in this course, you are encouraged to discuss this in confidence with the instructor and/or the director of the Center for Accommodations and Support Services. You may call (915) 747-5148 for general information about the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the rights that you have as a UTEP student with a disability. You also can visit the CASS website at <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/> or the CASS office in Room 106 East Union Building. Individuals with disabilities have the right to equal access and opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor and the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at The University of Texas at El Paso.



Picture: Welcome to México, Ciudad Juárez. By Dr. Vázquez 2020.
Through an ethnographic approach we will explore the border issues.

COURSE CALENDAR FALL 2023 (Calendar is subject to change)

Calendar and Topics

1. August 28 (Monday) – September 3 (Sunday)

<i>Lecture Topics</i>	INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE What do you think anthropology is? - Review of the Course Syllabus- Course Content, Materials, Readings and Gradings. Midterm paper, Final Urban Ethnographic Reflection Introduction to the general concepts.
<i>Reading</i>	A BRIEF HISTORY OF ANTHROPOLOGY A brief History of Anthropology (9-24) Thomas Hylland Eriksen (2015) Small Places Large Issues.

Lecture Topics Is western culture essentially different from others? - How “primitive” are “primitive cultures”? – Culture and knowledge, Introduction to the general concepts II.

Assignment 1 (10 pts.) **Explain the main different between Victorian Anthropology Approach and American Anthropology Approach? Upload on blackboard. Due date Sunday September 3 11:59 pm.**

Documentaries: Tales from The Jungle: Malinowski /Odyssey Series: Franz Boas,1858 -1942.

2. September 4 (Monday) September 10 (Sunday)

**CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY RESEARCH METHODS
INTRODUCTION TO ETHNOGRAPHY AND FIELDWORK PHASES**

Lecture Topics Fieldwork, Interview, Theory and Data, Interpretation and Analysis, Present and Past, Emic and Etic.
Fieldwork experiences in Puerto Rico (2014-2017).
Fieldwork experiences in Cuba (2015).
Fieldwork experiences in Tijuana Mexico (2018) (2021).

Reading **Discuss in class, Fieldwork short exercise: describe your community.**

Humanity Book Chapter 6 Methods of Investigation (117-133).

**FIELDWORK EXERCISE: DESCRIBE
YOUR COMMUNITY. 9/8/2023**

3. September 11 (Monday) September 17 (Sunday)

THE FOUR-FIELD DISCIPLINE OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Lecture Topics The four-field discipline of Anthropology
- Archaeology
- Biological Anthropology
- Cultural Anthropology
- Linguistic Anthropology

Main objective of each field.

Reading -Dr. Franz Boas’s Legacy / Cultural Relativism
Humanity Book Chapter 1 The Study of Humanity (1-19).

**Assignment /Debate 9/17/2023
Check out the Class lesson for the Rubric**

4. September 25 (Monday) – October 1 (Sunday)

**THEORIES, CONCEPTS AND ETHIC OF CULTURAL
ANTHROPOLOGY**

Lecture Topics Main theories developed XX century, development of Cultural Anthropology And Methods – Theories and Concepts Analysis.

Readings Humanity Book Chapter 5 The development of Anthropological Thought
Humanity an Introduction to Cultural (91-113)
Brief introduction to the Yanomamo Studies.
The legacy of Napoleon Chagnon A men called Bee (1974)

CULTURE AND CULTURAL DIFFERENCES (I)

Lecture Topics The concept of culture – Ethnocentrism – Comparing cultural differences –
Cultural values – Cultural norms.
Fieldwork and Culture Shock – Empathy – Cultural Relativism – Boas and the
Problem of Race – The Eugenics Movement.
Levels of culture
Cultural Traditions
Los Toros in Mexico / (Bullfight debate)
Documentary: Bullfights in Mexico

Assignment 2 (10 points) **Short analysis of the cultural traditions. Upload on blackboard due date Sunday, October 1, 11:59pm.**

Reading Chapter 2 Culture on Being Different Diversity & Multiculturalism in the North
American Mainstream. Conrad Phillip Kottak / Kathryn A. Kozaitis (9-29).

