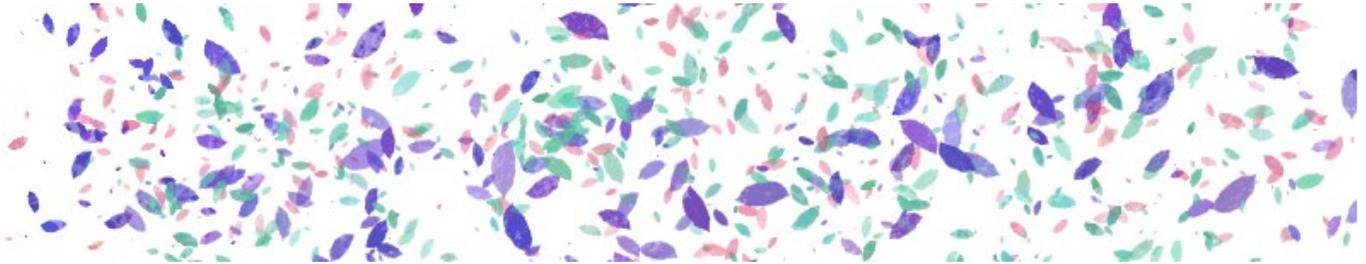


ANTHRO 2030: CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY



Course Dates & Time

January 19, 2021 – May 14, 2021
TR 11:00am – 12:15pm
All online

Instructor Information

TAYLOR (PASKOFF) VAN DOREN
Department of Anthropology
tmpwf4@mail.missouri.edu
Office Hours: T 12:30pm-2:30pm,
Swallow 228 & by appointment

Course Description & Rationale

Welcome to Cultural Anthropology! This course will be an introduction to just one of the four main subfields of the study of humans in all times and all places. Cultural anthropology specifically focuses on describing and explaining cultural variation and how culture gives meaning to people's lives. Using a comparative approach, anthropology makes the strange familiar and the familiar strange. We will cover many topics including methods and theories; marriage and families; sex and gender; race and ethnicity; social, economic, and political organization; colonialism; and the rise of the modern world.

Course Goals

1. Demonstrate knowledge of how anthropologists define *culture*.
2. Develop awareness and express understanding of realities and debates of human diversity.
3. Appreciate the interconnectedness of the field of anthropology as a whole, and cultural anthropology's role in the field.

Required Texts

- (1) Farmer P. 2005. *Pathologies of Power*. Berkeley: Univ of California Press.
- (2) Galeano E. 1973. *Open Veins of Latin America: Five Centuries of the Pillage of the Continent*. New York: New York University Press.
- (3) Ralph L. 2014. *Renegade Dreams: Living Through Injury in Gangland Chicago*. University of Chicago Press.

Optional, But Recommended Text

- (4) [*Perspectives: An Open Invitation to Cultural Anthropology, 2nd Edition*](#). 2020. Brown N, McIlwraith T, Tubelle de González L. American Anthropological Association (AAA): Virginia.

Perspectives (4) is available 100% open source online. We will not be using all of the chapters in the textbook, so you can either download the entire book or you can download the required readings chapter-by-chapter. The recommended chapters for reading will be noted on the syllabus. **You will need to buy or rent your own copy of *Pathologies of Power* (1), *Open Veins of Latin America* (2), and *Renegade Dreams* (3).**

Lectures & Discussions

Lectures are the heart of this course, and therefore it is highly recommended that you are in attendance at all lectures so that you can engage with them, participate in any discussions (either out loud or in the chat room), and ask questions as you need to while we are all together. Lectures will be recorded, but I strongly recommend against depending exclusively on recordings for the above reasons – also, I personally find it easier to stay on top of things when adhering to a set schedule, so plan on being in class during the scheduled time. If you have any technological challenges that you suspect or know you may have, please let me know ahead of time and we can make a plan for you.

Diversity statement

This course satisfies the A&S Diversity Intensive requirement. We will study the patterns and sources of social differences across cultures. Topics include gender and gender roles, caste and class, wealth and power, race and ethnicity, and colonialism and globalization. Please treat your classmates and me with respect while voicing opinions and know that not everyone will be of the same mind as you. By engaging with this course material, you are agreeing to acknowledging diversity, appreciating difference, and never attacking another's personhood.

Assignments

Survey. A survey is required at the beginning of the course. Since we are all online, I am hoping that this will help me get to know you as students a little better, as well as learn your motivations behind taking this course. Please answer every question thoughtfully so we both can get the most out of this class. This survey is worth 10 points.

Book reviews. Each student will be required to write their choice of two book reviews of out of the three books we will read during the semester: *Pathologies of Power* (2004), *Open Veins of Latin America* (1973), and *Renegade Dreams* (2014). The purpose of these book reviews is to critically read and analyze anthropological writing, while simultaneously integrating knowledge learned from course content to develop a higher understanding of anthropological knowledge. The paper should be approximately 2-3 pages in length with standard formatting (standard font, such as 12-pt Times New Roman or 11-pt Calibri, 1-inch margins, double spaced). Detailed prompts for the reviews will be posted on Canvas, so please read the book and reference the assignment sheet early. The papers are worth up to 50 points each.

