

# ANTH 120 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

Web Course

Dr. Kate Hudepohl

Summer 2015

4-Week July Session Course Syllabus

July 6th – July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015

*I reserve the right to make changes to the course and syllabus at any time as I deem necessary.*

Note: This **course will be delivered through electronic Blackboard**. It is your responsibility to make sure you have access to a reliable computer that is compatible with Blackboard. Technology problems should be directed to the WKU computer helpdesk: (270) 745-7000. Note: all devices are not equally compatible with Blackboard.

Note: You need to have **access to the texts by the first day of class**. You may obtain them through the WKU Store, but they are also widely available through other services such as Amazon.com. In addition, all required books will be available through 2-hour reserve at Cravens Library. Articles are available through Blackboard.

## I. Instructor Contact Information

Email:	kate.hudepohl@wku.edu
Office:	FAC 235 (270)745-5842 (note: The office phone has a time & date stamp, but I only check it periodically.)
Office Hours:	I will check my e-mail at least once a day, 7 days/week. I will try to respond to all questions/problems within 36 hours of initial contact. Face-to-face meetings can be scheduled by appointment as needed.

## II. Course Objectives

Through a combination of assignments, discussion board postings, and assessments students will learn about theories, research methods, and key concepts in cultural anthropology. Cross-cultural readings will help students appreciate the wide range of cultural practices which exist, as well as to enhance student understanding of basic methods and concepts in the discipline.

Upon successful completion of the course, students will

- understand key concepts relevant to cultural anthropology.
- understand major theoretical contributions of anthropology.
- recognize and understand general patterns in social organization.
- have an increased appreciation and respect for the value of cultural diversity.

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, which is an introduction to the cross-cultural study of human behavior and society and covers topics that include language, religion, subsistence, and kinship, fulfills both an elective in the new Colonnade Program (Exploration, Social and Behavioral Sciences) **AND** the old General Education Category E (World Cultures and American Diversity) requirement.

In terms of the old **General Education Category E** requirements:

It will assist students in attaining the following General Education goal:

- an appreciation of the complexity and variety of the world’s cultures.

Course objectives support these General Education goals in the following ways:

- identifies both the similarities and cross-cultural variation in social institutions and cultural practices through readings, lectures, discussions, and/or videos describing diverse societies and comparing and contrasting their cultural beliefs and social institutions.
- conveys the value of recognizing ethnocentric bias and utilizing cultural relativism in order to better understand and appreciate cultural diversity through readings, lectures, discussions and/or videos explaining ethnocentric bias and cultural relativism and then by applying these concepts to culture-specific materials presented in class.
- describes how aspects of social identity such as class, gender, ethnicity and race are constructed differently cross-culturally and may affect the individual and his/her role and status in the community through readings, lectures, discussion and/or videos describing how and why aspects of social identity may affect an individual's place in society.

This course can also be used to fulfill a requirement for the **Colonnade Program Explorations Subcategory B: Social and Behavioral Sciences**.

Upon successful completion of the course, students will:

ANTH 120 INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY OBJECTIVES	EXPLORATIONS – SOCIAL/BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES OBJECTIVES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• identify relationships among cultural anthropology, anthropology, and other social and behavioral sciences</li></ul>	1. demonstrate knowledge of at least one area of the social and behavioral sciences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• evaluate and apply major conceptual, theoretical, and methodological contributions of cultural anthropology, including ethical conduct and applied research</li></ul>	2. apply knowledge, theories, and research methods, including ethical conduct, to analyze problems pertinent to at least one area of the social and behavioral sciences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• describe general patterns in social organization, including the role of cultural diversity and its significance in human society</li></ul>	3. understand and demonstrate how at least one area of the social and behavioral sciences conceptualizes diversity and the ways it shapes human experience
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• apply cultural anthropology concepts to contemporary issues such as racism, sustainability, and health</li></ul>	4. integrate knowledge of at least one area of the social and behavioral sciences into issues of personal and public importance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• recall and explain general characteristics and concepts of anthropology and cultural anthropology</li></ul>	5. communicate effectively using the language and terminology germane to at least one area of the social and behavioral sciences

This course counts as an elective in the major in Popular Culture Studies and a requirement in the Social Studies Major.

