

Anthropology 2030: Cultural Anthropology



Course Dates & Time

July 6, 2020 – July 31, 2020
MTWRF 9:50am-11:50am
All online

Instructor Information

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Office Hours: By appointment online

Course Description & Rationale

This course will be an introduction to cultural anthropology, 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 Text

- (1) Farmer P. 2005. *Pathologies of Power*. Berkeley: Univ of California Press.

Optional, But Highly Recommended Text

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

Perspectives (2) 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. **You will need to buy or rent your own copy of *Pathologies of Power* (1).**

Lectures & Discussions

In this class, we will be covering all the content of a semester-long Cultural Anthropology course in only four weeks. Therefore, in order to do well in this course, you must complete all readings and view all lectures, which will require you to manage your time well to keep a consistent pace through the course material. As this class is mostly asynchronous, I suspect that the bulk of the work you will do will be outside the scheduled 9:50am-11:50am time. You will, however, be required to engage in discussion boards about topics pertinent to the current week. Each week, you are expected to (1) post an original thought, answer, or observation to/about a question posed related to the content of the week, and (2) reply to *at least* one other person in the class. This implies that you will be checking the boards often so that there will be other students to whom you can reply. These discussions will contribute to your final participation grade.

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.

Assignments

Survey. A survey is required at the beginning of the course (will be part of your participation grade!). Since we will be spending most of the time asynchronous, this will help me get to know you better. Please answer every question thoughtfully so we both can get the most out of this class.

Weekly responses. You will be required to write three short responses to questions that will challenge you to use the material taught during the week in your responses, but also some critical thinking skills to help you apply your new anthropological knowledge to topics outside the classroom. The questions will be applicable to the content of the week and are due the Monday after the week is complete. These responses are expected to be between 400-500 words and are worth 20 points each.

Book review. Each student will be required to write a book review of *Pathologies of Power* (2004). This book review will serve as the final paper of this class and will help you think critically about anthropological theory in applied practice. The paper should be approximately 3-4 pages in length with standard formatting (standard font, such as 12-pt Times New Roman or 11-pt Calibri, 1-inch margins, double spaced). A detailed prompt for the book review will be posted on Canvas, so please read the book and reference the assignment sheet early. The paper will be worth 50 points.

Final exam. The final exam for this class will become available on the last day of the course (Friday, July 31), and you will have 48 hours to complete the exam. The final is worth 100 points (approximately one-third of your grade).

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 assignments will not be accepted for credit.** 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:

Final	100 points
Book Review	50 points
Short response 3x20 pts	60 points
Participation	50 points

Total 260 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.

Course Schedule

<p>7/6/2020</p> <p>Introduction to Cultural Anthropology</p> <p>* Do welcome survey! * <i>Perspectives</i> Chapter 1</p>	<p>7/7/2020</p> <p>Human Origins</p>	<p>7/8/2020</p> <p>Diversity and Relativism</p>	<p>7/9/2020</p> <p>Methods in Anthropology</p> <p>* <i>Perspectives</i> Chapter 3</p>	<p>7/10/2020</p> <p>History of Cultural Anthropology</p> <p>* Finish <i>Pathologies of Power</i> Chapters 1-3 (target)</p>
<p>7/13/2020</p> <p>Culture</p> <p>* Response #1 due</p>	<p>7/14/2020</p> <p>Language and Communication</p> <p>* <i>Perspectives</i> Chapter 4</p>	<p>7/15/2020</p> <p>Foraging and Pastoralism</p> <p>* <i>Perspectives</i> Chapter 5</p>	<p>7/16/2020</p> <p>Farming and Industrialism</p>	<p>7/17/2020</p> <p>Economics</p> <p>* Finish <i>Pathologies of Power</i> Chapters 4-6 (target) * <i>Perspectives</i> Chapter 6</p>
<p>7/20/2020</p> <p>Political Organization</p> <p>* Response #2 due</p>	<p>7/21/2020</p> <p>Marriage and Kinship</p> <p>* <i>Perspectives</i> Chapter 8</p>	<p>7/22/2020</p> <p>Sex and Gender</p> <p>* <i>Perspectives</i> Chapter 10</p>	<p>7/23/2020</p> <p>Caste and Class</p>	<p>7/24/2020</p> <p>Biology of Race</p> <p>* Finish <i>Pathologies of Power</i> Chapters 7-9 (target)</p>
<p>7/27/2020</p> <p>Race and Ethnicity</p> <p>* Response #3 due</p>	<p>7/28/2020</p> <p>Magic and Religion</p> <p>* <i>Perspectives</i> Chapter 11</p>	<p>7/29/2020</p> <p>Colonialism and its Consequences</p>	<p>7/30/2020</p> <p>Globalization</p> <p>* <i>Perspectives</i> Chapter 12</p>	<p>7/31/2020</p> <p>No lecture!</p> <p>* <i>Pathologies of Power</i> book review due * Final exam posted, due within 24 hours</p>