Intro-Cultural Anthropology  
(ANTH-1302-013 CRN: 25789)  
University of Texas at El Paso. Winter Semester 2023  
Sociology and Anthropology Department  
Jan 02- Jan 13

Dr. Víctor Vázquez  
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Office: Old Main 207  
Office Hours: By appointment.  
Class code: ANTH-1302-013 CRN:25789  
Class Schedule: ONLINE COURSE  
Phone number: 915-747-6529

Picture: La Perla, Old San Juan, Puerto Rico. By Dr. Vázquez, 2017. 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

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 in their own lives.
Requirements:

Attendance in an on-line course consists of prompt fulfillment of all class activities. 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.

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 “Identify and Describe the poverty in 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 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.
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.

COVID 19 Measures -PROTEC YOURSELF- Instructors have the authority to enforce the mask policy in their classrooms. Students who choose to not comply are subject to repercussions as determined by the Office of Student Conduct. Review the guidelines https://www.utep.edu/ehs/COVID-19/

Required COVID-19 Student Training Video

All students, regardless of where you are taking classes, are asked to watch a COVID-19 informational and training video no later than January. 03, 2022. Students can access the 6-minute training video at covidtraining.questionpro.com.
COURSE CALENDAR WINTER-SEMESTER 2023 (Calendar is subject to change)

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

Calendar and Topics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. January 2 (Monday)</th>
<th>Lesson #1</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE</strong></td>
<td>Lecture Topics</td>
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**A BRIEF HISTORY OF ANTHROPOLOGY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reading</th>
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Is western culture essentially different from others? - How “primitive” are “primitive cultures”? – Culture and knowledge, Introduction to the general concepts II.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Assignment 1 and 2:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Review the class lesson for the instructions</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>These two Assignments are due Tuesday the 3rd.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Debate 1 (10 pts.)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Explain the main different between Victorian Anthropology and American Anthropology? Upload on blackboard. <strong>Due date January 3rd 11:59 pm.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Documentaries: Tales from The Jungle: Malinowski /Odyssey Series: Franz Boas,1858 -1942. <strong>Review the class lesson for the debate’s instructions.</strong></td>
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**THE FOUR-FIELD DISCIPLINE OF ANTHROPOLOGY**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Lecture Topics</th>
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<tr>
<td>The four-field discipline of Anthropology</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Archaeology</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Biological Anthropology</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Cultural Anthropology</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Linguistic Anthropology</td>
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<td>Main objective of each field.</td>
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Picture: México’s Border, Puente Libre Ciudad Juárez. By Dr. Vázquez 2020. Through an ethnographic approach, we will explore the border issues.
2. January 3 (Tuesday)  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 Cuba (2015).

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 6th 11:59pm.

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

3. January 4 (Wednesday)  Lesson #3

CULTURE AND CULTURAL DIFFERENCES (I)

Lecture Topics
The concept of culture – Ethnocentrism – Comparing cultural differences – Cultural values – Cultural norms.
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 the cultural traditions. Upload on blackboard due date, Jan 6th, 11:59pm and Jan 7th respectively.

Reading
### 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).

#### 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 (Thursday) 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

**MIDTERM ESSAY MATERIALS (30 pts.)**

(Verify the rubric and the readings on blackboard) **Upload on Blackboard Sunday 8th 11:59 pm**

- **Movie** Even the Rain (2010)
  - (The movie is available on Netflix, Amazon Prime, 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 6 (Friday) 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 8.**
**The midterm grade report will be available Monday 9.**
6. **January 9 (Monday) Lesson # 6**

**THE NEOLIBERALISM IMPACT/ ANTHROPOLOGICAL ANALYSIS**

*Lecture Topics*
- Anti-globalization movement
- EZLN, Occupy Wall-Street
- Arab Spring Movement
- Movimiento Sin Tierra de Brazil
- Internet Impact

**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 9, 11:59 pm.

**Readings**
- Humanity Book Chapter 8 Exchange in economic System 166 – 188.

**THE DIVERSITY OF CULTURE.**

**FEMINISM, GENDER AND SEXUALITY**

*Lecture Topics*

*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*

**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 Monday 9, 11:59 pm.
7. January 10 (Tuesday)  Lesson # 7

**SOCIAL INEQUALITY AND STRATIFICATION.**

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

*Reading*

**VIOLENCE AND NARCOCULTURE IN THE BORDER.**

*Lecture Topics*
- Drug Trafficking Problems and the Violence in Ciudad Juárez.

*Reading*

**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 (Wednesday)  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.

*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*

*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 (Thursday) Lesson # 9

URBAN ANTHROPOLOGY

Lecture Topics

Readings
- 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.

10. January 13 (Friday) Lesson # 10

FINAL RECAP THE CHALLENGES OF THE ANTHROPOLOGY IN THE 21ST CENTURY.

Lecture Topics

Final debate
AND

BONUS DEBATE Due Friday 14th

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, 14th 11:59 pm.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books


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.