Course Syllabus

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May 2020

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Course assignments are not weighted.

Summer A 2020

Professor Contact

- Dr. Nessette Falu
- Office: Howard Phillips Hall, Rm 309 (University is closed this Summer 2020)
- Office Hours: Arrange via email a conversation
- Phone: 407.823.3991
- E-mail: nessette.falu@ucf.edu

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Chelsea Daws: Send her a message via Webcourses Inbox Messages only

You should contact your TA to discuss and clarify course content, assignments, and requirements. You should not contact your TA to discuss concerns about your grades, missing assignments, and personal matters. For this, you should contact me without hesitation.

Course Information

- Course Name: Cultural Anthropology
- Course ID & Section: ANT 2410
- Course date: May 11-June 19
- Credit Hours: 3
- Semester/Year: Summer A 2020
- Location: Online

Course Description

For well over a century, anthropology has sought to understand the social and cultural dynamics of humanity: how we are similar, how we are different and how we, as social beings, have imagined and engaged with the world. This course introduces students to the central concepts, theories, methods and empirical findings of cultural anthropology, including debates surrounding the meaning of "culture." Using comparative material from around the globe, students are encouraged to question both scholarly and commonsense understandings of what is often dubbed "human nature." The topics we will cover in this course are many: kinship, family and marriage practices; language and communication; gender, sexuality, ethnicity and race; ritual and religion; political and economic systems; and globalization, trafficking and human rights. Students will develop practical skills in ethnographic documentation, data gathering, fieldwork and analysis that will be applicable to a range of professional and intellectual endeavors. We will discuss and question the existing debates toward norms, identities, family, love, relationships, sex, freedom, justice, and rights to express, perform, and even discipline the body or bodies. This course will engage films, media, and archival materials as alternative modes of interpreting the aforementioned concepts and ways of life. Students will also come away from the course with a deeper understanding of the world in which we now live—including the challenges and rewards of becoming a global citizen.

Course Objectives

- to introduce students to the study of cultural anthropology
- to give students an awareness of cultural issues and diversity at US, international and global scales
- to enable students to grasp culture as practice, representation, and systems as imbricated with social life
- to encourage critical thinking on a range of dilemmas posed by the readings and films
- to develop students' proficiency in speaking critically and effectively about cultural anthropology
- to develop students' ability to write cogently and/or persuasively

Required Texts

- Guest, Kenneth. 2016 or 2018. *Essentials of Cultural Anthropology: A Toolkit for a Global Age*. W.W. Norton & Company. You may use First or Second edition. Same content in both texts.
- Williams, Bianca C. *The Pursuit of Happiness: Black Women, Diasporic Dreams, and the Politics of Emotional Transnationalism.* **This is an online ebook text via UCF Library; you may purchase if you like as well.**
- All other readings will be available on Webcourses

Warning: You will not pass this class without having required books in hand.

Course Requirements

Discussion Posts 200 points: There are four (4) discussion posts to discuss the ethnographic readings and integrate some of the Guest concepts. It is expected that all students will participate in discussion posts. Each individual post will be worth 50 points. Once the portal closes, it will not be reopened and late responses will not be accepted.

Your discussion posts are very important for your learning experiences and to be engaged: they are due on **Sundays by 11:59pm.** All posts must be done by the deadline. Late work will not be accepted. See syllabus policy on late work requests.

Quiz 50 points: There is one quiz before the midterm with 5 questions each worth 10 points.

Midterm Exam 200 points: Exam will be online with 40 multiple choice and T/F questions - 5 points each question.

Semi-ethnographic Activities 30 and 50 points each (total 80 points): There are two activities with required short written assignments. You may complete each assignment at any time before the due date.

Book Review 150 pts: Students will be required to write a critical thinking book review. Be sure to read instructions and rubric carefully in assignment. A close reading of the entire ethnographic book is required for this assignment. I advise that you begin reading the book early, maybe a chapter weekly starting now. Take careful notes. You can submit the review before the due date (not too far in advance).

Final Exam: 200 points. Exam will be online with 40 multiple choice and T/F questions at 5 points each question.

GEP Pre/Posttests:
In your personal Webcourses dashboard, you will find access to the GEP Webcourses section. The GEP Pretest will be open for you to take during the first week of class. The Posttest will be available the last week of class. The scores you obtain from the GEP pretest and the GEP posttest are NOT included in your total points. The GEP pre and posttests are used by our department to determine what you learned over the course of the semester. Again, they will **NOT** count against you! Therefore, we ask that you please take them without your book so we can truly gain an understanding of what you learned.

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/Extra Credit

This 6-week course will move very quickly. You must stay organized and practice effective time-management. There are many due dates for assignments, so you have to stay on top of this as **no late work will be accepted**. Communication is key. If you feel that you are falling behind or anticipate missing an assignment, you may email me to explore your circumstances and any options for missed assignments or extra credit. However, an extra credit assignment is **only extended under documented circumstances such as doctors' note, etc, to be determined at my discretion**. No make-up assignments or make-up exams are extended without such documentation.

COVID 19: I am completely sensitively and responsive to the issues we face with COVID 19. You may have internet issues, family illness, or you may fall ill. I hope that these are not your experiences. I ask that you please communicate with me any barriers and challenges you may face with successfully completing this course. I may not respond within 24-48 hours. Please give me heads up as early as you can if you are concerned about completing your responsibilities for this course.

