

9-2013

## ANTY 124.01: Orientation to the United States

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# **ANTY 124 – Orientation to the United States**

## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

PLEASE BRING THIS SYLLABUS TO EACH CLASS SESSION

Fall Semester 2013

Instructor: Dr. Udo Fluck

### **1) General Course Information:**

CRN Number/  
Section/Credits: CRN #: 71949, Section 01, 2 Credits  
Course Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 10:10 - 11:00 a.m.  
Course Room: Liberal Arts Building (LA) 106

### **2) Instructor Contact Information:**

Dr. Udo Fluck: *Adjunct Assistant Professor, Cross-Cultural and Global Competence,  
Department of Anthropology*  
Campus Office: International Center, LI 111  
Phone: 406.243.5885  
E-Mail: [udo.fluck@umontana.edu](mailto:udo.fluck@umontana.edu)  
Dept. Web Page: <http://www.cas.umt.edu/anthropology/>  
Personal Web Page: [www.cas.umt.edu/mls/](http://www.cas.umt.edu/mls/)

### **3) Office Hours:**

Wednesday, 10:10 – 11:00 a.m. and Thursday, 3:10 – 4:00 p.m. in my office, International Center, LI 111.

If these times do not work for you, please feel free to e-mail me to set up an appointment at a mutually convenient time. Individual meetings are often very helpful, especially if you find you are having trouble with some aspect of the course. Therefore, I strongly encourage you to come and see me outside of class.

### **4) Course Description and Structure:**

This two-credit elective cross-cultural class may be taken by both lower-division (freshman, sophomore) and upper-division (junior, senior, and graduate) students from everywhere, including the USA. The intent of the course is to give students of all levels the opportunity to orient themselves to American culture, tradition, values and customs and, in the process, examine their identities in the context of an international, intercultural community.

Course Structure: Students discuss class topics in small groups and in the class as a whole, with the final 1/3 of the semester being given over to individual cultural autobiographical presentations.

**5) Methods of Instruction:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lectures ( <i>PowerPoint</i> -enhanced) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-Class Discussions |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Instructional Videos                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individual Exercises |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Guest Speaker(s)                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Real World Examples  |

**6) Course Philosophy:**

The overall goal is to acquire cross-cultural content and through open, respectful discussions lead to greater understanding of other cultures, of our own cultures, and of us.

**7) Course Format:**

This course meets twice-a-week for 50 minutes, 28-times this semester. Most class sessions will combine some mix of content-sharing (lecture) and discussion. Each week has a specific focus.

All students should come to class having read the assigned reading for the week. However, class lectures may not always directly relate to the readings and may, instead, expand well beyond the reading to related themes. Students should be sure to keep a paper or electronic copy of all written work in this course.

**8) Moodle Course Supplement:**

Copies of the syllabus, the PowerPoint lecture notes, and other course related information will be posted for you on the Moodle course companion website. You can log on by going to the main UM website ([www.umt.edu](http://www.umt.edu)) and by clicking UM online under Current UM Resources on the right of your screen. Click on the orange "Login" button and provide your NetID to login to Moodle.

**9) Textbook:**

There is no traditional hard-copy textbook for this course. All required and optional readings will be available on the Moodle course companion website, as PDF documents. Please complete the readings before each class, so we can use the content and arguments made as a basis for our weekly discussions. Often you are asked to choose among several possible readings.

**10) Instructional Videos:**

We will watch several instructional videos and excerpts of full-length videos throughout the semester and I expect you to take notes on how the video aided your learning. Incorporate the video message, and what you learned, in your in-class discussion and in homework assignments.

**11) Technology:**

Students in this course are expected to be competent in using Microsoft Office Word. You may bring your laptop or tablet for class notes if you like. The use of the Internet and e-mail is also required for research purposes and general communication with the instructors.

**12) Special Instructional Needs:**

Students with disabilities will receive reasonable accommodations in this course. To request course modifications, please contact me as soon as possible. I will work with you and Disability Services in the accommodation process. For more information, visit the Disability Services website at <http://www.umt.edu/dss/> or call 406.243.2243 (Voice/Text).

Students from cultures which utilize different means of examination or learning methods other than those used in this course should contact me within the first few days of class to discuss more culturally appropriate testing approaches. Please get in touch with me early about any kind of physical disability or learning challenge you have, and provide me with the proper documentation from *Disability Services* here on campus. I will be happy to arrange additional assistance if needed.