Ethnography. The heart of cultural anthropology is to make the strange familiar and the familiar strange, and anthropologists do this primarily through the ethnographic method. For this assignment, you will be writing your own short ethnography of a fictional film, book, or TV series. It can be from any genre (drama, science fiction, fantasy, literary fiction, historical fiction, horror, etc.). Describe the population to me as if I have never heard of them before: what is their social structure? What are their major societal problems? What is their economy like? Their marriage and kin systems? Their social norms, religion, and language? Please feel free to be liberal with your voice and stylistic choices for this assignment; podcast episodes, graphic storytelling, or any other type of media are all acceptable. It should be about 3-4 pages, double spaced, 1-inch margins, in length (or something relatively equivalent for another medium). This ethnography is worth up to 35 points.

Exams. There will be three exams throughout the course of the semester: two “midterms” and one final. The exams will become available at 12:00am on the day they are scheduled and will end at 11:59pm on the same evening. Once midnight has passed, you will not have the option of a makeup exam. If there are extenuating circumstances under which you need accommodations or if you have other situations for which either an early or late exam is necessary, please get in contact with me early. Each exam is worth 75 points.

Writing advice

If you need help with your writing, or even if you feel like you are in a good place and just want some feedback to see how you are doing, please feel free to ask me. I am happy to look at drafts of your book reviews if you ask. In addition, you have the option of submitting your papers to the Writing Center online to get thoughtful feedback and guidance from a writing tutor. For more information, visit <https://writingcenter.missouri.edu>.

Grading

Late Policy

All assignments are expected to be uploaded to the Canvas website under their corresponding assignment portal before 11:59 pm on the due date. **Late 20-minute papers will not be accepted for credit; late book reviews will lose 2 points per day late.** If there are extenuating circumstances for late papers that keep you from submitting an assignment on time, please contact me prior to the due date. I reserve the right to refuse any late submissions, but I am willing to work with students who act responsibly and courteously.

Assignment and exam breakdown:

Midterms 2x75	150 points
Final	75 points
Book Review 2x50	100 points
Ethnography	35 points
Survey	10 points

Total 370 points

Letter grades are applied as follows:

97-100% = A+	73-76% = C
93-96% = A	70-72% = C-
90-92% = A-	67-69% = D+
87-89% = B+	63-66% = D
83-86% = B	60-62% = D-
80-82% = B-	0-59% = F
77-79% = C+	

Academic Dishonesty

Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor.

Academic dishonesty includes but is not necessarily limited to the following:

- A. Cheating or knowingly assisting another student in committing an act of cheating or other academic dishonesty.
- B. Plagiarism which includes but is not necessarily limited to submitting examinations, themes, reports, drawings, laboratory notes, or other material as one's own work when such work has been prepared by another person or copied from another person.
- C. Unauthorized changing of grades or markings on an examination or in an instructor's grade book or such change of any grade report.

University of Missouri Notice of Nondiscrimination

The University of Missouri System is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action institution and is nondiscriminatory relative to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability or status as a Vietnam-era veteran. Any person having inquiries concerning the University of Missouri-Columbia's compliance with implementing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, or other civil rights laws should contact the Assistant Vice Chancellor, Human Resource Services, University of Missouri-Columbia, 130 Heinkel Building, Columbia, MO 65211, (573)-882-4256, or the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, US Department of Education.

ADA: Students with Disabilities

If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible.

If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please establish an accommodation plan with the MU Disability Center, S5 Memorial Union, (573)-882-4696, and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For other MU resources for persons with disabilities, click on “Disability Resources” on the MU homepage.

Intellectual Pluralism

The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions or concerns regarding the atmosphere in this class (including respect for diverse opinions) may contact the departmental chair or divisional director; the director of the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities; the MU Equity Office, or equity@missouri.edu.

Grievance Policy

Information concerning student grade appeal procedures and non-academic grievances and appeals may be found in the Student Handbook.

KEEP SCROLLING DOWN FOR FULL CLASS SCHEDULE!



THIS SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE INSTRUCTOR’S DISCRETION.

DATE	DAY	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT/EXAM	PERSPECTIVES CHAPTER
<i>Introduction to the course</i>				
1/19	T	Welcome to class!		Chapter 1
1/21	R	“Ongka’s Big Moka” (film)		
<i>Part I: Culture & Diversity</i>				
1/26	T	Human Origins		
1/28	R	Diversity & Relativism		
2/2	T	Methods		Chapter 3
2/4	R			
2/9	T	History of Cultural Anthro		
2/11	R	Culture		
2/16	T	Language & Communication	<i>Pathologies of Power</i> review due	
2/18	R		Exam 1	
<i>Part II: Societies & Social Organization</i>				
2/23	T	Foraging & Pastoralism		Chapter 5
2/25	R	Farming & Industrialism		
3/2	T	Economics		Chapter 6
3/4	R	“The Masai Women” (film)		
3/9	T	Caste & Class		
3/11	R	Marriage & Kinship		Chapter 8
3/16	T	Biology of Race		
3/18	R	Race & Ethnicity		
3/23	T	“13 th ” (film)	<i>Renegade Dreams</i> review due	
3/25	R		Exam 2	
<i>Part III: Colonialism & Its Consequences</i>				
4/6	T	Political Organization		
4/8	R		Ethnography due	
4/13	T	Sex & Gender		Chapter 10
4/15	R	“Two Spirits” (film)		
4/20	T	Magic & Religion		Chapter 11
4/22	R	Health & Inequality		
4/27	T	Colonialism & Consequences		
4/29	R			
5/4	T	Globalization		Chapter 12
5/6	R		<i>Open Veins of Latin America</i> review due	
Date			Exam 3	