ANTH 1302 INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY
University of Texas at El Paso. Fall Semester 2018
Department of Sociology and Anthropology

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Class Code: ANTH 1302 – 14085-007
Class Schedule: MW 9:00 am – 10:20 am

Class Meeting: Chemistry Computer Sci Bldg 1.0202

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
Updated 8.23.18

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:

- Attendance is Mandatory! There will be an in-class quiz or group exercise every class that represents a significant portion of your grade.
- Absences without excused will affect your Attendance final grade.
- There are graded reading quizzes and group activities every class.
- Familiarity with Spanish is not required although it will be highly advantageous when searching for additional materials.
- This is a reading and writing intensive course designed to challenge pre-conceived ideas and understandings.
- The subject matter for this course will include adult themes. Students are required to be respectful and mature while dealing with this sensitive topic. If, for any reason, anyone becomes uncomfortable in the class, please see me immediately.

Grading:

90 points - In class exercises (assignments, quizzes and debates)

10 points – attendance and participation

50 points - Mid-term essay word format (40 pts.) opinion in class (10 pts.)

100 points - Final Ethnographic Reflection (50 pts.) / points Oral Presentation (50 pts.)

250 points totals

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

All assignments may be written in Spanish or English

In class exercises and participation will include a professional development component, i.e. how does one present and argument? How to make a “good” power point. What are valid sources for an academic paper and how do you cite for direct quotes and paraphrases. These are universal skills that will be expected of each student.

All the assignments will be upload on blackboard.

Debates – Every class period there will be a reading comprehension exercise in the form of a debates.

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

Final Ethnographic Reflection, Written and Oral Report: The final paper 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.

It will be ten to fifteen pages, APA Format, 1.5 space, 12-point Times New Roman font with standard margins and include ACADEMIC references.
Classroom Ethics:

In addition to University of Texas El Paso guidelines, the class requires a level of maturity and sensitivity beyond what is normally expected. Critical dialogue and debate are essential for us to develop a complex understanding that acknowledges all perspectives. All classmates must be shown the utmost respect. I encourage any student that feels they have been disrespected, or if they are simply having problems with the subject matter, to please see me at once.

Student responsibilities and obligations:

Regular class attendance is expected of all university students. Attendance is excused, however, on religious holidays for students affiliated with that religion.

Reasonable behavior is also expected of all students. “Reasonable behavior” includes:

- **No cell phone use.** Please turn them off before you enter class.
- **No email or internet use in class.**
- **No talking** over the instructor or other classroom activity.
- **No reading** other materials during class.
- **Being polite and civil** in the classroom.

If you fail to abide by such basic behavioral guidelines you may be asked to leave the classroom. Students found using their cell phones of laptops for nonacademic purposes will have a private meeting with a member of the teaching team. Students who commit a second violation will have their participation grade reduced.

Academic Honesty Statement

The course will follow the University of Texas at El Paso’s policies on academic honesty. These policies can be found at [http://studentaffairs.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=4386](http://studentaffairs.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=4386)

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person's as ones' own. And, collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions.

Academic dishonesty is an assault upon the basic integrity and meaning of a University. Cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities are serious acts which erode the University's educational and research roles and cheapen the learning experience not only for the perpetrators, but also for the entire community. It is expected that UTEP students will understand and subscribe to the ideal of academic integrity and that they will be willing to bear individual responsibility for their work. Materials (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill academic requirements must represent a student's own efforts. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. **EVERYTHING YOU HAND IN WILL BE RUN THROUGH PLAGIARISM SOFTWARE WHICH TELLS ME EXACTLY WHAT PERCENTAGE OF YOUR PAPER IS NOT ORIGINAL. I will be forced to take action against anyone who fails to cite sources adequately.**

All material submitted must be the student’s own work. Ideas and expressions cited from the work of others must be credited appropriately. 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. Violations will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions.

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.

Through an ethnographic approach we will explore the border issues.

COURSE CALENDAR FALL 2018 (Calendar is subject to change)

Calendar and Topics

1. August 27 (Monday)
   Lecture Topics
   INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE
   What do you think anthropology is? - Review of the Course Syllabus- Review of the Glossary. Introduction to the general concepts I.

2. August 29 (Wednesday) - September 5 (Wednesday)
   Reading
   A BRIEF HISTORY OF ANTHROPOLOGY

   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 difference between Victorian Anthropology and American Anthropology? Upload on blackboard. Due date Monday September 3, 10:00 pm.