### **III. Course Materials**

#### **TEXTS:**

(D) Dancing Skeletons – Katherine A. Dettwyler

ISBN (for 20th Anniversary edition): 978-1-4786-0758-8

You may obtain the older edition, but there are 2 new chapters in the 20th anniversary edition that you are required to read. Copies of those chapters will be available through Blackboard for those who purchase the older edition. A copy of the older edition of this book is also available on 2-hour reserve in Cravens library.

(N) My Freshman Year – Rebekah Nathan

ISBN: 0801443970

A copy of this book is also available on 2-hour reserve in Cravens library.

(W) Cultural Anthropology: Asking Questions About Humanity – Robert Welsch & Luis Vivanco

ISBN: 9780199925728

A copy of this book is also available on 2-hour reserve in Cravens library.

#### **ARTICLES:**

Available in Blackboard. Consult the detailed schedule of topics for author names.

**\*\*Buy the books as soon as possible and make sure you purchase the correct editions.** They are available through the WKU bookstore and are common enough to be available through other vendors such as Amazon.com. Different editions do not contain the same information and are not necessarily organized in the same manner. Assignments and tests are based on the editions cited above.

Not having the required texts **will not** be considered an acceptable excuse for late work.

### **IV. Course Structure**

The material in this 4-week course is organized into 4 units (1unit/week). **Each unit** consists of:

- assigned readings as indicated on the syllabus (generally covering 2-3 different topics)
- a series of tasks indicated on the **weekly unit tasks sheet** posted separately at the beginning of each week into a folder in Blackboard (a few short discussion board postings, an e-mailed assignment)
- unit-ending 25-question quizzes delivered through blackboard scheduled for the end of each unit (4 total quizzes)

You may also be required to do some web-based work that might include viewing film clips or reviewing a website to find pertinent information. Specific directions for each unit (“**Unit Tasks**”) will be posted the Sunday before a unit begins. For each unit, you will need to consult the syllabus AND the appropriate Unit Tasks sheet.

Do readings when assigned (or earlier). **Take notes summarizing main points** (and page numbers) as you read. **Quizzes** for each unit are open note, open book, but they are timed and you may only attempt each quiz one time. You WILL NOT have time to try to look up answers for every question. Review reading notes before you start a quiz and have them (and the texts) handy while you take it. Doing readings on time and having notes handy should also assist you in providing better, more thoughtful responses to assignments and discussion board postings. I may post some lecture notes and study questions about readings to help you better understand and think about ideas in course materials.

## V. Determination of Course Grade

Your grade will be based on the following:

4 quizzes (25 pts each; 1/unit)	100 points total
4 assignments (10 pts each; 1/unit)	40 points total
12 discussion board postings (5 pts each; 3/unit)	<u>60 points total</u>
	200 points total

## VI. Course Policies

I reserve the right to make changes to the course and syllabus at any time as I deem necessary.

Completing readings and assignments, as well as participation on discussion board, is critical to success in this course. Students are expected to regularly check the course website (electronic Blackboard) to find assignments, check grades, participate in assigned discussions, and to share information with other students and the instructor.

Students are expected to complete assignments by stated deadlines. **I will accept one late essay assignment and one set of late discussion board postings without penalty.** Subsequent late assignments and/or discussion board postings, regardless of the reason, will cause you to lose points off your final course grade as I deem appropriate. This does not include quizzes; ***quizzes must be taken within the allotted time-frame.*** However, if you think you have a legitimate reason for missing a quiz, let me know as soon as possible, and I will consider allowing you to take it late – **THOUGH THIS IS NOT GUARANTEED, NO MATTER THE REASON FOR MISSING A QUIZ.**

Before the first week of class students should identify AT LEAST one alternative means of access to a computer should their primary computer suddenly become unavailable (e.g. public library, school computing facilities, a friend’s computer, etc.). ***Losing access to a computer will not be considered a legitimate excuse for not completing assignments.*** For this reason, I strongly urge you not to wait until the last minute to complete assignments.

Students are expected to adhere to the honor code and plagiarism rules of Western Kentucky University. Students will receive a 0 for any assignment on which he/she cheated. In addition, I may report your actions to the administration for further sanction.

