

FALL 2021
Dr. Ashley Stinnett

Course Syllabus

ANTH 120 – Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

NOTE: The course syllabus that is distributed on Blackboard is the ultimate authority for this class and supersedes information posted elsewhere. The online syllabus posted to TOPNET (“schedule of classes”) is only a draft.

I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

Through a combination of lectures, discussions, and films 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. *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 the General Education Category E (World Cultures and American Diversity) requirement. It will assist students in attaining the following General Education goal:

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

ONLINE FORMAT

This course is designed in a split synchronous/asynchronous format, with the asynchronous portion being provided on Blackboard, and the synchronous portion conducted on Zoom. It is your responsibility to make sure you have access to a reliable computer and browser that is compatible with these platforms.

The complete Zoom invitation information is appended at the end of the syllabus, below are the quick links, which are also located on Blackboard.

Course Information

Days: Monday (asynchronous)
Wednesday (synchronous)
Friday (synchronous)

Time: 11:30 AM – 12:25 PM CST

Location: Zoom (see course link below)

CRN#: 22628

Section#: 700

Instructor Contact Information

Email: ashley.stinnett@wku.edu

Office: ONLINE

Office Hours: Monday’s 1-2PM (Zoom)
Wednesday’s 2-3PM (Zoom)
or by appointment

Technology Support & Resources

WKU computer helpdesk: (270) 745-7000

WKU CITL Learning Remotely
<https://www.wku.edu/citl/teaching-remotely/tipsforonlinelearning.php>

Student Services webpage:
<https://www.wku.edu/its/services/students.php>

WKU Blackboard Course Site Login
<https://wku.blackboard.com/>

WKU Zoom Webpage Information and Support:
<https://www.wku.edu/citl/services/tools/zoom/zoom-students/zoom-students.php>

Zoom Help Center:
<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us>

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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:

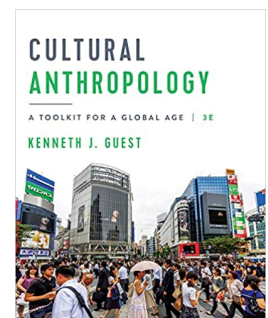
ANTH 120 INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY OBJECTIVES	EXPLORATIONS – SOCIAL/BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES OBJECTIVES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify relationships among cultural anthropology, anthropology, and other social and behavioral sciences. 	1. demonstrate knowledge of at least one area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

II. Course Materials

There is 1 required textbook for this class:

Cultural Anthropology: A Toolkit for a Global Age. Third Edition by Kenneth J. Guest. Published in 2020. ISBN-13: 978-0393420128; ISBN-10: 0393420124

The book is available from the WKU Bookstore and from online booksellers such as Amazon.com. It is available in print or digitally. Any additional readings will be posted to the course Blackboard website. Consult the detailed schedule of topics for author names. ALL other course readings can be find in PDF or URL link on the course Blackboard site.



****Make sure you purchase the correct editions of the book. Save receipts in case of mistakes****

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III. Course Policies

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

Recording the class:

Students may not record this course in any fashion for any reason. This prohibition includes but is not limited to audio recording, video recording, and transcription aids. Learning how to take good lecture notes is important. If you have a disability that prevents you from taking notes, see the “disability accommodation” section below.

Incomplete:

I absolutely will not consider granting an incomplete for the course or a withdrawal after the deadline without written documentation of serious and severe personal problem(s).

Late Work Policy:

As a rule, work will not be accepted late, except in case of documented emergency or illness. You may petition the professor in writing for an exception if you feel you have a compelling reason for turning work in late.

Online Behavior:

To foster a positive learning environment, please do not use your cell phones during our class time, unless it is an emergency. Additionally, while we are online, do not text, chat, play games, read the newspaper or surf the web during lecture and discussion. My expectation is for you to be taking notes, engaging with the content and with your classmates. We will have breaks throughout class, so please refrain from these behaviors during the lecture and discussion.