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

### 3. September 10 (Monday) 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).

### 4. September 12 (Wednesday)- September 17 (Monday)

**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).  

**Assignment 2 (10 pts.)**  
Discuss in class, Fieldwork short exercise: describe your community.

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

### 5. September 17 (Monday) -September 19 (Wednesday)

**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

### 6. September 24 (Monday) – September 26 (Wednesday)

**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

**Assignment 3 (10 points)**  
Short analysis of the cultural traditions. Upload on blackboard due date Friday 28, 12 noon.
Reading

7. October 1 (Monday) - October 3 (Wednesday)
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 4 (10 points) Discuss in class a short opinion of the enculturation process in First Contact.

8. October 8 (Monday) - October 10 (Wednesday)
ANTHROPOLOGY AND ECONOMY

Lecture Topics
Introduction to the Economy by the anthropological approach.
General Concepts.
The Basics of Western Economic Thought.
Marxism and Historicism
Documentary: Heaven on Earth-The Rise Fall of Socialism (2005)
Keynes and the Welfare State
Introduction to the globalization analysis
Transnationalism, Globalization, Neoliberalism, Cultural Impact.

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

9. October 15 (Monday) – October 17 (Wednesday)
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 October 21 noon. Discuss in class October 22 Monday.

10. October 22 (Monday) - October 24 (Wednesday)
The NEOLIBERALISM IMPACT / DISCUS IN CLASS MOVIE EVEN THE RAIN.

Lecture Topics
Anti-globalization movement
EZLN, Occupy Wall-Street
Arab Spring Movement
Movimiento Sin Tierra de Brazil
Internet Impact
Assignment 5 (10 pts)  Describe in class a Social Movement and their main Struggle in El Paso and Ciudad Juarez.

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

Midterm grade report due date October 24.

11. October 29 (Monday) - October 31 (Wednesday)  
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.

12. November 5 (Monday) – November 7 (Wednesday)  
SEXUAL ORIENTATION

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

Movie: Milk (2008)

Reading

Assignment 6 (10 pts.)  Gay rights debate. The legacy of Harvey Milk. Upload on Blackboard due date November 11, noon.

13. November 12 (Monday) – November 14 (Wednesday)  
SOCIAL INEQUALITY AND STRATIFICATION.

Lecture Topics
Forms of Socioeconomic Stratification
Poverty and Homelessness
The Culture of Poverty in Puerto Rico
Inner-city
Documentary: Narcocultura (2013)

Reading

November 19 (Monday) VIOLENCE AND NARCOCULTURE IN THE BORDER.
Lecture Topics
Drug Trafficking Problems and the Violence in Ciudad Juárez.

Reading

Assignment 7 (10 points)
Discuss in class an anthropological opinion of the Drug trafficking in the Border.

14. November 21 (Wednesday) ANTHROPOLOGY OF RELIGION DEBATE/ THE ORGANIZATION OF POLITICAL LIFE.

Readings

Lecture Topics

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

Assignment 8 (10 pts.)
Discuss in class Think about a particular religion: which are its main symbols and which particular values do they stand for? Why are some symbols more important than others?

15. NOVEMBER 26 (Monday) WORLD PROBLEMS AND THE PRACTICE OF ANTHROPOLOGY MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

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).

Assignment 9 (10 points) Discuss in Class an anthropological opinion of the human experimentation in Guatemala, Puerto Rico and United States.

16. NOVEMBER 28 (Wednesday) 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 (5 pts bonus) Analysis of the Gentrification in el Barrio. Upload on blackboard Due date December 2, noon.
17. DECEMBER 3 (Monday) DECEMBER 5 (WEDNESDAY) Fall – Last day of classes

ANTHROPOLOGY TODAY AND THE CHALLENGE OF
ANTHROPOLOGY.

Lecture Topics
Anthropology Today – Careers and Professions – Ethics and Anthropology,
Goals of Anthropology, The Future of the Ethnography. Recap

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

Final Paper (50 pts.) The Oral Presentation will be the same day of the final exam day. Upload the written
final paper on blackboard the same day of the oral presentation. Verify the rubrics, guideline and glossary on
Blackboard.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books

University Press.

Publisher Pluto Press.

Learning.


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.