**Students may not reproduce this course in any fashion.**

In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services in DUC A-200 of the Student Success Center in Downing University Center. Please **DO NOT** request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

**VI. Schedule of Topics** (\*\*All times noted below are **Central Standard Time**\*\*) 

NOTE: Detailed directions for each Unit will be posted in Blackboard Assignments at the beginning of each unit. In order to successfully complete each unit, you will need to consult both the syllabus AND the unit tasks sheet.

**Unit 1: Monday, July 6th – Sunday, July 12th**

*Note: Make sure to read Unit 1 Task sheet posted in a folder under the Blackboard Information tab.*

**1) Topics and Readings**

- A. What is Anthropology?  
(W): Ch.1
- B. Culture Concept  
(W): Ch. 2  
Richard Lee article (see electronic copy in BB)
- C. Language  
(W): Ch. 4  
Laura Bohannon article (see electronic copy in BB)
- D. Dettwyler: Intro – Ch.8

Assignments and discussion board postings to be announced (watch website for details). See Course Documents for rules regarding discussion board postings.

- 2) Quiz #1 (All quizzes are open note, open book. However, consulting with another student regarding specific quiz questions is considered cheating.)  
May be taken anytime between 10:00 a.m. on Friday 7/10 until 11:00 p.m. on Sunday 7/12. (based on **Central Standard Time**)

**Unit 2: Monday, July 13th – Sunday, July 19th**

*Note: Make sure to read Unit 2 Task sheet posted in a folder under the Blackboard Information tab.*

**1) Topics and Readings**

- A. Doing Anthropology  
(W): Ch. 5  
Jeffrey Ehrenreich article
- B. Applying Anthropology  
(W): Ch. 15  
Prezi presentation in Blackboard
- C. Globalization  
(W): Ch. 6  
The Story of Stuff video in Blackboard
- D. Dettwyler: Ch.9 – Ch.16

Assignments and discussion board postings to be announced (watch website for details). See Course Documents for rules regarding discussion board postings.

- 2) Quiz #2(All quizzes are open note, open book. However, consulting with another student regarding specific quiz questions is considered cheating.)  
May be taken anytime between 10:00 a.m. on Friday 7/17 until 11:00 p.m. on Sunday 7/19. (Based on **Central Standard Time**)

**VI. Schedule of Topics** (\*\*All times noted below are **Central Standard Time**\*\*)

**Unit 3: Monday, July 20th – Sunday, July 26th**

*Note: Make sure to read Unit31 Task sheet posted in a folder under the Blackboard Information tab.*

- 1) Topics and Readings
  - A. Gender  
(W): Ch. 12  
Williams’ article
  - B. Kinship  
(W): Ch. 13
  - C. Subsistence  
(W): Ch. 7
  - D. Nathan Ch. 1-Ch.4

Assignments and discussion board postings to be announced (watch website for details). See Course Documents for rules regarding discussion board postings.

- 2) Quiz #3 (All quizzes are open note, open book. However, consulting with another student regarding specific quiz questions is considered cheating.)  
May be taken anytime between 10:00 a.m. on Friday 7/24 until 11:00 p.m.  
on Sunday 7/26. (Based on **Central Standard Time**)

**Unit 4: Monday, July 27th – Friday, July 31st**

*Note: Make sure to read Unit 4 Task sheet posted in a folder under the Blackboard Information tab.*

- 1) Topics and Readings
  - A. Ethnicity and Race  
(W): Ch.11  
A Girl Like Me video in Blackboard
  - B. Political Systems  
(W): Ch. 10
  - C. Religion  
(W): Ch. 14  
Gmelch article  
Adams article
  - D. Nathan Ch. 5-Afterword

Assignments and discussion board postings to be announced (watch website for details). See Course Documents for rules regarding discussion board postings.

- 2) Quiz #4 (All quizzes are open note, open book. However, consulting with another student regarding specific quiz questions is considered cheating.)  
May be taken anytime between 10:00 a.m. on Thursday 7/30 until 11:00 p.m.  
on Sunday 8/2. (Based on **Central Standard Time**)  
(Note: the class is technically over on 7/31, but you can take the quiz as late as 8/2.)