

Intro-Cultural Anthropology
(ANTH-1302-014 CRN: 25619)
University of Texas at El Paso. Winter Semester 2024
Sociology and Anthropology Department
Jan 02- Jan 12

Dr. Víctor Vázquez
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Office: Old Main 207 Office Hours:
By appointment.
Class code: ANTH-1302-014 CRN:25619
Class Schedule: ONLINE COURSE
Jan 02- Jan 12
Phone number: [915-747-6529](tel:915-747-6529)



Picture: La Perla, Old San Juan, Puerto Rico. By Dr. Vázquez, 2020. 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 12/30/2023.

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- Familiarizing the students with the main thematic areas of Cultural Anthropology
- 3- Familiarizing the students with the methodological techniques used by anthropologists to conduct cultural research.
- 4- Applying anthropological knowledge to real-life scenarios that students can experiment with in their own lives.

Grading:

125 points - In-class exercises (assignments and debates)

50 points – Community Description Oral Report

50 points - Mid-term essay word format

50 points - Final Written Paper “Identify and Describe the poverty in EL Paso”.

Grade Breakdown

A – 275 pts. -250 pts.

B- 249 pts. – 225 pts.

C- 224 pts. -200 pts.

D- 199 pts. -175 pts.

F- 174 pts. -0 pts.

275 points total.

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

All assignments may be written in English or Spanish

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 period. 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, discussions, and written papers that represent a significant portion of your grade. Students are responsible for acquiring 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 to watch it. Each class lesson has its 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 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 the lecture from the professor. Take advantage of it! It will make a big difference in discussion and 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 interpretation and solutions. I expect you to write a critical account of the different perspectives advanced by the authors we have read and discussed in class.

All the written paper (assignments and final paper) must be written in APA Format 1.5 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 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 permit 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 on the Student Affairs webpage.

Photos guidelines

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

Course advice

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 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 communicating with the professor through email at vmvazquezro@utep.edu

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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 by 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 are 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 accommodation. 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 needs 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: México Border, Puente Libre Ciudad Juárez. By Dr. Vázquez 2020.

Through an ethnographic approach, we will explore border issues.

COURSE CALENDAR WINTER-SEMESTER 2024 (Calendar is subject to change)

Review the Lessons for the debates' instructions and due dates.

Calendar and Topics**1. January 2 (Tuesday)****Lesson #1****INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE***Lecture Topics*

What do you think anthropology is? - Review of the Course Syllabus- Review of the Glossary. Introduction to the general concepts.

*Reading***A BRIEF HISTORY OF ANTHROPOLOGY**

A brief History of Anthropology (9-24) Thomas Hylland Eriksen (2001) 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 and 2:
Debate 1 (10 pts.)***Review the class lesson for the instructions.**

These two Assignments are due Wednesday the 3rd.

Explain the main difference between Victorian Anthropology and American Anthropology? Upload on blackboard. Due date January 3rd 11:59 pm.

Documentaries: Tales from The Jungle: Malinowski /Odyssey Series: Franz Boas, 1858 -1942. **Review the class lesson for the debate's instructions.**

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

Humanity Book Chapter 1 The Study of Humanity (1-19).

2. January 3 (Wednesday) Lesson #2**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).

*Debate 2 AND
Migrant Crisis
Assignment*

Review Blackboard for the instructions. These are due the 4th and 5th of Jan, respectively.

**Community
Description
(50pts.)**

Start working with the Fieldwork exercise: describe your community. Due date will be Friday January 5th 11:59pm.

Reading

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

THEORIES AND METHODS OF CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY*Lecture Topics*

Main theories during XX century, development of Cultural Anthropology and Methods.

Readings

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

3. January 4 (Thursday) Lesson #3**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

Debate 3 and Assignment 3 (10 points)

Review the class lesson for the debate's instructions.
Short analysis of cultural traditions. Upload on blackboard due date, Jan 6th, 11:59pm and Jan 5th respectively.

Reading

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

CULTURE AND CULTURE DIFFERENCES (II)*Lecture Topics*

Counterculture 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).

Debate 3 (10 points)

Review the class lesson for the debate's instructions
Discuss in class a short opinion regarding the enculturation process in First Contact. Upload on blackboard , Jan 5th, 11:59pm.

