

ANTH 100: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

ANTH 100-03

Fall 2009

MWF 9:00-9:50 AM, HIRC 8

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Office Hours: W 10:00 am to noon, and by appointment (drop-ins are welcome)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Cultural anthropology provides an understanding of contemporary human issues through the systematic study of cultural and social similarities and differences around the world. This course will introduce students to this major subfield of anthropology, its subject matter, history, unique approach, and major contributions to knowledge.

COURSE ATTRIBUTES:

ANTH 100 is a Liberal Arts course that fulfills the Social Science (S2) General Education requirement. It is required for anthropology majors, and counts toward the anthropology minor. ANTH 100 is a prerequisite for many upper division anthropology courses.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

All students are responsible for knowing and adhering to the College's policies on academic honesty. Any student found cheating will receive a failing grade and will be reported to the Student Conduct Committee for possible further action consistent with College policy, including possible dismissal from the College.

ATTENDANCE POLICY & EMERGENCY PROCEDURES:

Please turn your cell phone off while you are in the classroom.

If you miss a class, you are still responsible for the material that was covered. Students who do not attend class on a regular basis will be involuntarily withdrawn. A sign-in sheet will circulate daily. Any forgeries on the sign-in sheet will be treated as a violation of the College's policies on academic honesty.

Emergency Evacuation/Shelter-in-Place Procedures: In the event of an emergency evacuation (i.e., fire or other emergency), classes meeting in this building are directed to reassemble at Fine Arts Theater so that all persons can be accounted for. Complete details of the College's emergency evacuation, shelter-in-place and other emergency procedures can be found at <http://www.oneonta.edu/security/>.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Course Format: This class primarily is lecture based, augmented with many slides and videos. Questions and discussion in class are encouraged. You are expected to have read the assigned materials by the dates shown and to contribute to class discussions. A borderline grade could be decided by such participation (see below). My lectures usually relate to the week's topic in the main text (Nanda & Warms).

Angel: Various course materials will be available on Angel, accessed through the College's homepage. Documents are in pdf format, which can be viewed and printed with Adobe Reader. Content includes the syllabus, study guides, required readings not available in the books, lecture slides, handouts, assignments, online discussions, the gradebook, and miscellaneous anthropology links.

Readings, Discussions, and various other materials are located under Lessons, organized in folders designated "Materials for Exam #1," "Materials for Exam #2," etc. Other items may be placed under Resources. Exam, quiz, discussion, and assignment scores will be accessible in the Gradebook.

Grades: The course grade will be based on four objective exams, 14 online quizzes, 4 online discussions, two short take-home assignments, and class participation. Your final grade for the course will be based on total cumulative points, distributed approximately as follows:

Exams (4)	60 percent
Quizzes (14)	10 percent
Required Discussions (4)	10 percent
Assignments (2)	10 percent
Class participation	10 percent

Exams: Exams cover readings and material covered in class (lecture, video, etc.). They include multiple choice, true/false, matching, and short answer questions. Exams are not cumulative: each exam addresses the material assigned since the previous exam. Note that Exam #4 is given during the Final Exam period scheduled for this course (it is not cumulative). Make-up exams are given only under the most extenuating circumstances, with appropriate documentation. Improvement on exams over the course of the semester will be considered in assigning final grades.

Quizzes: You are required to complete a weekly on-line quiz on Angel. Most questions on the quizzes will refer to the textbook (Nanda & Warms), but there will be exceptions to this. You must complete the quiz before Friday's class to receive credit (see Schedule).

Online Discussions: There will be four Required Online Discussions on Angel based primarily on assigned readings. You are encouraged to treat these discussions as a resource through which you and your classmates may help one another sort out the key points of readings prior to exams. A specific team of students will have sole responsibility for the first part of the assignment. All other class members may post comments in response to the team's initial postings and thereby add to their class participation scores. These discussions are to proceed as follows:

- 1) Go to the assigned Discussion in Angel under Lessons.
- 2) Each member of the team assigned to the discussion is to post an entry identifying and explaining a key lesson you have derived from the assigned reading. Team members may have differing ideas on what the key lessons are. These must be posted within a designated time to receive credit. That deadline will be indicated in the online directions for the discussion.
- 3) Following this, all other students who are not on the team assigned to the discussion may post comments describing what you think are the strengths or weaknesses of the team's posts. You may respond to as many or as few of the team postings as you like.
- 4) Scoring: Team posts will be evaluated based on accuracy, clarity, and depth of understanding. Non-team comments will be evaluated using the same criteria, but the quantity of posts will be an additional factor taken into account.

In addition to these assigned online discussions, an Open Discussion Forum has been established for general use throughout the semester. Use this to post questions about or reactions to course materials, and post replies to the questions or comments of others. Your use of this forum counts toward your Class Participation grade. I will be a participant in this ongoing forum. Create a new thread if you are raising a new issue; if commenting on someone else's post, use the Reply feature.

Other Assignments: There will be at least two simple, brief take-home assignments that are designed to help you gain a better grasp of course content. The directions for each of these will be handed out in class and posted on Angel.

