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ANTY 220S.50: Culture and Society

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Anthropology 220–50
CULTURE AND SOCIETY
Spring 2022

Instructor: Ren Freeman
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Course Type: Asynchronous and Online
All instruction will occur through the UM Moodle course site.

Office Hours: As needed, via email request and appointment.
Email, Phone, Video Chat are options for visits.

A friend and professorial colleague refers to his course syllabus as a “living document...meaning that it shifts, changes, moves as we make our way through this course.” I like this description as it reflects being pro-active in our response to the needs of students and instructors, as well as the realities of our world today. I suggest you consider our course syllabus in this way.

Course Description

Anthropology is a discipline that investigates the origins and natures of the human species. There are four primary anthropology sub-fields: Cultural, Archaeology, Bio/Physical, and Linguistics. Anthropologists use a holistic approach to understand the full scope of human diversity in all aspects, places, and times. This in-turn assists people of different cultures to better understand one another, their various worldviews, and impacts to their lives and lifeways as social and cultural beings. In this course, we will look at past and contemporary human cultures, in-depth, from around the world and primarily focus on one of the four major fields of anthropological inquiry—cultural anthropology. However, the other three fields are also engaged. We will also extensively explore the impacts of Globalization on culture through the lens—methodologies and methods—of anthropology.

This introductory course is a core requirement for the Anthropology Major and the Minor in the BA degree. The Course also serves two requirements for general education, social sciences (Group VII) and International and Cultural Diversity (Group X) for all undergraduates. As well, it is being promoted as a course option to consider within the UM International Development Studies program. There are no prerequisites for this course.

Learning Outcomes

In this course, you will learn:

- To describe social and cultural aspects of diverse ways of life, past, and present.
- To demonstrate a cross-cultural perspective on values and behaviors across societies.
- To describe ethnographic methods: what ethnographers do, how they do it, and why.
- To engage in thoughtful, respectful discourse about cultural diversity.
- To contrast how and why sociocultural anthropology differs from other social sciences.
- To consider the benefits and challenges of Globalization, with regard to world cultures.

Required Technology and Materials, Overall Course Structure, and Policies

Technology: At a minimum, this online course requires:

- Use of a computer/laptop and WIFI for assignments and remote required exercises.
- Use of a word processing program that can open and edit Microsoft Word documents. UM provides [Microsoft Office 365 ProPlus](#) for free to UM students.
- Use of [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) to open and save PDF files.

For student support, contact UMOonline Technical Support at umonline-help@umontana.edu or call 406-243 4999. *Please remember to take the Moodle 101 Tutorial, access is on the course page.*

Book/E-Book: (book is available for purchase at UM UC Bookstore and at Amazon or other online booksellers.)

- *Cultural Anthropology: A Toolkit for a Global Age. Third Edition. Kenneth J. Guest (2020). W.W. Norton & Company. ISBN 978-0393420128*
- *Note: there is a slight pagination difference between the hard copy and E-book versions.*

Additional readings and materials are posted in Moodle for each week they are assigned. These will include, among other guiding resources: at least one link to audio/video information and a Lecture, that lends additional thought to and summarizes the weeks' topic and concepts, via narrated PowerPoint slides. Access to each weeks' content and assignments is on a date-timed basis and will open each *Saturday*. This is to provide opportunity for concentrated focus and productivity related to each weekly topic. Once the week is "open" it will remain open for the duration of the course, for your further reference and exam(s) preparation. However, submission of assignments must be accomplished by their relative due date. A full point will be deducted for late submissions unless *previously* authorized to submit later – see below for more information.

You will find this Syllabus, the Schedule of Topics and Assignments, and other reference, and guidance materials also located in the course Moodle site in the Reference and Guidance Materials section.

The following are the general assignment schedule per week and suggested study format, unless otherwise noted in the *Schedule of Topics and Assignments* document per their respective weeks. If any changes are made to this schedule or a particular week, you will be notified through a course group email, with the change also noted at our Moodle course site for that particular week(s). Unless otherwise noted, all materials are provided through our Moodle site.

NOTE: This course requires completion of the following weekly assignments: Discussion Post, Response-to Posts, 2-page Reflection Essay, and a 10-question Quiz. See the Schedule of Topics and Assignments for details. Please mark your personal calendars with a Reminder for due dates accordingly, and for which Group you belong to, as assignments alternate between groups/weeks. Do not depend on the Moodle system reminder system!