I will not require you to turn on your video camera during our class, however, I encourage you to do so, if you are comfortable. I do require that your screen name reflect how you would like to be addressed, and I will require some form of photograph or image be loaded to your Zoom profile. I encourage you to be creative. Some suggestions might be a bitmoji, a selfie, an image of your favorite meal, image from a vacation, a place you’d like to travel to, your favorite pet, or something else that reflects your identity.

Academic Dishonesty:

Students are expected to adhere to the honor code and plagiarism rules of WKU.

See <http://www.wku.edu/csa/policies/plagiarism.php>

Evidence of academic dishonesty may result in a failing grade for the class and will be reported to the office of student conduct.

“The maintenance of academic integrity is of fundamental importance to the University. Thus, it should be clearly understood that acts of plagiarism or any other form of cheating will not be tolerated and that anyone committing such acts risks punishment of a serious nature” (WKU 2015-2016 Undergraduate Catalog, p. 33).

The instructor will deal with academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, in accordance with University policy. “Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may receive from the instructor a failing grade in that portion of the coursework in which the act is detected or a failing grade in the course without possibility of withdrawal” (p. 33-34). **The instructor will bring sanctions against any student who perpetrates academic dishonesty.** Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes cheating and plagiarism; I provide the University descriptions below.

Regarding **cheating**, “no student shall receive or give assistance not authorized by the instructor in taking an examination or in the preparation of an essay, laboratory report, problem assignment or other project that is submitted for purposes of grade determination” (p. 34). Cheating includes the use of assignments completed by other students in this class during current or previous semesters.

“To represent written work taken from another source [book, journal, web site, lecture, lab, or other source whether it is prepared by the instructor, a guest speaker, or a classmate] as one’s own is **plagiarism**. Plagiarism is a serious offense. The academic work of a student must be his/her own. One must give any author credit for source material borrowed from him/her. To lift content directly from a source without giving credit is a flagrant act. To present a borrowed passage without reference to the source after having changed a few words is also plagiarism” (p. 33).

Resolving Complaints about Grades

The first step in resolving a complaint about grades is for the student to attempt to resolve the problem directly with the course instructor. See the Student Handbook, available at <http://www.wku.edu/handbook/> for additional guidance.

Title IX Misconduct/Assault Statement

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU’s Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) at <https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf> and the Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at <https://www.wku.edu/policies/docs/251.pdf>.

Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121.

Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are “Responsible Employees” of the University and **MUST** report what you share to WKU’s Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU’s Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.

ADA Accommodation Statement:

In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, 1074. SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

Writing Center Assistance:

Writing tutors have been trained to provide helpful feedback to students at all phases of a writing project: they can help you brainstorm ideas, structure your essay, clarify your purpose, strengthen your support, and edit for clarity and correctness. But they will not revise or edit the paper for you. Please see <https://www.wku.edu/writingcenter/> for hours and more information about how to access these resources. Students may also get short writing questions answered via email; just put “Quick question” in the subject line to (writingcenter@wku.edu).

Notification of Objectionable Materials:

Although course content may be deemed offensive by some students, such materials are important for the

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learning process. Students are not excused from interacting with such materials, but they are certainly encouraged to express well-formed opinions that express those objections and their reasons for them.

V. Determination of Course Grade

Your grade will be based on the following tests and assignments:

Activity	Points	%
Writing Prompts (5 total, 3 points ea)	15	15
Collaborative Notetaking	10	10
Quizzes (10 total, 1 points ea.)	10	10
Ethnographic Assignment	15	15
Midterm Exam	25	25
Final Exam	25	25
TOTAL	100	100%

Grades will be determined as	
A range	90-100%
B range	80-89%
C range	70-79%
D range	60-69%
F range	0-59%

Attendance

Class attendance is absolutely necessary. You are responsible for the assigned readings, discussion, and course materials, the highlights of which will be covered in lecture. In addition, this class is designed around in-class activities and discussion group activities.

