ANTH 1302 INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY
University of Texas at El Paso. Spring Semester 2020
Department of Sociology and Anthropology

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Class Code: ANTH 1302 – 011-28705
Class Schedule: MW 12-1:20 pm
Class Meeting: Cotton Memorial Building 201

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS
Updated 1.21.2020

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 – Community Description Oral Report

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

50 points - Final Ethnographic Reflection. Written Paper (40 pts.) “Identify and Describe the poverty in EL Paso”. Opinion in class (10 pts.)

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 Spanish or English

In class exercises and participation will include a professional development component, i.e. how does one present an 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 debate.
The Mid-Term - It will also cover your knowledge of concepts that we discuss in class.

**Final Ethnographic Reflection:** 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 in 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](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 SPRING 2020 (Calendar is subject to change)

Calendar and Topics

1. January 22 (Wednesday)
   **INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE**
   
   **Lecture Topics**

2. January 27 (Monday) January 29 (Wednesday)
   **A BRIEF HISTORY OF ANTHROPOLOGY**
   
   **Reading**

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

   **Assignment 1 (20 pts.)**
   Explain the main different between Victorian Anthropology and American Anthropology? Upload on blackboard. Due date Sunday February 2nd 11:59 pm.

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

3. February 3 (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. February 5 (Wednesday)- February 10 (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).

   **Oral Presentation (50pts.)**
   Discuss in class, Fieldwork short exercise: describe your community.

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

5. February 12 (Wednesday) – February 17 (Monday) – February 19 (Wednesday)
   **ORAL PRESENTATIONS FIELDWORK EXERCISE: DESCRIBE YOUR COMMUNITY.**
6. February 24 (Monday) – February 26 (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

7. March 2 (Monday) - March 4 (Wednesday)

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 March 8, 11:59pm.

Reading
Chapter 2 Culture on Being Different Diversity & Multiculturalism in the North

8. March 9 (Monday) - March 11 (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 3 (10 points) Discuss in class a short opinion regarding the enculturation process in
First Contact.

MIDTERM ESSAY MATERIALS
(Verify the rubric and the readings on
blackboard) Upload on Blackboard Sunday 15 11:59 pm

Movie
Even the Rain (2010)

9. March 16 (Monday) - March 18 (Wednesday) Spring Break No Class
10. March 23 (Monday) – March 25 (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.
- Keynes and the Welfare State.
- Introduction to the globalization analysis.
- Transnationalism, Globalization, Neoliberalism, Cultural Impact.

**Readings**

- Chapter 3- Globalization Identity
- Humanity Book Chapter 8 Exchange in economic System 166 – 188.

11. MIDTERM ESSAY (50 pts.) Upload on Blackboard Due date Sunday 15, 11:59 pm. Discuss in class March 23 Monday.

   Midterm Grade report March 24

12. March 23 (Monday) - March 25 (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 4(10pts)** Describe in class a Social Movement and their main Struggle in El Paso and Ciudad Juarez.

**Readings**

- Chapter 3- Globalization Identity
- Humanity Book Chapter 8 Exchange in economic System 166 – 188.

13. March 30 (Monday) -April 1 (Wednesday)

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.

14. April 6 (Monday) - April 8 (Wednesday)

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

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


Assignment 5 (10 pts.) Gay rights debate. The legacy of Harvey Milk. Upload on Blackboard due date Sunday 12, 11:59 pm.

15. April 13 (Monday) - April 15 (Wednesday)

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


VIOLENCE AND NARCOCULTURE IN THE BORDER

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


Assignment 6 (10 points) Discuss in class an anthropological opinion of the Drug trafficking in the Border.

16. April 20 (Monday) - April 22 (Wednesday)

SUMMARY: MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY / ANTHROPOLOGY AND RELIGION


Reading Humanity Book Chapter 17 (385 -389).
Assignment 7 (10 points) Discuss in Class an anthropological opinion of the human experimentation in Guatemala, Puerto Rico and United States.


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

17. April 27 (Monday) – April 29 (Wednesday) Last day of classes URBAN ANTHROPOLOGY


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

Assignment 8(10 pts) Analysis of the Gentrification in el Barrio. Upload on blackboard Due date Sunday 26, 11:59pm.

18. May 4 (Monday) – May 6 (Wednesday) Last day of classes FINAL RECAP THE CHALLENGES OF THE ANTHROPOLOGY IN THE 21ST CENTURY.


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

Final Written Paper Printed (50 pts.) Verify the rubrics, guideline and glossary on Blackboard. Due date Wednesday, May 6th.
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.