Evaluation and Grading

Submitting work for evaluation: All of the work you do for this course is due on the day it is due. The book review is the only assignment that has a late submission grace period. For each late day, you will lose 10 points. Book reviews will not be accepted after 5 days from due date.

Evaluation Guidelines

4 Discussion Posts and Responses (50 points)	*200 points*
Quiz	*50 points*
Activities x 2 (30/50 points each)	*80 points*
Midterm	*200 points*
Book Review	*150 points*
Final Exam	*200 points*
TOTAL	***880 points***

Letter Grade	Points
A	95 – 100 points
A-	90 – 94 points
B+	87 – 89 points
B	80 – 86 points
B-	75 - 79 points
C	65 – 74 points
D	60 - 64 points
F	59 and below

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. See the UCF Golden Rule for further information. I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

Accessibility Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must connect with Student Accessibility Services , Ferrell Commons, 7F, Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Copyright

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Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need **not** make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Fri Feb 1, 2019	Module 4 Discussion	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 17, 2019	Module 6 - Film Review	due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 26, 2019	Short Answer Questions, Final Exam Extra Credit	due by 7pm
Tue Jul 16, 2019	Discussion #3	due by 11:59pm
Tue Jul 23, 2019	Discussion Post #4	due by 11:59pm
Sun May 17, 2020	Discussion Post #1	due by 11:59pm
Sun May 24, 2020	Discussion Post #2	due by 11:59pm
	QUIZ	due by 11:59pm
Sun May 31, 2020	Activity Assignment #1: Visual Anthropology	due by 11:59pm
	Midterm 200 points	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jun 7, 2020	Activity Assignment #2: Exploring Gender and Sexuality	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jun 14, 2020	Discussion #3	due by 11:59pm
	Book Review on Bianca C. Williams' The Pursuit of Happiness.	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jun 19, 2020	Financial Aid Requirement	due by 5pm
	Discussion #4	due by 11:59pm
	Financial Aid Requirement	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jun 21, 2020	Final Exam - 200 points	due by 11:59pm
	Feminist Ethnography	
	Race and Racism Word Cloud	

Course Schedule

Weekly	Topic	Activities/Assignments	Assignment Due Dates
Week 1	**READ** Guest. Chapter 1- *Anthropology in a Global Age* Essay: Jason De Leon, *The Land of the Graves* Guest. Chapter 2 - *Culture* Essay: Lila Abu-Lughod, *Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving?* Guest. Chapter 3 - *Fieldwork and Ethnography*	Discussion Post #1 Financial Aid Activity: Introduce yourself Watch video on cultural anthropology	Post due Sun 5/17 11:59pm EST Extra credit: Response post to any classmate Financial Aid Activity should be done by 5/15 but will remain open for the semester
Week 2	**READ** Guest. Chapter 4 - *Language* Essay: Laura Ahearn, *Literacy, Power and Agency: Love Letters and Development in Nepal* Guest. Chapter 5: *Race and Racism* Essay: Bonilla and Rosa, *#Ferguson: Digital Protest, Hashtag Ethnography and the Racial Politics of Social Media in the US*	Discussion Post #2 **Quiz**	Post due 5/24 11:59pm EST Extra credit: Response post to any classmate Quiz: Thu 5/21 11:59pm EST
Week 3	**READ** Guest. Chapter 6. *Ethnicity and Nationalism* Essay: Audra Simpson, *Mohawk Interrupts* Guest. Chapter 9: *Kingship, Family and Marriage. Language* Essays: Dana-Ain Davis, *The Troubling Case of Nadya Suleman* Melvyn Goldstein, *When Brothers Share a Wife*	Activity Assignment #1: Visual Anthropology	Sunday 5/31 by 11:59pm EST Extra credit: respond to a classmate
	MIDTERM	Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 9	Opens Thu 5/28 and closes Sun 5/31 by 11:59pm EST
Week 4	**READ** Guest. Chapter 7. *Gender* Essays: E. Martin, *The Egg and the Sperm* E. Blackwood, *Tombois in West Sumatra* Guest. Chapter 8. *Sexuality* Essay: D. Gould, *Life During Wartime: Emotions and the Development of ACT UP*	Activity Assignment #2: Exploring Gender and Sexuality	Due Sun 6/7 11:59pm EST
Week 5	**READ** Ethnography Book Williams, Bianca C. *The Pursuit of Happiness: Black Women, Diasporic Dreams, and the Politics of Emotional Transnationalism* Guest. Chapter 10: *Class and Inequality*	Book Review Discussion Post #3	Due Sun 6/14 11:59pm EST Due Sun 6/14 11:59pm EST Extra credit: respond to a classmate
Week 6	**READ** Guest. Chapter 14: *Health and Illness* Guest. Chapter 13: *Religion* Essay: George Gmelch, *Baseball Magic*	Free Reflection Writing Discussion Post #4	Friday 6/19 11:59pm EST Extra credit: respond to a classmate
	FINAL EXAM	Chapters 7, 8, 10, 13 and 14	Thursday 6/18 - Sunday 6/21, 11:59pmEST