5. October 2 (Monday) – October 8 (Sunday)

CULTURE AND CULTURE DIFFERENCES (II)

Lecture Topics Counter Culture Debate
Enculturation Process
Culture and Nature, Exchange Economic Systems, Marriages and Families,
Language and Culture, Kinship and Descent.
Documentary: First Contact (2016)

Readings Humanity Book Chapter 2 Culture (21-44)
Chapter 7 Culture and Nature: Interacting with the Environment. (135-165, 189-
239).

Assignment 3 (10 points) **Discuss in class a short opinion regarding the enculturation process in
First Contact. Upload on blackboard due date Sunday, October 8,
11:59pm.**

6. October 9 (Monday) – October 15 (Sunday)

**MIDTERM ESSAY MATERIALS
(Verify the rubric and the readings on
blackboard)**

Movie **Even the Rain (2010)**

**MIDTERM ESSAY (50 pts.) Upload on Blackboard Due date Sunday 15, 11:59 pm.
Midterm Grade report due date: October 25, 2023.**

7. October 23 (Monday) – October 29 (Sunday)

ANTHROPOLOGY AND ECONOMY

Lecture Topics Introduction to the Economy by the anthropological approach.
General Concepts.
The Basics of Western Economic Thought.
Marxism and Historicism
Keynes and the Welfare State
Introduction to the globalization analysis
Transnationalism, Globalization, Neoliberalism, Cultural Impact.
Consumerism /Black Friday
Pros – Cons Neoliberalism

Readings

Chapter 3- Globalization Identity Chapter 4 The Multicultural Society (29-66) Culture on Being Different Diversity & Multiculturalism in the North American Mainstream. Conrad Phillip Kottak / Kathryn A. Kozaitis.
Humanity Book Chapter 8 Exchange in economic System 166 – 188.

Assignment /Debate 10/29/2023

Check out the Class lesson for the Rubric

8. October 30 (Monday) – November 5 (Sunday)

THE NEOLIBERALISM IMPACT / SOCIAL MOVEMENT

Lecture Topics Anti-globalization movement
EZLN, Occupy Wall-Street
Arab Spring Movement
Movimiento Sin Tierra de Brazil
Internet Impact
Documentaries: Sub comandante Marcos, CBS News, Occupy Wall Street: A Short Documentary. Brazil: Landless Workers Movement.

Assignment 4 (10pts) Describe in class a Social Movement and their main Struggle in El Paso or Ciudad Juarez.

Assignment /Debate 11/05/2023

Check out the Class lesson for the Rubric

Readings

Chapter 3- Globalization Identity Chapter 4 The Multicultural Society (29-66) Culture on Being Different Diversity & Multiculturalism in the North American Mainstream. Conrad Phillip Kottak / Kathryn A. Kozaitis.
Humanity Book Chapter 8 Exchange in economic System 166 – 188.

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Lecture Topics Lesbian Feminism – Masculinism - Ethnographies of Sex and Gender – Queer Theory –Gender Performativity, Gay culture.

Movie: Milk (2008)

Reading Chapter 10 Sexual Orientation (165-183) Culture on Being Different Diversity & Multiculturalism in the North American Mainstream. Conrad Phillip Kottak/ Kathryn A. Kozaitis.

Assignment 5 (10 pts.) Gay rights debate. The legacy of Harvey Milk. Upload on Blackboard due date Sunday November 5, 11:59 pm.

9. November 13 (Monday) – November 19 (Sunday)

SOCIAL INEQUALITY AND STRATIFICATION.

Lecture Topics

Forms of Socioeconomic Stratification
The Culture of Poverty in The Borderland
Inner-city / Downtown Juarez Underworlds of Violence and Abuse
by Howard Campbell (2021)
Migrants Crisis at The Border Vazquez/ Morales (2022)

Documentaries: La Bestia / Migrant Crisis at The Border

Reading

Chapter 13 Class (225-241) Culture on Being Different Diversity & Multiculturalism in the North American Mainstream. Conrad Phillip Kottak / Kathryn A. Kozaitis.
Assignment /Debate 11/19/2023
Check out the Class lesson for the Rubric

10. November 20 (Monday) – November 26 (Sunday)/Thanksgiving week

VIOLENCE / NARCOCULTURE AND MIGRANT CRISI IN THE BORDER.

Lecture Topics

Drug Trafficking Problems and the Violence in Ciudad Juárez.