Participating in the course and attending lectures and other course activities are vital to the learning process. As such, attendance is required at all lectures. Students who miss class due to illness or emergency are required to bring documentation from their healthcare provider or other relevant, professional third parties.

Please come to virtual office hours. If for some reason you cannot drop by my regular office hours, schedule an appointment for a different time. One-on-one consultation on confusing points is always helpful.

Readings

Students are expected to complete the readings by the assigned date, and to read each assignment thoroughly and critically. *Required readings* will cover concepts that are essential to your understanding of Anthropology.

Assignment Overview

Assignment requirements will be discussed in class and detailed instructions for all course assignments will be given to you in class and/or will be available on Blackboard.

Collaborative Notetaking:

You will be randomly assigned to a group with other students where you will rotate note-taking responsibilities during our class meetings in a shared Google document that I create and manage. Further details, instructions, and expectations for note-taking are available on Blackboard.

Writing Prompts:

There are 5 writing prompts throughout the semester. You will be required to write short reflections based on the concepts and themes and the prompt; the majority of the writing will be done in class. The details and expectations for the writing prompts are available on Blackboard.

Ethnographic Fieldwork Assignment:

For this course you will take the first step in learning about cultural anthropology methodology. Some portions of this will be done in class through discussion and lectures; some will be on your own, as a graded assignment. More detailed instructions will be provided on Blackboard and in lecture.

Quizzes:

There are 10 short quizzes, primarily covering the course reading and lectures. These quizzes will be available on Blackboard and will be timed. Please complete the course readings prior to taking the quizzes. The quizzes are located in the Test & Quizzes 'sidebar' on BB, as well as in the Weekly Content folder in which they are due. Quizzes are released on Friday afternoon (after class), and due the following Wednesday before class begins.

Exams:

There are two exams: a midterm and a final. Exams will cover readings, lectures, and films. Review materials will be provided to help you prepare for the exams, but many questions will be perplexing if you have not kept up with the readings as well as the lectures. The exams are located in the Test & Quizzes 'sidebar' on BB, as well as in the Weekly Content folder in which they are due.

Important Due Dates

Fieldwork Assignment Due *Friday October 1st, 2021, 11:59 PM CST*

Midterm Exam *Wednesday, October 13th, 2021, 11:30 – 1:30 PM CST*

Final Exam *Monday, April 26th, 2021 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM CST*

IV. SCHEDULE

Topics	Readings	Assignments
WEEK 1		
Introduction to the class What is Anthropology?	Required readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Syllabus, Course Policies and Content Miner, Horace. (1956). "Body Ritual among the Nacirema" <i>American Anthropologist</i>, 58(3), 503-507. <i>Cultural Anthropology: A Toolkit for a Global Age</i> Chapter 1: pages 4-9. 	<i>Familiarize yourself with the course site, Zoom, and the Syllabus.</i>

Topics	Readings	Assignments
WEEK 2		
Anthropology in a Global Age	Required readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Cultural Anthropology: A Toolkit for a Global Age</i> Chapter 1: pp 10- 33). 	<i>Zoom profile name/image loaded, due Friday 11:59 PM</i> <i>Sign up for 2 Collaborative Notetaking Weeks on the Shared Google Drive</i>

Topics	Readings	Assignments
WEEK 3		
09/06	Reminder LABOR DAY	

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Culture	Required readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Cultural Anthropology: A Toolkit for a Global Age</i> Chapter 2	<i>Quiz 1 Due Wednesday 11:30AM CST</i>
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Topics	Readings	Assignments
WEEK 4		
Fieldwork & Ethnography	Required readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Cultural Anthropology: A Toolkit for a Global Age</i> Chapter 3 Required screening: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Doing Fieldwork</i>	<i>Quiz 2 Due Wednesday 11:30AM CST</i>