

COURSE SYLLABUS

Contemporary Anthropology (ANTH 211)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduces the major concepts, theories, and research methods of cultural anthropology that are used to study and understand human culture in different parts of the world. Emphasis is given to how traditional and non-traditional cultures undergo change as a result of globalization and how cultural anthropologists study the social, economic, and political consequences that result from integration into an expanding global economy. Topics covered include social organization, economics, power and politics, race and ethnicity, language and communication, technology, religion and ritual, and sex and gender. A wide geographic coverage provides a basis for global comparisons of cultural similarities and differences among human societies.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Throughout the semester we will be working towards achieving various class goals. By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Identify the holistic and cross-cultural approach to the study of human culture unique to cultural anthropology.
2. Explain major research methods used to study human cultures from a global perspective.
3. Recognize cultural differences and cultural diversity found in the United States and in other parts of the world.
4. Apply critical anthropological perspectives to explore ways of addressing and solving contemporary social issues.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Textbook

Title: Essentials of Cultural Anthropology: A Toolkit for a Global Age

Edition: Second edition

Author: Kenneth J. Guest

ISBN: 978-0-393-26501-9

Supplemental reading

Title: Reproducing Race: An Ethnography of Pregnancy as a site of Racialization

Year: 2011

Author: Bridges, Khiara

ISBN-13: 978-0674004320

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

	Topic	Readings due this date
Week 1	Logistics 1. Culture: The biological and evolutionary basis of culture	
	1. Culture: Norms, values, symbols, and mental maps	
	1. Culture: Cultural systems and institutions	
Week 2	[LABOR DAY: NO CLASS]	
	1. The Creation of Culture: A Complete Example	Bridges (Reproducing Race): Chapter 1, Pp. 1-20.
Week 3	2. Social Structure of Traditional Societies	
	2. Subsistence and Production in Traditional Societies: Domestication and Horticulture.	Bridges (Reproducing Race): Chapter 1, Pp. 21-30.
	2. Subsistence and Production in Traditional Societies: Agriculture, town life, and craft specialists.	
Week 4	2. How the Industrial Revolution Transformed Production --LECTURE CHECK 1	Bridges (Reproducing Race): Chapter 1, Pp. 30-40.
	3. Political Consolidation in Traditional Societies	Bridges (Reproducing Race): Chapter 2, Pp. 41-57.
Week 5	4. Ethnicity and Nationalism: -Introduction	Guest (textbook): Chapter 6.
	4. Ethnicity and Nationalism -Ethnicity	Guest (textbook): Chapter 12.
Week 5	4. Ethnicity and Nationalism -Birth of the Modern Nation State	Bridges (Reproducing Race): Chapter 2, Pp. 57-73.

	4. Ethnicity and Nationalism -How the Nation States Becomes an Ethnic Identity	
	4b. Militarization --LECTURE CHECK 2	
Week 6	5. Language and Communication -Basics of Language	Bridges (Reproducing Race): Chapter 3, Pp. 74-86.
	5. Language and Communication -Linguistic Evolution	Guest (textbook): Chapter 4.
	5. Language and Communication -Language and Systems of Power	Bridges (Reproducing Race): Chapter 3, Pp. 86-100.
Week 7	6. Religion -Where does religious belief come from?	Guest (textbook): Chapter 13.
	6. Religion -Variation in religious systems	Bridges (Reproducing Race): Chapter 4, Pp. 103-122.
	6. Religion -Religion today --LECTURE CHECK 3	
Week 8	7. Gender & Sexuality -Sex and biology	Bridges (Reproducing Race): Chapter 4, Pp. 123-143.
	7. Gender & Sexuality -Sex and gender	Guest (textbook): Chapter 7.
	7. Gender & Sexuality -Constructing Gender	Guest (textbook): Chapter 8.
Week 9	8. Marriage and the Family -Kinship	Bridges (Reproducing Race): Chapter 5, Pp. 144-174.

	8. Marriage and the Family - Variations on the family	Guest (textbook): Chapter 9.
	8. Marriage and the Family - The detachable nuclear family --LECTURE CHECK 4	
Week 10	9. The Global Economy -Colonial systems of dependency -GDP per Capita around the world	Bridges (Reproducing Race): Chapter 5, Pp. 174-200.
	9. The Global Economy -World Systems Theory	Guest (textbook): Chapter 11.
	10. Migration	Guest (textbook): Chapter 10.
Week 11	10. Migration	Bridges (Reproducing Race): Chapter 6, Pp. 200-227.
	11. Class and Inequality	
	11. Class and Inequality --LECTURE CHECK 5	
Week 12	12. Race and Racism	Bridges (Reproducing Race): Chapter 6, Pp. 228-249.
	12. Race and Racism	Guest (textbook): Chapter 5.
	12. Race and Racism	
Week 13	13. Healthcare & Illness	Guest (textbook): Chapter 14.
	13. Healthcare & Illness	
	13. Healthcare & Illness	
	NO CLASS	
	NO CLASS	
	NO CLASS	
Week 14	14. Sustainability and our current world system	

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FINALS	14. Sustainability and our current world system	
	FINAL: 12:30-2:30pm	

METHODS OF EVALUATION

1) <u>Lecture checks (12% each)</u>	60%
2) <u>Final Exam</u>	20%
3) <u>Attendance</u>	20%

Lecture checks

Lecture checks are small multiple-choice or short answer quizzes designed to make sure everyone is keeping up with lectures. They stem directly from classes, weekly readings, and classroom discussions.

PLEASE NOTE: Lecture checks are due when assigned and can only be made up due to an excused absence with proper documentation.

Attendance

Attendance is important, as many of the concepts introduced in the readings will be further elaborated and discussed in class. For those reasons, periodic attendance will be taken, and will constitute 20% of the grade.

Extra Credit

There is no extra credit available in this course.

GRADING SCALE

The following grading scale is utilized for student evaluation:

A	90% and above
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	59% and below