Cultural Anthropology
Anthropology 206

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Office Hours: available Tuesdays by phone/text and email from 10:30am-Noon

Course Description:
Culture is a fundamental part of our experience as human beings. The word “culture” is used in a number of different ways in everyday life. Sometimes we talk about culture as if it is something people *have* (and maybe some people don’t have it). For anthropologists, culture is better conceived of as something people *do*. It is the central concept of our discipline, and we understand culture as multiple and varied, even within a designated group.

This course is an introduction to the diversity of human culture in the world in and in our own backyards. In order to more deeply understand how culture plays a role in our everyday experiences, we will take a cross-cultural approach. Using anthropological concepts including ethnography, participant observation, and cultural relativity, we will explore beliefs, values, and norms from all over the world. We will also read about cultural diversity within our own society. Through ethnographic examples we will learn about the human variation that exists throughout the world and come to a greater awareness of the role of culture in everyday experience.

The course emphasizes a “problem-based” approach to learning in which we do not seek final or set answers to social questions. Instead the aim is to introduce a “conceptual toolbox,” a set of concepts and ideas that can be drawn from to confront and interpret social phenomena throughout the world.

Course Objectives:
Upon completion of this course students will be able to:
- Describe the role of culture in human experience
- Critically analyze ethnographic material
- Apply basic anthropological concepts to their own cultural experiences
- Describe cultural practices in societies other than their own

Course Requirements
Modules:
The online course is organized into learning modules. Each module is a topical unit. Modules may include: discussion assignments, written assignments, reading assignments from the textbook, additional reading materials, recorded lectures by the instructor, links to talks, radio programs, and other scholarly material on the topic, and films. Students are expected to read, watch, and listen to all material in the course modules in addition to the weekly readings assigned from the textbook (listed below).
Attendance and Due Dates:
Students are expected to login regularly to the online classroom in Canvas. Online courses require the discipline to work steadily and not procrastinate. To assist you with this, due dates for Discussions, Assignments, and Exams are set by the instructor. You can choose when you work through each module, but be sure to give yourself enough time to meet the Discussion, Assignment, and Exam deadlines. All pages from the previous module must be viewed before moving on to the next module. For example, to access Module 2, you must view every page of Module 1 and complete both quizzes. Initial discussion posts are usually due by midnight on Tuesday and Thursday of the week, responses to classmates are due within 48 hours of the initial post.

Participation Expectations:
Students must be respectful of the cultural practices and beliefs we are learning about; criticism must be focused on scholarly evaluations of the readings. A professional online presence must be maintained throughout every aspect of the course. The online course substitutes other work for face-to-face class time. Additionally, students must study, complete assigned readings, and complete written assignments just like any other class. This means that for this course, you will need to spend about 15 hours per completing coursework to be successful.

Weekly Discussions:
Much of your learning in this online course will occur through the discussion process. Two discussions are required for most modules. Discussions are weighted heavily in the grading for the course. Discussion prompts will focus on deeper discussion of issues raised in the readings. There will also be discussions for each ethnographic film assigned. In your discussion responses, do not spend the entire post summarizing readings or the textbook. Make sure to also include your own response to the question at hand. For each discussion, post an initial post (2 paragraphs), and then respond to at least two classmates (one of your responses can be to a classmate (or myself as the instructor) within 48 hours.

Exams:
There are two exams assigned for this class. These exams are an opportunity for you to show what you have learned in the class throughout the term. The exams will be short answer and essay format. They are not timed, and you will have approximately one week to complete them. The exams are open book, and open note, but you must work independently on them (do not work with other classmates). You must use course materials to answer the exam questions. Google searches will give you non-scholarly information that is not appropriate for a college exam. Plagiarism on exams will not be tolerated. See the Academic Dishonesty policy below.

Ethnographic Project:
You will complete a small ethnographic project in which you will analyze the role of culture in a group you participate in. This project requires that you conduct repeated participant-observations of a group/community that is unfamiliar to you. (NOTE: DO NOT write these papers based on a memory from something you experienced in the past. You must go out and observe a group during this quarter using your anthropological observation skills.) There are two graded components to the project. A Descriptive Report will be due earlier in the term to prepare you with descriptive skills needed for ethnographic writing. The Final Ethnographic Essay will be
due at the end of the quarter in which you will present your project findings. Assignment sheets with more details are available in Canvas.

**Late Work:**
Late work is accepted as follows:

- **Canvas Assignments/Discussions:** 10% per day will be deducted from the overall grade for that assignment for up to five days. No late discussions will be accepted more than FIVE days after the due date without individual permission from the instructor. Meet with me during office hours or arrange an appointment to ask for this permission.
- **Essays (Descriptive Report and Final Ethnographic Essay):** 10% per day will be deducted from the overall grade for that assignment for up to three days. No late essays will be accepted more than THREE days after the due date without individual permission from the instructor.
- **Exams:** 20% per day will be deducted from the overall grade for that exam for up to three days. No late exams will be accepted more than THREE days after the due date without individual permission from the instructor.

Exceptions will only be made for documented emergencies (such as hospitalization or a death in the family). Technical problems such as loss of electricity or printer problems are not emergencies. Plan ahead! Technology is not infallible; always have a back-up. It is the student’s responsibility to work ahead and have a backup plan so that technical problems do not interfere with getting your work in on time.