**13) Classroom Etiquette:**

1. Class will start at the assigned time, and you should be present at that time and remain attentive until the class period is finished. If for some reason you are late, I ask that you be extremely quiet and not disturb anyone as you enter and sit down.
2. Please refrain from talking in class unless engaging in questions with the instructor or actively participating in group discussions. Interrupting the momentum of a session distracts other students and makes concentrated learning difficult. If you are disturbing the lecture, I will ask you to leave the classroom.
3. At the start of the lectures, please turn your cellular phones, pagers, and iPod's off.
4. If you have a special reason for leaving a class early, please contact me before class begins and sit close to the door in order to exit quietly.

**14) Methods of Evaluation:**

Your course grade will be based on 1000 points, divided into the following five elements:

#	Grading Component	Percent	Points
1	Class Attendance and Participation	30%	300 Points
2	5 Writing Assignments @ 25 points each (lowest one will be dropped automatically)	10%	100 Points
3	1 Midterm Exam	10%	100 Points
4	1 Cultural Autobiography Presentation (Individual)	20%	200 Points
5	1 Cultural Topic Final Paper	30%	300 Points
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1000 Points</b>

1 Extra-Credit Option (50 points possible)

**15) Final Grades:**

Semester grades will be assigned on the following basis:

Points	Grade	Points	Grade	Points	Grade	Points	Grade
950 – 1000	A	830 – 869	B	730 – 769	C	630 – 669	D
900 – 949	A-	800 – 829	B-	700 – 729	C-	600 – 629	D-
870 – 899	B+	770 – 799	C+	670 – 699	D+	0 – 599	F

**Below, each one of the grading components is explained in greater detail:**

**16) Discussion and In-Class Participation: (300 Points possible)**

There is a strong relationship between grade performance and lecture attendance. This course will cover a great deal of important material. Please come to class on time and please do not leave early. Interrupting the momentum of a session distracts other students and makes learning difficult.

You need to come to every class. Attendance is taken each class period with a sign-in sheet. Students will bear full responsibility for every class that they miss, and no exception to this rule shall be allowed. Missing more than four class periods, without instructor approval, may result in a failing grade in the course. I will accept written proof for legitimate reasons for missing class, and if you have special circumstances, come and meet with me to discuss them.

I will reserve the right to call on you at random to answer questions in class.

**17) Writing Assignments: (100 Points possible)**

Be aware that your participation grade is closely linked to your writing assignment performance. Throughout the semester, I will assign five written reflections on class discussions, questions regarding assigned readings etc. Four writing assignments will count towards your final grade, the lowest score will be dropped automatically.

Writing Assignments are due: Thursday, September 5, 19, October 3, 17, and November 12.

Expected Length: You should submit about one double-spaced page minimum, in order to qualify for the 25 points per written assignment. Additional pages are always appreciated!

**18) Midterm Exam: (100 Points possible)**

The midterm exam in this class will be on Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, covering the first part of the semester. The midterm exam will be a combination of *Multiple Choice*, *True/False* and some *Short Questions*. This should not present a problem, if you come to class on a regular basis, prepare the readings assigned, and participate in class discussions.

**19) Cultural Autobiography Presentation: (200 Points possible)**

You will do an oral presentation, accompanied by Power Point, or you may elect to “stand and deliver” without benefit of any computer enhancement. There is a great deal of flexibility with the presentation. The main idea is that you educate others in the class about your culture, your country, your way of life, your traditions, your customs, etc.

**20) Cultural Topic Final Paper: (300 Points possible)**

There lieu of a final exam in this class, you are required to write a final paper on any cultural topic you wish. Expected Length: Each student shall submit no less than six double-spaced pages, by November 21<sup>th</sup>.

**21) 1 Extra-Credit Paper: (50 Points possible)**

You can earn extra credit in this course by attending one of the three films in the *International Programs Fall Film Series*. Movies will be shown on Wednesdays, September 18, October 16 and November 13. All movies begin at 7:00 p.m. in the University Center Theater.

The central question to answer in this extra-credit option is: What cultural information have you learned through watching one (several) of the films in the *International Programs Fall Film Series* that would make you more cross-culturally knowledgeable and thus, help you in your interactions with a student from the foreign countries featured in the movie(s)?

The paper needs to be submitted as a hard-copy by Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Expected Length: The paper should have no less than two-double spaced pages, in order to qualify for the 50 additional points.

**22) Late Work Submission:**

Students are required to submit their work on time. Missing deadlines for medical reasons or for attending an official university sponsored inter-collegiate event (but not a practice) will be excused only when accompanied by a written note from the attending physician (one week following absence) or team coach (one week prior to event). The penalties for late submission without a valid reason are stiff: A penalty of 20 points will be assessed for each day assignments are late (including Saturday and Sunday). Those points will be subtracted from the total amount of points possible assigned to the particular project/element. Work submitted five days after the ‘due date’, will receive zero points.