4. January 5 (Friday) Lesson #4

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.

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.

MIDTERM ESSAY MATERIALS (30 pts.)

(Verify the rubric and the readings on blackboard) Upload on Blackboard Sunday 7th 11:59 pm

Movie Even the Rain (2010)

(The movie is available on Netflix, Amazon Prime, and YouTube prime) Remember, the movie is a requirement for the midterm essay. Is the student's responsibility to acquire the platform to watch the movie. There are multiples way to watch it)

5. January 8 (Monday) Lesson # 5

Community description (50 pts.) Ethnographic Exercise focused on your community. Review the rubric and the class lesson # 5 for the instructions. Upload on blackboard your PowerPoint or short video.

Don't forget to submit your midterm essay Sunday 7.
The midterm grade report will be available Monday 9.

6. January 8 and January 9 (Tuesday) Lesson # 6*Lecture Topics***THE NEOLIBERALISM IMPACT/ ANTHROPOLOGICAL ANALYSIS**

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.

Debate 4**Assignments 4 (10pts)**

Review the class lesson for the debate's instructions
Describe in class a Social Movement and their main Struggle in El Paso Ciudad Juarez, Topics on Sexual Orientation and Anthropological Economy
Due date on blackboard Monday 8, 11:59 pm.

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.

THE DIVERSITY OF CULTURE.**FEMINISM, GENDER AND SEXUALITY**

Lecture Topics The emergence of Feminist Anthropology – Is women subordination to men a universal phenomenon? - Sex and gender – The contribution of Margaret Mead. Documentary: Margaret Mead and Samoa (1988).

Reading -Chapter 9 Sex and Gender (144- 161) Culture on Being Different Diversity & Multiculturalism in the North American Mainstream. Conrad Phillip Kottak / Kathryn A. Kozaitis.

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.

Debate 5 and Assignment 5 (10 pts.)

Review the class lesson for the debate's instructions.
Gay rights debate. The legacy of Harvey Milk. Review lesson # 6 for the instructions. Due date on blackboard Tuesday 9, 11:59 pm.

7. January 10 (Wednesday) Lesson # 7

Lecture Topics **SOCIAL INEQUALITY AND STRATIFICATION.**
Forms of Socioeconomic Stratification
Poverty and Homelessness
The Culture of Poverty in Puerto Rico
Inner-city
Documentaries: La Bestia/ Narcocorridos

Reading Chapter 13 Class (225-241) Culture on Being Different Diversity & Multiculturalism in the North American Mainstream. Conrad Phillip Kottak / Kathryn A. Kozaitis.

VIOLENCE AND NARCOCULTURE IN THE BORDER.

Lecture Topics Drug Trafficking Problems and the Violence in Ciudad Juárez.
Reading Campbell Howard (2011). No End in Sight: Violence in Ciudad Juárez.

STRUCTURAL RACISM/ POLICE BRUTALITY CASES

Review the class lesson for the debate's instructions
Debate 6 and Assignment 6 (10 points) Discuss an anthropological opinion on the Drug trafficking at the Border. Review Class lesson # 7 for the instructions. **Due date for both Jan 10, 11:59pm.**

8. January 11 (Thursday) Lesson # 8

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).

Debate 7 (10 points) **Review the class lesson for the debate's instructions**
Discuss an anthropological opinion on the human experimentation. Review Class lesson #8 for the instructions. Due date Jan 11, 11:59pm.

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).

9. January 12 (Friday) Lesson # 9

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.

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 7 (10 pts) **Review the class lesson for the debate's instructions**
Analysis of the Gentrification in el Barrio. Review class lesson # 9 for instructions. Due date: Jan 12, 11:59pm.

Lesson # 10**FINAL RECAP THE CHALLENGES OF THE ANTHROPOLOGY IN THE 21ST CENTURY.**

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**

Final debate**AND****BONUS DEBATE*****Due Saturday 13th****Reading*

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

Final Written Paper (50 pts.) Upload on Blackboard. Due date Saturday, 13th 11:59 pm.**Course Bibliography****Books**

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

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

Welcome to the incredible journey of Cultural Anthropology.