

INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY
ANTH 1302 012 Intro-Cultural Anthropology 32142
University of Texas at El Paso
Term A 701
Summer 1 UTEP Connect 2024
May 13 – June 28
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Online Course

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Office Hours: By appointment

Class Schedule: ONLINE

Class Code: ANTH 1302 – 012- 32142

From May 13 – June 28/ 2024



Picture: La Perla, Old San Juan, Puerto Rico. By Dr. Vázquez, 2019. 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 5/8/2024

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's 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 on 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- Familiarize the students with the main thematic areas of Cultural Anthropology.
- 4- Applying anthropological knowledge to real-life scenarios that students can experiment with in their own lives.

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 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, 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 be referred to The University of Texas Disciplinary Committee).

For photos taken from the web (-5 points).

For using information obtained from AI / ChatGPT (-25 you will be referred to The University of Texas Disciplinary Committee).

Field trip information

There is a voluntary academic field trip to Downtown El Paso on **Saturday, May 18 from 9:00 am – 12 pm**. The field trip's objective is to gather the information for the Final Paper. It is not mandatory! However, I encourage all of you to make the arrangements and to participate if able. The field trip will be in charge of Dr. Max Grossman from the History Department at UTEP who is going to explain all the main topics for the final paper. We are going to meet at 400 W Overland Ave. at 845 am. Make the arrangements and see you on the field trip. Bring sports clothing, sun protection, sports shoes, a hat, water, and snacks. We are going to walk from Duranguito to Segundo Barrio.

Field trip requirement

Fill out the consent form and submit it on Blackboard on Wednesday, May 15.

Important

For all the students who live outside El Paso, there is a special Final Paper rubric on Blackboard.

If you cannot attend the field trip on Saturday, May 18, you can do the visit by yourself.

Photos guidelines

All the photos must be taken by yourself. Respect the human integrity no photos of 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 subject 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 communicating with the professor through email at vmvazquezro@utep.edu

Grading:

175 points - Class exercises (assignments and debates)

50 points - Mid-term essay word format

50 points - Final Written Paper “Mini urban ethnography on Gentrification”.

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 Coursework

Course activities will consist of reading, written discussions posted on discussion boards, and written assignments. The goal of each lesson is to give you a guideline for close detailed reading of the book chapters, articles, assignments, and documentaries analysis. Not reingestion can be answered directly in the reading; some are there to make you think or to point out implications rather than direct statements. This is a critical thinking course designed to provide you with cultural awareness and to give you a general understanding based on the works of academic researchers who analyze the impact on society of the world

of drug trafficking in the Borderland. Therefore, I encourage all of you to read every class lesson, to make the readings, to watch the documentaries, and to apply your academic and anthropological approach for a better understanding and to make your reflections to address this historical problem in the borderland. Your academic reflections and engagement in class are very important for your academic development and the best outcomes in this class.

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: Final reflection: The final essay will require you to elaborate an anthropological analysis of the Gentrification impact in the historical communities of Duranguito and Segundo Barrio. The Final paper is based on your experiences and information observed and gathered in the field trip.

Important

For all the students who live outside El Paso, there is a special Final Paper rubric on Blackboard.

If you cannot attend the field trip on Saturday, May 18, you can do the visit by yourself.

All the written papers (assignments and final paper) must be written in APA Format 1.5 – 2.0 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 on the Student Affairs webpage.

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 in accordance with 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 will be reported to the Dean of Students.

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 online. 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.



Picture: Welcome to México, Ciudad Juárez. By Dr. Vázquez 2019.

Through an ethnographic approach, we will explore the border's main issues.

COURSE CALENDAR Summer 1 UTEP Connect 2024 (Calendar is subject to change)

(Check the class lessons on Blackboard for due dates) (There are additional topics added)

Calendar and Topics

1. May 13 – May 14

Class Lesson1

INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

Lecture Topics

What do you think anthropology is? - Review of the Course Syllabus- Course Content, Materials, Readings, and Gradings. Midterm paper, Final Urban Ethnographic Reflection Introduction to the general concepts.

Reading

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ANTHROPOLOGY

A Brief History of Anthropology (9-24) Thomas Hylland Eriksen (2015) 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 difference between the Victorian Anthropology Approach and the American Anthropology Approach.

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

2. May 15 -May 17

Class Lesson 2

CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY RESEARCH METHODS

INTRODUCTION TO ETHNOGRAPHY AND FIELDWORK PHASES

Lecture Topics

Fieldwork, Interview, Theory and Data, Interpretation and Analysis, Present and Past, Emic, and Etic.