**23) Instructor to Student Communication:**

All students at The University of Montana are given an official UM e-mail account. Please check your e-mail on a daily basis throughout the semester. I use e-mail to disseminate information outside of the classroom and to inform you about changes to this *Syllabus*.

**24) Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism and Cheating:**

In all assignments, papers and presentations, students are strongly advised against plagiarism. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All written assignments in this class must be completely original.

**Definition: Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty includes “cheating” and “plagiarism”, the theft of ideas and other forms of intellectual property – published or unpublished.

**Definition: Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is the use of another writer’s words or ideas without acknowledging the source. Plagiarism also means “passing off a source’s information, ideas, or words as your own by omitting to cite them, which makes it an act of lying, cheating, and stealing.”

**Definition: Cheating**

Cheating is defined as obtaining or attempting to obtain, or aiding another to obtain credit for work, or any improvement in evaluation of performance, by any dishonest/deceptive means.

All students need to be familiar with the *Student Conduct Code*, which is available for review online at [http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student\\_conduct.php](http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php)

**25) Course Withdrawal:**

For information regarding registration, adding classes, dropping classes, withdrawing from The University of Montana, please stop by the *Registration Counter* in *Griz Central* or call the *Registration Helpline* at # 243.6077.

**26) Some Final Thoughts:**

I have made every effort to make our expectations clear and easy to understand. It is your responsibility to ask questions if certain aspects of the material or the procedure are unclear to you.

We look forward to working with you as you familiarize yourself with the United States.

Thank you for signing-up for this course.

**Changes to this *Course Syllabus* are possible, but not intended.**

**Please see *Detailed Course Schedule* on the following pages.**

**Have a great Fall Semester!**

Detailed Course Schedule: ANTY 124 – *Orientation to the United States*

WEEK	CLASS SESSION	DAY	DATE	TOPIC/ FOCUS OF CLASS SESSION	ASSIGNED READINGS
1	1	TU	Aug. 27	<b>Introduction to Course, Instructor and Students</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greetings &amp; Personal Space</li> <li>• Diversity - Cultural Groups in the US</li> </ul>	Reading will be posted on Moodle
	2	TH	Aug. 29	<b>General Facts About American Culture</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• American Values, Customs and Assumptions</li> <li>• Individualism and Privacy</li> <li>• What is allowed and not allowed (Smoking)</li> <li>• Equality – Providing Feedback/Evaluating Others</li> <li>• Loyalty</li> <li>• Informality</li> </ul>	Reading will be posted on Moodle
2	3	TU	Sept. 03	<b>Culture Shock and Reverse Culture Shock</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ups- and Downs of Cultural Adaptation</li> </ul>	Reading will be posted on Moodle
	4	TH	Sept. 05	<b>A Look Back in US History</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How the land was settled</li> <li>• Status and Hierarchy</li> <li>• Regional differences in the U.S.</li> </ul>	Reading will be posted on Moodle <b>Writing Assignment # 1 DUE!</b>
3	5	TU	Sept. 10	<b>A Look Back in US History</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Status and Hierarchy</li> <li>• Regional differences in the U.S.</li> </ul>	Reading will be posted on Moodle
	6	TH	Sept. 12	<b>Americans and Foreigners</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coping With Cultural Differences</li> <li>• Culture and Identity</li> <li>• Defining your national identity</li> </ul>	Reading will be posted on Moodle

WEEK	CLASS SESSION	DAY	DATE	TOPIC/ FOCUS OF CLASS SESSION	ASSIGNED READINGS
4	7	TU	Sept. 17	<b>The Can-Do People in The Land of Opportunity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achievement, Action, Work, and Materialism</li> <li>• Daily Life</li> <li>• Directness and Assertiveness</li> </ul>	Reading will be posted on Moodle
	8	TH	Sept. 19	<b>U.S. Classroom Culture</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brief Overview of US Higher Education System</li> <li>• Understanding the Academic Structure</li> <li>• Professors, Instructors and Graduate Assistants</li> <li>• Common Teaching Methods</li> <li>• The Importance of the Course Syllabus</li> <li>• Standards of Academic Conduct (Student Conduct Code)</li> </ul>	<b>Writing Assignment # 2 DUE!</b> Reading will be posted on Moodle
5	9	TU	Sept. 24	<b>Communication American Style</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Culture Bound Verbal/Nonverbal Com.</li> <li>• Culture is Communication (Space, Flow, etc.)</li> <li>• Straight Talk and Presentations</li> <li>• Language Concerns (accents, humor, etc.)</li> <li>• E-Mail and Telephone Etiquette</li> </ul>	Reading will be posted on Moodle
	10	TH	Sept. 26	<b>High &amp; Low Context Cultures</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amount of Information Embedded Across Cultures Varies</li> </ul>	Reading will be posted on Moodle
6	11	TU	October 01	<b>Time Matters</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Monochronic</i> and <i>Polychronic</i> Cultures</li> <li>• Changing Times and Do One Thing at a Time</li> <li>• Obsession with Efficiency</li> <li>• Getting to the Point, Quicker is Better?</li> </ul>	Reading will be posted on Moodle
	12	TH	October 03	<b>Interacting With Others</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friends and Peers: Building Connections</li> </ul>	<b>Writing Assignment # 3 DUE!</b> Reading will be posted on Moodle



