

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

Dr. Víctor Vázquez

vmvazquezro@utep.edu

Office: Old Main Building 203

Phone number: 915-747-6156

Office Hours: MW 10:30 am-11:30 am

TR 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

TA: Erik Otto

eotto@miners.utep.edu

Office: Old Main Building # 314

Office Hour: W 10:00-11:00 am

Phone number 915-747-5901

Class Code: ANTH 1302 – 16128-012

Class Schedule: TR 1:30 pm – 2:50 pm

Class Meeting: Old Maine Building 214



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 affected 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 or 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>

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.



Picture: México Border, Ciudad Juárez. By Dr. Vázquez 2017.
Through an ethnographic approach we will explore the border issues.

COURSE CALENDAR FALL 2018 (Calendar is subject to change)

Calendar and Topics

1. August 28 (Tuesday)- August 30(Thursday)

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 I.

2. September 4 (Tuesday) -September 6 (Thursday)

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Reading

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 (10 pts.) **Explain the main different 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 11 (Tuesday) 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 13 (Thursday)

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).

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 18 (Tuesday) -September 20 (Thursday)

Lecture Topics **THEORIES AND METHODS OF CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY**
 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 25 (Tuesday) – September 27 (Thursday)

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

7. October 2 (Tuesday) - October 4 (Thursday)
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 9 (Tuesday) -October 11 (Thursday)
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
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.

9. October 16 (Tuesday) – October 18 (Thursday)
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 23 Tuesday.**

10. October 23 (Tuesday)- October 25 (Thursday)
THE NEOLIBERALISM IMPACT / DISCUS IN CLASS MOVIE EVEN THE RAIN.

Lecture Topics Anti-globalization movement

EZLN, Occupy Wall-Street
 The 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 5(10pts) *Describe in class a Social Movement and their main Struggle in El Paso and Ciudad Juarez.*

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 grade report due date October 24.

11. October 30 (Tuesday) -November 1 (Thursday)

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 6 (Tuesday) – November 8 (Thursday)

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

13. November 13 (Tuesday) – November 15 (Thursday)

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

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

November 20 (Tuesday) 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.

Assignment 7 (70 points) Discuss in class an anthropological opinion of the Drug trafficking in the Border.

14. November 27 (Tuesday) ANTHROPOLOGY OF RELIGION DEBATE/ THE ORGANIZATION OF POLITICAL LIFE.

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).

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 29 (Thursday) WORLD PROBLEMS AND THE PACTICE OF ANTHROPOLOGY MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

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). La Operacion (1980).

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. DECEMBER 4 (Wednesday) 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 10(5 pts bonus) **Analysis of the Gentrification in el Barrio. Upload on blackboard Due date December 5, noon.**

17. DECEMBER 6 (Thursday) 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. Finals 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

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.