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ANTY 220S.50: Culture & Society - Online

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ANTY 220S: Culture and Society
Section 50 online

Autumn 2013

Professor G.G. Weix

Office: SS 223

Office hours: MWF 1:00-3:00 P.M.

And by appointment

Description: Study of social organization of non-western societies; emphasis on variations in ecology, social structure, economic, political and religious beliefs and practices.

Readings

Bonvillain, Nancy. 2010. Cultural Anthropology. Second Edition.

Optional) Bessac, Suzanne. 2008 (1988) Embroidered Hmong Story Cloths. #9 in the monograph series, Contributions to Anthropology, Department of Anthropology at The University of Montana.

Objectives:

- 1) To gain foundational, comparative perspective on diverse societies and cultures.
- 2) To acquire descriptive and analytic vocabulary of concepts in the study of culture and society.
- 3) To meet the GE requirements for Group VII and X (Social Sciences and Indigenous and Global).

Course Requirements: Please conduct class related email communication through UM account. Students must comply with the **Student Conduct Code** http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php in all course matters.

Accessibility: University policy states that it is the responsibility of students with documented disabilities to contact instructors during the first week of the semester to discuss appropriate accommodations to ensure equity in grading, classroom experiences, and outside assignments. The instructor will work with the student and the staff of the Disability Services for Students (DSS) to arrange accommodations. Students should contact DSS (243.2373, Lommasson Center 154) for more information.

Technical support is provided at: <http://umonline.umt.edu/techsupport/helpdesk.aspx>. This syllabus provides a general plan for the course. If deviations are necessary they will be announced in class.

Group VII: Social Sciences (S) Social science courses describe and analyze human social organization and interaction, employing social data at a broad scale with statistical relevance, experimental data on individuals or groups, or qualitative data based on observation and discourse.

Upon completion of a Social Sciences course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the nature, structure, and historical development of human behavior, organizations, social phenomena, and/or relationships;
2. use theory in explaining these individual, group, or social phenomena; and/or understand, assess, and evaluate how conclusions and generalizations are justified based on data

Group X: Indigenous and Global Perspectives (X)

This perspective instills knowledge of diverse cultures in comparative and thematic frameworks. Students are encouraged to cultivate ways of thinking that foster an understanding of the complexities of indigenous cultures and global issues, past and present. Students will learn how geographically and culturally separate parts of the world are linked by various, multiple interactions. Indigenous studies focus upon "first peoples" and their descendants who derive their cultural communal identities from their long-standing and/or historical habitation of particular places. These courses foster an appreciation for indigenous peoples, their histories and cultures, and their struggles both to maintain their ways of life and gain equal positions in world spheres of power and change. Global studies investigate how societies and nations interact through human endeavor and /or natural processes. These courses encourage students to relate their knowledge of particular parts of the world, with their individual identities, and to larger trends and issues that affect multiple societies and environments. These include regional, national, and even transnational cultural flows, as well as a multiplicity of environmental processes and economic relationships.

Upon completion of an Indigenous and Global Perspective course, students will be able to:

place human behavior and cultural ideas into a wider (global/indigenous) framework, and enhance their understanding of the complex interdependence of nations and societies and their physical environments; demonstrate an awareness of the diverse ways humans structure their social, political, and cultural lives; and analyze and compare the rights and responsibilities of citizenship in the 21st century including those of their own societies and cultures.

Requirements:

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 1) participate in weekly discussion forums on questions posed by instructor | 150 points |
| 2) complete weekly objective quizzes based on assigned readings | 150 points |
| 3) write two short essays (50 points each) on questions posed by instructor | 100 points |
| 4) complete final exam due Dec. 13 th | 100 points |

Total possible points : 500 points

Grading Policy:

Grades will be determined by points earned in all four categories above. The percentage will determine the letter grade as follows, for individual assignments and the course grade.

A 90-100%, B 80-89%, C 70-79%, D 60-69% Below 60% F. +/- at discretion of instructor

SYLLABUS

Week One: What is Anthropology? Aug. 26-30	<i>Read: Bonvillain, Chapter 1</i>
Week Two: The Nature of Culture Sept. 2-6	<i>Read: Bonvillain, Chapter 2</i>
Week Three: Studying Culture Sept. 9-13	<i>Read: Bonvillain, Chapter 3</i>
Week Four: Learning One's Culture Sept. 16-20	<i>Read: Bonvillain, Chapter 4</i>
Week Five: Language and Culture Sept. 23-27	<i>Read: Bonvillain, Chapter 5</i>
Week Six: Making a Living Sept. 30-Oct. 4	<i>Read: Bonvillain, Chapter 6</i>
Week Seven: Economic Systems Oct. 7-11	<i>Read: Bonvillain, Chapter 7</i>
Week Eight: Kinship and Descent Oct. 14-18	<i>Read: Bonvillain, Chapter 8</i>
Week Nine: Marriage and Family Oct. 21-25	<i>Read: Bonvillain, Chapter 9</i>
Week Ten: Gender Oct. 28-Nov. 1	<i>Read: Bonvillain, Chapter 10</i>
Week Eleven: Equality and Inequality Nov. 4-8	<i>Read: Bonvillain, Chapter 11</i> <i>Optional reading: Bessac chapters 1-2</i>
Week Twelve: Political Systems Nov. 11-15	<i>Read: Bonvillain Chapter 12</i> <i>Optional reading: Bessac, chapters 3-4</i>
Week Thirteen: Conflict Resolution Nov. 18-22	<i>Read Bonvillain, Chapter 13</i> <i>Optional reading: Bessac, chapters 5</i>
Week Fourteen: Religion Nov. 25-29	<i>Read Bonvillain, Chapter 14</i> <i>Optional reading: Bessac, chapter 6</i>
Week Fifteen: Arts Dec. 2-6	<i>Read Bonvillain Chapter 15</i> <i>Optional) Bonvillain chapters 16 and 17</i>

Final Exam: Will open Thursday Dec. 12th at 8:00 a.m. and close Dec. 12th at 5:00 p.m.