WEEK	CLASS SESSION	DAY	DATE	TOPIC/ FOCUS OF CLASS SESSION	ASSIGNED READINGS
7	13	TU	Oct. 08	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	
	14	TH	Oct. 10	<b>Relationships and Dating</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student-Student Relationship</li> <li>• Student-Teacher Relationship</li> <li>• Roommate Relationships</li> <li>• Social Relationships</li> </ul>	Reading will be posted on Moodle
8	15	TU	Oct. 15	<b>Male-Female Interactions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross-cultural comparison of dating customs</li> <li>• Dating someone from another culture: what you can expect...or not</li> <li>• Sexual harassment across cultures</li> <li>• Sexual coercion/rape, and consent</li> </ul>	Reading will be posted on Moodle
	16	TH	Oct. 17	<b>Revisiting Culture Shock</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where are you now on the W-Curve?</li> <li>• Class discussion about experiences, accomplishments, fears and what the future holds.</li> </ul>	<b>Writing Assignment # 4 DUE!</b> Reading will be posted on Moodle
9	17	TU	Oct. 22	<b>Buffer Day – Topic TBA</b>	
	18	TH	Oct. 24	<b>Religion and Other Topics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is taboo/should be avoided?</li> <li>• What can I talk about?</li> </ul>	Reading will be posted on Moodle
10	19	TU	Oct. 29	<b>Multicultural Etiquette – Food Ways and Gifts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Culture is Food – Fast vs. Slow</li> <li>• Offering Food, Food Taboos and Holiday Food</li> <li>• Gift Taboos, Unexpected Gifts, Refusing a Gift</li> </ul>	Reading will be posted on Moodle
	20	TH	Oct. 31	<b>Media and Shopping</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is American About American Media</li> <li>• Media Impact on Daily Life</li> <li>• Misconceptions the Media Promotes</li> </ul>	Reading will be posted on Moodle

WEEK	CLASS SESSION	DAY	DATE	TOPIC/ FOCUS OF CLASS SESSION	ASSIGNED READINGS
11		TU	Nov. 05	<b>NO CLASS!</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participate in the <i>Day of Dialogue</i>, tomorrow, <b>Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup></b> by attending a presentation, round table or panel discussion, etc. and write a reaction paper (Writing Assignment # 5)</li> </ul>	Reading will be posted on Moodle
	21	TH	Nov. 07	<b>Student Cultural Autobiographies (Presentations) 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Class Discussion</li> </ul>	NA
12	22	TU	Nov. 12	<b>Sports and Recreation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are national sports?</li> <li>What are Montana/Missoula favorites?</li> </ul>	Reading will be posted on Moodle <b>Writing Assignment # 5 DUE!</b>
	23	TH	Nov. 14	<b>Student Cultural Autobiographies (Presentations) 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Class Discussion</li> </ul>	NA
13	24	TU	Nov. 19	<b>Cultural Conflict</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Nature of Cross-Cultural Conflict</li> <li>Culture, Identity and Conflict</li> </ul>	Reading will be posted on Moodle <b>Extra-Credit Paper Due!</b>
	25	TH	Nov. 21	<b>Student Cultural Autobiographies (Presentations) 3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Class Discussion</li> </ul>	<b>Cultural Topic Final Paper DUE!</b>
14	26	TU	Nov. 26	<b>National Holidays</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What it means to Americans</li> <li>What it can mean for foreigners</li> </ul>	Reading will be posted on Moodle
		TH	Nov. 28	<b>NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY</b>	Eat Turkey!
15	27	TU	Dec. 03	<b>Reverse Culture Shock</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What to keep in mind, as you transition back?</li> </ul>	Reading will be posted on Moodle
	28	TH	Dec. 05	<b>Last Instructional Day of Fall Semester</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summative Activities and Instructor Evaluation</li> </ul>	NA
				<b>No Final Exam in this course!</b>	