Class Participation: Questions, comments, and discussion are welcome in the classroom, outside of class, and in the Open Discussion Forum, mentioned above. Contributions in any of these contexts will enhance your grade. To ensure that you receive the credit you deserve, help me to learn your names (I'm notoriously bad at this). In all instances, treat your classmates with the same respect you would like to receive. Enhancing your classmates' understanding of material will always be rated higher than intolerant criticism. Quality and quantity will both be considered in grading class participation.

Extra Credit: As they become available, I will announce lectures, presentations, and other events on topics of relevance to cultural anthropology. You can earn extra credit for this class by attending a lecture or presentation, then writing a response of 1-2 pages (in 12-point standard font, with regular margins). In your paper, you should:

- Introduce the speaker’s central argument or main points.
- Describe the speaker’s evidence (e.g., the sources and types of data).
- Discuss how the speaker’s topic or main points are relevant to anthropology and, if appropriate, to the material that we have considered in class.

The response paper is due 1 week after the event. No more than three papers may be submitted by a student. Extra credit papers may count up to 10 percent of your course grade.

REQUIRED READINGS AND EXAM SCHEDULE:

1. Nanda, Serena & Richard Warms. 2009. *Culture Counts: A Concise Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*. 1st edition. Wadsworth/Cengage. (CC)
2. Podolefsky, Aaron, Peter Brown, and Scott Lacy (eds.). 2009. *Applying Cultural Anthropology: An Introductory Reader*. 8th edition. McGraw-Hill. (ACA)
3. Chavez, Leo R. 1998. *Shadowed Lives: Undocumented Immigrants in American Society*. 2nd edition. Wadsworth/Thomson/Cengage. (SL)
4. Several short readings in pdf files on the course’s SUNY Oneonta Angel website. (Angel)

Readings should be completed by the date shown.

DATE	REQUIRED READING	ONLINE QUIZ	EXAMS, ETC.
Week 1: Aug. 26			
Aug. 28			
Week 2: Aug. 31	APA #23 Hafner		
Sept. 2			
Sept. 4	CC Chap. 1 APA #4 Bohannon	Quiz 1 before class	
Week 3: Sept. 7			
Sept. 9			
Sept. 11	CC Chap. 2 APA #1 Miner, #19 Abu-Lughod, #37 Kratz	Quiz 2 before class	Begin Discussion #1
Week 4: Sept. 14			End Discussion #1
Sept. 16			
Sept. 18	CC Chap. 3 APA #3 Sterk, #27 Rohde	Quiz 3 before class	
Week 5: Sept. 21			
Sept. 23			
Sept. 25	CC Chap. 4 APA #6 Maltz & Borker, #9 Cooper Angel— <i>Ask A Mexican!</i> : On Language	Quiz 4 before class	Exam 1
Week 6: Sept. 28	BREAK—NO CLASS		
Sept. 30			
Oct. 2	CC Chap. 5 APA #10 Brown	Quiz 5 before class	
Week 7: Oct. 5			

DATE	REQUIRED READING	ONLINE QUIZ	EXAMS, ETC.
Oct. 7			
Oct. 9	CC Chap. 6 APA #8 Lee, #38 Bodley	Quiz 6 before class	
Week 8: Oct. 12			
Oct. 14			
Oct. 16	CC Chap. 7 APA #17 Stone SL Introduction & Chap. 1	Quiz 7 before class	Assignment #1 due
Week 9: Oct. 19			Exam 2
Oct. 21			
Oct. 23	CC Chap. 8 APA # 18 Roscoe SL Chap. 2	Quiz 8 before class	Begin Discussion #2
Week 10: Oct. 26			End Discussion #2
Oct. 28			
Oct. 30	CC Chap. 9 SL Chap. 3	Quiz 9 before class	
Week 11: Nov. 2			
Nov. 4			
Nov. 6	CC Chap. 10 SL Chap. 4	Quiz 10 before class	
Week 12: Nov. 9			
Nov. 11			Exercise: Who Are You?
Nov. 13	CC Chap. 11 SL Chaps. 5 & 6	Quiz 11 before class	Begin Discussion #3
Week 13: Nov. 16			End Discussion #3 Exam 3
Nov. 18			
Nov. 20	CC Chap. 12 SL Chap. 7 Angel-Gmelch: Baseball Magic	Quiz 12 before class	
Week 14: Nov. 23-27	BREAK—NO CLASSES		
Week 15: Nov. 3-			
Dec. 2			
Dec. 4	CC Chap. 13 SL Chap. 8 Angel— <i>Ask A Mexican!</i> : On Illegal Immigration	Quiz 13 before class	Assignment 2 due
Week 16: Dec. 7			Begin Discussion #4
Dec. 9 (Monday schedule)			
Dec. 11	CC Chap. 14 SL Chaps. 9, 10, & Epilogue	Quiz 14 before class	End Discussion #4
Finals: Dec. 16	Wednesday 8:00-10:30 am		Exam 4

All material in this syllabus is subject to change at my discretion.