When the week's course *opens, each Saturday*, please **begin by Reading the Weekly Guide** that summarizes and provides details for the week. The Guide is provided as a PDF within each Moodle-site week. Then, begin your **Reading and Viewing of all other materials, in this sequence:** assigned readings, media links, lecture, and any other assigned or guidance materials.

Wednesday: Per your Assigned Group, you may be required to **post a Discussion** (*2+ paragraphs*) regarding the assigned readings, media, lecture for the week via Moodle, **and in relation to a topic prompt(s)**. Your post is *due before 8 p.m. each Wednesday*. This enables other group-mates to begin responding to your post after this time on Wednesday. Your ability to post will be closed then and a full point will be deducted for postings after 8 p.m. Note: Discussion posts are to be typed single-spaced in the assignment space. Unless pre-arranged or authorized due to extenuating circumstances, *no* make-up for this assignment is permitted.

Saturday: *If you were required to make a Discussion Post* you are also in the Assigned Group where you are to read and **Respond** to at least 2 of your classmates' Discussion Posts. This assists in creating a dialogue about the topic and for our collective learning from each other. Your Response Assignment is *due before 8 p.m. each Saturday*. *Please, do not respond to posts prior to this date and time, otherwise those who post earlier than Wednesday will receive the bulk of responses*. Your ability to post your Response will close at 8 p.m. Saturday, and a point will be deducted for postings after 8 p.m. Unless pre-arranged or authorized due to extenuating circumstances, *no* make-up for this assignment is permitted. Note: all students are welcome to *view* other students' posts, however, only the Assigned Group for this assignment will be graded for their responses.

Due by or on Saturday: Per your Assigned Group you may be required to submit a **2 page Reflection Essay** that **responds to a provided prompt(s)** for the week's topic. This requires you to critically read and consider all the materials in relation to the topic. Follow a general essay form, in a concise manner, that reflects an introduction and thesis statement (1 paragraph), body of support information (3+ paragraphs), and concluding paragraph. I expect you to summarize the topic(s) from knowledge found within the materials, but share what your original thoughts are about what you have learned (reflection writing) and how this learning pertains to the larger study and practice (reflexive writing) of Anthropology. Please refer to specific terms, ideas, concepts, statements from the text, media(s), discussion posts, lecture or other materials, and please cite your sources at the bottom of your last page.

Please submit/*paste* your *single-spaced* essay within the space provided for this assignment within Moodle. This is a **2-step process** that entails writing directly in the space or "pasting" your text into the space (if you have created it in a word program and saved as pdf, then copied and pasted). Your essay will be *due before 8 p.m. Saturday* and your ability to submit it will be closed then, with a point deducted for submitting after 8 p.m. Unless pre-arranged or authorized due to extenuating circumstances, *no* make-up for this assignment is permitted.

Due by or on Saturday: **Everyone** will complete a 10 question **Quiz** each week. All the questions will cover the materials from that week's reading, media link(s), lecture, and any additional materials assigned. Each Quiz is "open-book." You must complete the Quiz *before 8 p.m. each Saturday*. Your ability to take the quiz will be closed then and a point will be deducted for completions after 8 p.m. NOTE – You cannot make up a Quiz, unless you have contacted me via email, and shared that there has been an emergency (with documentation) or other extenuating circumstances. Determination of an extension or override for access to the Quiz will be made upon review of your request.

Please Note: All assignments will also be evaluated on *both* grammatically correct/functional writing and content. This includes mechanics, clarity, punctuation, and the use of concise

accuracy of your insightful understandings of the information you are presenting. All essays must be submitted according to the writing format/style of your discipline, which guides your cited works/bibliography format in particular (for example: MLA, APA, Chicago). To obtain this information, consult your Advisor and or the [UM Writing Center](#).

Exams. This course is delivered in three parts, with two Mid-Term Exams consisting of 50 questions each and is “open-book” style. There are *no* Discussion, Responses, or Essay required during Mid-Term weeks. The first exam covers topics from Chapters 1-6; second exam covers Chapters 7-12, and the Final exam covers Chapters 13-17. Week 10 is a non-class time due to Spring Break. Week 16 is reserved for a Special Assignment and Prep for the Final Exam that next week and its submission. The Final Exam includes: a 50 question exam (open-book style) and must be completed *no later* than Saturday 5/14/2022 before 8 p.m. *No exceptions will be permitted.* Please, take note and plan accordingly.