Reading

Campbell Howard (2011) (2021).
No End in Sight: Violence in Ciudad Juárez. / An anthropological refection on the Cuban Migrants in Ciudad Juárez Victor Vazquez (2022)

Assignment 6 (10 points) Discuss your anthropological opinion about Dr Vazquez's Field Work in Ciudad Juarez.

Assignment /Debate 11/26/2023
Check out the Class lesson for the Rubric

11. November 27 (Monday) – December 03 (Sunday)

SUMMARY: MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY / ANTHROPOLOGY AND RELIGION

Lecture Topics

Medical Anthropology, Social Research in Medicine, Humans Experimentations. Syphilis Experimentation in Guatemala, Puerto Rico's Female Experimentation.

Documentaries: The Frightening Legacy of US Syphilis Experiment (2011).

Reading

Humanity Book Chapter 17 (385 -389).

Assignment 7 (10 points)

Discuss in Class an anthropological opinion of the human experimentation in Latin America and United States.

Readings

- Religion and Worldview (312 -342) Humanity an Introduction to Cultural Anthropology 11 edition. James Peoples / Garrick Bailey.

Lecture Topics

Evolutionism and the idea of religion – Social Functions of Religion, Ritual and Symbol. The Rite of Passage – Status and Role – What is a Symbol?
Beliefs – Atheists- Agnostic - Religious Syncretism.

Reading - Humanity Book Introduction (30-36) Chapter -12 Chapter 12 (269- 283).

URBAN ANTHROPOLOGY

Lecture Topics The Third World – Development Theories – Urban Planning, Ethnography in the Cities, Urban Poverty, The Study of Gentrification in the City. Gentrification in EL Paso Texas, Duranguito. Segundo Barrio community struggle.

Readings -Chapter 16 The Challenge of Multiple Tradition (245-260) Thomas Hylland Eriksen (2001) Small Places Large Issues.
Bourgois Philippe (1999) In Search of Respect (Introduction, Violating Apartheid in the United States) (1-47)

Documentary: El Barrio Tours, Gentrification in East Harlem (2012).

Assignment 8(10 pts.) **Analysis on Gentrification impact. 12/03/2023.**

Assignment /Debate 12/03/2023
Check out the Class lesson for the Rubric

12. December 4 (Monday) – December 7 (Thursday)

FINAL RECAP THE CHALLENGES OF THE ANTHROPOLOGY IN THE 21ST CENTURY/ PANDEMIC IMPACT USING THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL APPROACH.

Lecture Topics Anthropology Today – Careers and Professions – Ethics and Anthropology, Goals of Anthropology, The Future of the Ethnography. Recap Special Bonus (5 pts.) Last debate in class focuses on the article: Remembering El Paso mass shooting. <https://time.com/5647705/texas-history-el-paso/> BY YOLANDA LEYVA

Discuss your final paper summary in class

Reading Humanity Book Chapter 17 World Problems and the Practice of Anthropology (385-406).

SUBMIT YOUR FINAL WRITTEN PAPER ON BLACKBOARD (50. PTS December 7)

Note: Syllabus and Course Schedule Subject to Modifications.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books

Bourgois, Phillippe Bourgois (1998) In Search of Respect Selling Crack in El Barrio. Cambridge

University Press.

Campbell, H. (2009) *Drug war zone: Frontline dispatches from the streets of El Paso and Juárez*. University of Texas Press.

Campbell, H. (2021) *Downtown Juarez. Underworlds of Violence and Abuse*. University of Texas Press.

Eriksen, Thomas Hylland (2001) (2015) *Small Places, Large Issues*. (Second edition (Fourth edition)). Publisher Pluto Press.

Peoples/ Baily (2017) *Humanity: An Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*. Eleven Edition. Cengage Learning.

Kottak / Kozaitis (2012) *On Being Different. Diversity & Multiculturalism in North American Mainstream*. Mc Graw Hill.

Welsch Robert L. / Vivanco Luis A. (2018) *Cultural Anthropology*. Oxford University Press.

Article

Vazquez, V. M. & Morales, S. A. (2021). Surviving “La Lucha” in Ciudad Juárez.: An anthropological reflection on the Cuban community in Ciudad Juárez, México. *DECUMANUS*, 6 (6), 59-73.

<https://doi.org/10.20983/decumanus.2021.1.4>

Additional Course Readings (CR’s) will be made available on Blackboard as PDF files or as class handouts.

Welcome to the incredible journey of the Cultural Anthropology.