**Accommodations:**
Academic accommodation for students with disabilities will be made following Shoreline Community College’s policies. Please contact the instructor regarding requests for academic accommodation at the beginning of the quarter. Students who had support and/or accommodations for special needs in high school may qualify for accommodations at Shoreline Community College. Contact the Office of Special Services (Office 5226 in the Foss Building; phone: 206-546-4545 or 206-546-4520 (TTY); e-mail: ssd@shoreline.edu).

If religious observances and military service commitments interfere with course requirements, students must notify the instructor before the observances and commitments are to take place.

**Academic Dishonesty and Misconduct:**
Academic dishonesty and plagiarism will not be tolerated. All sources used in course work must be properly cited using the citation format specified on the assignment. Cheating, plagiarism, or any other academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any assignment identified and confirmed as plagiarized or involving any form of academic dishonesty will receive zero credit and will be reported to the Dean of Students at Shoreline Community College.

If plagiarism is found in one of the essay assignments for the course, the student may ask for a meeting with the instructor. At the meeting, the student may gain permission to write a new essay for partial credit, showing they know how to use sources and cite them correctly. Repeated academic dishonesty offenses may result in failure of the class. For any case of academic dishonesty, further disciplinary action may be taken in accordance with SCC policies.
Students are responsible for following the Student Conduct and Discipline Code: http://intranet.shoreline.edu/policies/documents/5000/5030.pdf

Any violation of the code will be reported and disciplinary action may be taken in accordance with SCC policies.

Reycling:
Work submitted for this course should be written for this class alone. Any previous work you would like to reuse/recycle for this coursework must have prior approval of the instructor. Assignments identified and confirmed to have been previously submitted for a different course will receive a zero unless there was prior approval by the instructor.

Getting Academic Help:
College requires you to be proactive about getting help. If you are struggling, reach out to your teachers (stop by during office hours or write an email) and use these resources:

- **The Writing and Learning Studio** in the library is an excellent way to get one-on-one writing help on a drop-in basis: http://www.shoreline.edu/twls/
- One-on-one **tutoring** is also available: https://www.shoreline.edu/enrollment-services/learning-support-centers/tutoring.aspx
- Similar to coaching programs used by entrepreneurs, business owners, and professional athletes, Shoreline Community College provides students with **Success Coaching** https://www.shoreline.edu/advising/success-coaches.aspx to help you develop your academic skills.

Student Rights and Responsibilities:
All students are expected to treat their classmates and instructors with respect. Higher education fosters an environment of openness and exploration of ideas. While you may not agree with all of the lifeways you are exposed to in this class, you must respond with the awareness that other members of the class may have life experiences differing from your own.

**Grading:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes from Module 1 and Weekly Discussions (15 points each discussion, lowest score dropped)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam #1: Midterm Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam #2: Final Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Descriptive Report</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Ethnographic Essay</td>
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Final grades will be determined on the following scale:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE</th>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>&lt; 80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>&lt; 97%</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>80% to 79%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>&lt; 94%</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>79% to 78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>&lt; 93%</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>78% to 77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>&lt; 92%</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>77% to 76%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>&lt; 91%</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>76% to 75%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>&lt; 90%</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>75% to 74%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>&lt; 89%</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>74% to 73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>&lt; 88%</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>73% to 72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>&lt; 87%</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>72% to 71%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>&lt; 86%</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>71% to 70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>&lt; 85%</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>70% to 69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>&lt; 84%</td>
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<td>2.7</td>
<td>&lt; 83%</td>
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<td>&lt; 82%</td>
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<td>&lt; 81%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>66% to 65%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>&lt; 80%</td>
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Required Texts:

Note: Students must acquire their book by Week 2. The book is also available on course reserve in the library.

Course Schedule:
(Schedule subject to change at discretion of the instructor.)

**Discussions are due every week unless otherwise listed.
Films, quizzes, and additional readings may be posted or linked to in Canvas in each module.

Module 1: **Introduction to Cultural Anthropology**
Read: *Body Ritual among the Nacirema* by Horace Miner

Module 2: **Culture and Meaning**
Read: Chapter 1 of the textbook (*Cultural Anthropology* by Robbins)

Module 3: **Progress and Development**
Read: Chapter 2 of the textbook (*Cultural Anthropology* by Robbins)

Module 4: **The Social and Cultural Construction of Reality**
Read: Chapter 4 of the textbook (*Cultural Anthropology* by Robbins)
**Assignment Due:** Descriptive Report (by 11:59pm on Mon. 10/23)

Module 5: **Globalization, Neoliberalism, and the Nation-State**
Read: Chapter 3 of the textbook (*Cultural Anthropology* by Robbins)

**Exam #1:** Midterm Exam (due by 11:59pm on Fri. 11/3)
Module 6: **Patterns of Family Relations**  
Read: Chapter 5 of the textbook (*Cultural Anthropology* by Robbins)

Module 7: **The Cultural Construction of Identity**  
Read: Chapter 6 of the textbook (*Cultural Anthropology* by Robbins)

Module 8: **The Cultural Construction of Social Hierarchy**  
Read: Chapter 7 of the textbook (*Cultural Anthropology* by Robbins)

Module 9: **The Social Construction of Violent Conflict**  
Read: Chapter 8 of the textbook (*Cultural Anthropology* by Robbins)  
**Assignment Due:** Final Project – Ethnographic Essay (by 11:59pm on Mon. 12/4)

**Exam #2:** Final Exam (due by 11:59pm on Friday, 12/8)  
**Optional:** Extra Credit (due by 11:59pm on Friday, 12/8)