Participation: As this is an online class, your attention to and completion of weekly assignments and due dates/times are crucial to your overall comprehension of the course theme and specific topics—which will be necessary for successful weekly, mid-term exams, and final exam completion. Remember, *all* assignments must be submitted *by* their due date and time. You may submit your assignments before the due date, if you are prepared to do so. Note: if you are required to also submit a Response-to Post you must wait to complete this assignment, as the Discussion Posting deadline is by 8 p.m. each Wednesday. This will enable your classmates to get their post submitted, and you a broader choice of posts to respond to.

If an illness or medical related emergency prevents an on-time submission notify me immediately to discuss your situation. There may be possibility for you to submit the assignment(s), typically within *1 week*, beyond its original due date. If you do not contact me to make these arrangements you will forfeit points for that assignment, and any associated assignment.

Scheduled athletic participation, religious observance, and other such circumstances reflected in the Academic Catalog which may conflict with a submission time requires a student to *plan* accordingly. This requires you to contact me with details of the circumstance—*in advance and as soon as is possible*—to discuss submission of your assignment(s). This may mean you complete assignments *in advance* of the scheduled week, due date and time, or within 1 week past its due date.

Accessibility. This course is designed with accessibility in mind. Students who need accommodations should notify me in the *first week* of the term (or within 1 week of your enrollment). Also contact Disability Student Services directly with questions about access and rights as a student. Please email me a copy of the letter issued by DSS. If barriers to accessibility occur during the semester, contact me immediately, and contact advisors at the [DSS office](#). Additionally, each student enrolled in this course is expected to access and become familiar with the Moodle 101 tutorial. This information is provided within your student Moodle dashboard. As well, if you require DSS consideration for a particular assignment, please contact me PRIOR to its due date and let’s have a visit about what you require. Please do not assume that since you have provided a DSS letter you have an automatic override. Please note: spotty WIFI service is a challenge to many, if not most, students and even faculty. This is not an adequate excuse for late assignment submissions and requires you plan accordingly. Please plan to get your assignments submitted early if this is an issue you are dealing with.

COVID related news: For those students who are local to the UM–Missoula campus. There is high demand for spaces on campus to accommodate students with inadequate WIFI in their homes or quick turnarounds between face-to-face and remote classes. A list of remote learning spaces with the days and times available for student use will be posted on [the Keep on Learning website](#). There will be signs posted outside of specific buildings and rooms to indicate their availability.

Academic Honesty – Code of Conduct. All students are expected to practice academic honesty. All work submitted during this course must be your own. Submitting another person’s work (either borrowed language or ideas) is Plagiarism. Please familiarize yourself with what this means and entails within the [Student Conduct Code](#). Additionally, there is increased sensitivity to student, faculty, and staff conduct pertaining to DEI—diversity, equity, and inclusion. The University of Montana is committed and aspires to:

- Respect the dignity and rights of all persons.
- Practice honesty, trustworthiness, and academic integrity.
- Promote justice, learning, individual success, and service.
- Act as good stewards of institutional resources.
- Respect the natural environment.

Please familiarize yourself with the [UM Diversity](#) information. As well, see UM’s Catalog for additional information on these and associated topics and policies.

Evaluation and Grades

All course work is evaluated and graded per a points system that is converted to a final letter grade. Extra credit may be available in week 16, but only upon request and authorization.

Course grades and possible points earned reflect:

- Weekly Posting of: (per your Assigned Group) (6 pts for Disc and 4 pts for Responses)
 - Discussions regarding materials and any additional assignments and per prompts.
 - Response to 2 other student Discussion Posts.
- Submission of 2 page Reflection Essay, per prompt(s) (per your Assigned Group). (10 pts)
- Weekly Quizzes (everyone). (10 pts)
- Completion of 2 Mid-Term exams. Each includes:
 - 50-question Exam, that is Open-Book. (50 pts each)
- Completion of special assignment. (20 pts: 15 for submission/5 pts for Response)
- Completion of 50-question Final Exam, that is Open-Book. (50 pts.)

Additional Considerations Per Assignment:

All assignments requiring written submissions will receive feedback along with points to be awarded. Please review my feedback and *apply recommendations*. Again: 10 maximum points are possible per assignment (the Discussion/Response post are graded as one assignment with 6 pts awarded for Discussion Post and 2 pts for each Response Post) and reflect three criteria: Completion of assignment, timeliness of submission of assignment, and topic applicability of your response(s). Essays have 10 pts possible, as do weekly Quizzes. Additionally, week 16 has an Anthropology in Practice assignment with a total of 20 pts possible. Exams have 50 points possible for each. The point conversion to a final letter grade will occur once the Final Exam is accomplished. If you are taking this class as Pass/No Pass, a Pass > 69%.