Fieldwork experience in Puerto Rico (2014-2017).

Fieldwork experience in Cuba (2015).

Fieldwork experience in Tijuana Mexico (2018) (2021).

Reading

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

PRESENTATIONS FIELDWORK EXERCISE: DESCRIBE YOUR COMMUNITY.

Presentation (50pts.)

Fieldwork short exercise: describe your community. May 17

The Field trip will be on Saturday, May 18

- 3. May 20– May 21** **Class lessons 3**
 (There are additional topics added)

THE FOUR-FIELD DISCIPLINE OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Lecture Topics The four-field discipline of Anthropology.

- Archaeology
- Biological Anthropology
- Cultural Anthropology
- Linguistic Anthropology

The main objective of each field.

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

- 4. May 22 – May 23**

THEORIES, CONCEPTS AND ETHICS OF CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Lecture Topics Main theories developed XX century, development of Cultural Anthropology And Methods – Theories and Concepts Analysis.

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

May 24 -May 30

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)

Assignment 2 **Short analysis of cultural traditions.**
(10 points)

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

- 5. May 31 – June 5**

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.

June 6 -June 7

Class Lesson 4
MIDTERM ESSAY MATERIALS
(Verify the rubric and the readings on blackboard) pm

Movie

Even the Rain (2010)

MIDTERM ESSAY (50 pts.) Upload on Blackboard Due date June 7, 11:59 pm. Midterm Grade report due date: June 9.

6. June 10 - June 12 Class Lesson 5

THE NEOLIBERALISM IMPACT / SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

Lecture Topics

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.

Assignment 4 (10pts) Describe in class a Social Movement and its main Struggle in El Paso and Ciudad Juarez. Debate

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.

7. June 13 – June 14

Class lesson 6
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.

8. June 13 – June 14

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 5 (10 pts.) **Gay rights debate. The legacy of Harvey Milk.**

9. June 17 – June 18

SOCIAL INEQUALITY AND STRATIFICATION.

Lecture Topics Forms of Socioeconomic Stratification
The Culture of Poverty in The Borderland
Inner-city / Downtown Juarez Underworlds of Violence and Abuse
by Howard Campbell (2021)
Migrant Crisis at The Border Vazquez/ Morales (2022)

Documentaries: La Bestia / Migrant Crisis at The Border

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

June 19

Class lesson 7

VIOLENCE / NARCOCULTURE AND MIGRANT CRISIS IN THE BORDER.

Lecture Topics Drug Trafficking Problems and the Violence in Ciudad Juárez.
Reading Campbell Howard (2011) (2021).
No End in Sight: Violence in Ciudad Juárez. / An
Anthropological Reflection on the Cuban Migrants in Ciudad Juárez Victor
Vazquez (2022)

Assignment 6 (10 points) **Discuss your anthropological opinion about Dr Vazquez's Field Work in Ciudad Juarez.**

10. June 20- June 21

Class lesson 8 -9

SUMMARY: MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY / ANTHROPOLOGY AND

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).

Assignment 7 (10 points)

Discuss your anthropological opinion of human experimentation in Latin America and the United States.

June 24 – June 25

Class lessons 8-9

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. Segundo Barrio community struggle.

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 8(10 pts.)

Analysis of Gentrification impact. Upload on Blackboard

11. June 26 – June 28

Class lesson 10

Religion

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).

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

<i>Lecture Topics</i>	Anthropology Today – Careers and Professions – Ethics and Anthropology, Goals of Anthropology, The Future of Ethnography. Recap <u>Special Bonus (5 pts.)</u> The last debate in class focuses on the article: Remembering El Paso mass shooting. https://time.com/5647705/texas-history-el-paso/ BY YOLANDA LEYVA
<i>Reading</i>	Humanity Book Chapter 17 World Problems and the Practice of Anthropology (385-406).

TURN IN YOUR FINAL WRITTEN PAPER ON THE BLACKBOARD (50 PTS JUNE 28)

Note: Syllabus and Course Schedule Subject to Modifications. (Check the class lesson schedule on the blackboard) (There are additional topics added)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books

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

Campbell, H. (2009) Drug war zone: Frontline dispatches from the streets of El Paso and Juárez. University of Texas 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.

Vazquez, V. M. & Morales, S. A. (2021). Surviving “La Lucha” in Ciudad Juárez.: An anthropological reflection on the Cuban community in Ciudad Juárez, México. DECUMANUS, 6 (6), 59-73.
<https://doi.org/10.20983/decumanus.2021.1.4>

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

Welcome to the incredible journey of Cultural Anthropology.