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### ANTY 220S.50: Culture and Society

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# ANTY 220 - Culture and Society - Section 50

## Instructor Information:

Cheyenne Laue  
cheyenne.laue@umconnect.umn.edu  
Office: Social Science 240

I will be available for office hours by appointment. In addition to office hours in my physical office I will also hold weekly office hours via Blackboard Collaborate. You can access the Blackboard office hours on Moodle each week during a time we have scheduled (read more about this on the Course Information page).

Office Hours (Physical) SS 240: By appointment  
Office Hours (Virtual): By appointment

You are encouraged to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about the course including: your learning style, your understanding of the material, your personal interests, your writing and research abilities, or any other matter. If you don't communicate with me I will have a much more difficult time helping you learn - particularly in an online environment.

## General Course Information:

This course is divided up into weekly units. Each week is oriented around a central theme and readings and videos for the week will address this theme, although I hope you will begin to anticipate and appreciate the interconnections that emerge as the course progresses as well. Each course week begins on Monday at 8 am and ends the following Sunday at 11 pm. This means that you will have one week to read, watch, and assimilate all of the course materials, as well as to complete and upload your weekly assignments. There will be no exceptions to course deadlines, except in the event of documented emergencies, and all such exceptions must be approved by the instructor.

Please do not procrastinate until the end of the week to complete readings and assignments- while many online courses ask you to complete multiple choice quizzes or exams to test your ability to memorize or recall information, this course will ask you to synthesize and interpret what you are learning and to produce original pieces of writing in order to demonstrate that you understand the material we are covering.

While the outcome, goals, and overall enjoyment of a course varies greatly by student I hope you will all find this class a fulfilling introduction to cultural anthropology. Please note that both your understanding of the material covered, as well as your grade in the class will be highly dependent on the amount of time and effort that you put into the course! While you are thus encouraged to set your own personal goals, mine, for all of you, are as follows:

- Learn how to search the internet for reliable information, incorporate another author's work into your own original short essays, and cite such sources appropriately.
- Learn how to access and utilize library sources remotely.
- Develop an appreciation for diverse of ways of life, past and present.
- Develop a cross-cultural perspective that allows for the comparison of beliefs, values, behaviors etc. as they differ between socio-cultural groups.
- Learn the central tenants of cultural anthropology; what anthropologists do, how they do it, and why.
- Learn how to engage in thoughtful, intelligent, and respectful debates on current cultural issues with groups of peers.
- Think about how anthropology, as a discipline, will move into the future, by addressing contemporary social, political, and environmental issues and problems. After all, many of you may be the future anthropologists that make this happen!

**Readings:** I have tried to select books that are reasonably priced. In addition to the assigned book readings I will sometimes post links to outside sources or scanned readings, or direct you to a source available electronically through the Mansfield Library. At the end of each week's lecture notes I will include a list of that week's required readings - make sure you double check this list.

**Books you need to order:**

The Dobe Ju/'Hoansi. Richard Lee. 4<sup>th</sup> edition. 2012.

(Please note that in this case it is essential that you obtain the 4<sup>th</sup> edition as it contains recent updates and research by the author that will be critical for this course. Here is a link to the [Amazon page](#) for this edition of the book. While this edition is certainly more expensive than previous versions you should

still be able to obtain a used copy for around \$30. You may also rent it for \$15-\$20 via Amazon).

Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology. (4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> edition)  
Robert Lavenda and Emily Schultz.

**Videos:** In addition to readings there are videos assigned for many weeks of this course. The links for videos are posted in the appropriate week on Moodle, and can also be accessed directly from the Mansfield Library website by clicking here.

**Additional Requirements:** In addition to the assigned readings and videos there may be occasional extra searching / research or reading assignments. These will be posted in the appropriate week on Moodle and will be accompanied by specific instructions.

**Discussions:** Each week you will be expected to participate in a discussion forum with a small group of other students in the class. For each discussion you will be given a series of questions or prompts and asked to choose one to write about in an original post. Your original post should be complete and loaded onto the forum by Wednesday each week; between Wednesday and Sunday you will be expected to respond to at least two of your peers posts in a thoughtful, well-reasoned manner. Please see the Discussion Forum Rubric if you have questions about discussion expectations.

**Weekly Writing Assignments:** Each week you will be asked to write a short (250-500 word, 1-2 page) essay synthesizing the material covered during that week. This essay will be based on a short prompt or question/s posted at the top of the assignment instructions in Moodle. These assignments will sometimes require you to search the internet, and / or the Mansfield Library for sources of information and to incorporate this information with your own insight and analysis. Each weekly writing assignment will be due Sunday night at 11:55 pm.

**Quizzes:** In addition to weekly writing assignments you will be asked to complete a weekly quiz on the key terms that are covered in lectures and readings. Each quiz will be short answer format, untimed, and will include 10 questions on terms specific to that week's readings, lectures, and videos. You should view these quizzes as the progressive accumulation of a working vocabulary in cultural anthropology. While you may (and are encouraged to) look through lectures, books, and videos in order to complete the quizzes you must answer every question in your own words. Please review the library guide on avoiding

plagiarism if you are uncertain about how to paraphrase. Quizzes are due Sunday night at 11:55 pm.

**Final Essay:** Instead of a final exam you will be completing a short (3-5 pages) research paper on a topic of your choice. Your topic must be pre-approved by week 6; please email me with any questions about potential topics and be prepared to upload a description of your topic in the appropriate assignment during week 6. You are welcome to use one of your weekly writing assignments as a starting point if you choose - the objective of this assignment is to expand your skills in gathering sources of information and assimilating them into what you have learned during the course. A draft of your essay is due in week 11. I will make comments and suggestions for revision. The final version of your essay is due during the scheduled time for the final exam.

Weekly writing assignments: 300 (20 points each)

Weekly quizzes: 450 (30 points each)

Discussions: 300 (20 points each)

Essay Topic Description: 10

Essay Draft: 40

Final Essay: 100

Extra Credit: As announced

Total Points = 1200

### **Schedule of Topics:**

Week 1: Introduction to Anthropology, Culture, and Society

Week 2: Past and Present

Week 3: Place

Week 4: Language and Expression

Week 5: Life Cycle

Week 5: Personhood and Relatedness

Week 6: Gender and Sexuality

Week 7: Family and Marriage

Week 8: Health

Week 9: Religion

Week 10: Politics

Week 11: Economy and Livelihood

Week 12: Animals and Ecology

Week 14: Technology

Week 15: Anthropology and the Future

Week 16: Final Essay

**Accessibility:**

This course has been designed with accessibility in mind. Any students that need further accommodations should contact me as soon as possible in order to facilitate these arrangements. You should contact Disability Student Services directly with any questions you may have about access and your rights as a student. If any barriers to accessibility arise, or come to your attention during the semester, please bring these to my attention immediately.

**Student Conduct Code:**

All students are expected to adhere to the student code of conduct. In particular, plagiarism and disrespectful comments towards others students during discussion forums should be avoided at all costs. Please review the page on plagiarism in the library course guide and the UM student code of conduct if you have any questions.