



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE - WINTER 2021

AN2070 (A3): Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology – 3 (3-0-0)

INSTRUCTOR: Shawn Morton, PhD
OFFICE: C-402
OFFICE HOURS: By appointment

PHONE: 780-539-2847
E-MAIL: smorton@gprc.ab.ca

WINTER 2021 DELIVERY: Remote Delivery. This course is delivered remotely. There are no face-to-face or onsite requirements. Students must have a computer with a webcam and reliable internet connection. Technological support is available through helpdesk@gprc.ab.ca.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

The comparative study of human society and culture, particularly non-western communities, with special attention to the family, social structures, economic and political institutions, religion and processes of change.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: None

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

Kenny, Michael G. & Kirsten Smillie (2017) *Stories of Culture and Place: An Introduction to Anthropology*, 2nd Ed. University of Toronto Press.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To establish an anthropological framework which can be used to facilitate an understanding of the diverse cultures of this world, including economic, social, political and ideological systems;
- To study a variety of topics in cross-cultural perspective; and
- To introduce a variety of research methods used by anthropologists.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will be able to:

- Demonstrate use the vocabulary and concepts of socio-cultural anthropology
- Critically analyse assigned readings and find answers to questions posed by the instructor
- Understand the value of ethnography, as the careful description of particular ways of life in particular settings
- Appreciate the anthropological reliance on ethnology, the generalizations made by comparing ethnographies
- Implement one of several qualitative research methods, i.e. interviews, participant observation, content analysis or archival research. Through their own work and hearing

of others', students are then equipped with a variety of strategies for conducting research in other settings

- Present reports on qualitative research methods in a safe environment, enhancing their public speaking skills

TRANSFERABILITY: UA, UC, UL, AU, AF, CU, CUC, KUC, GMU

***Warning:** Although we strive to make the transferability information in this document up-to-date and accurate, **the student has the final responsibility for ensuring the transferability of this course to Alberta Colleges and Universities.** Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at Alberta Transfer Guide at <http://transferalberta.alberta.ca/transfer-alberta-search/#/audienceTypeStep>

** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. **Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability.**

EVALUATIONS:

Assessment	Total Point Value	Weight
9 reading quizzes (5 pts each)	45 pts	22.5%
Assignment: Part One	35 pts	17.5%
Assignment: Part Two	35 pts	17.5%
Assignment: Part Three (Presentations)	25 pts	12.5%
Assignment: Part Four	60 pts	30%
Total	200 pts	100%
Extra credit for up to 10 points		5%

Reading quizzes (9 reading quizzes at 5 points each for 45 points total)

You will be given 9 reading quizzes covering chapters in our textbook throughout the semester. These are intended to ensure you are keeping up with your readings. Each quiz will consist of 5 multiple-choice questions. **Reading Quizzes are to be completed on our MyClass page, and will open Mondays at 8 am and close Sundays at 11:59 pm as indicated on the schedule.**

A Semester-Long Project... In Four Parts (155 points total)

As we discuss in class, the bread-and-butter of fieldwork in social and cultural anthropology is centred on the concept of participant observation, and perhaps the most fundamental product of this is the ethnography. While traditionally this has involved anthropologists studying cultures/societies other than their own, anthropologists may also engage in self-ethnography, or the study of the researcher's own group. This project is intended to take you through the process of self-ethnographic research in four distinct (and blessedly bite-sized) parts.

Skills and learning objectives: In this assignment you will practice (de)familiarization, semi-structured field observation, taking and organizing field notes, presentation skills, and

applying anthropological concepts and perspectives to data gathering in order to gain experience in how anthropologists "code" observational data.

Note: In accordance with COVID-related restrictions, you are not to conduct this research outside your regular and approved circles of interaction (i.e. your home and/or work). Do not take any photos. The use of pseudonyms to protect the identity of those you discuss is encouraged. Please do not provide real addresses, phone numbers, etc.

Part One - Data Collection/Participant Observation (35 pts)

Part Two - Synthesis/Thick Description (35 pts)

Part Three - Presentation (25 pts)

Part Four - Reflection and Analysis (60 pts)

All assignment parts are to be completed on our MyClass page, and will close on their due date (always Sundays) at 11:59 pm as indicated on the schedule.

Extra Credit (up to 10 points)

Extra credit is as stated, extra points above and beyond your regular class assignments. These points are somewhat easy to acquire, but in order to receive any point you must do exactly as asked. Opportunities for extra credit (worth 5 points each) will be announced throughout the semester.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	90-100	C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-89	C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84	C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79	D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76	D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72	F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE AND TIMELINE:

Week	Date	Topic(s)	Format	Reading(s)
Unit 1: What is Anthropology?				
1	Jan. 5	Introduction to Course	Zoom	Syllabus
1	Jan. 7	What is Anthropology? What is a Social Science?	Zoom	Chapter 1
Homework: Reading Quiz 1 - Due Sunday, Jan. 10, 11:59 pm				
2.1	Jan. 12	History in Context	Zoom	Chapter 2
2.2	Jan. 14		On Your Own	
Homework: Reading Quiz 2 - Due Sunday, Jan. 17, 11:59 pm				
Unit 2: Topics in Social and Cultural Anthropology				
3.1	Jan. 19	Culture Shock	Zoom	Chapter 3
3.2	Jan. 21		On Your Own	
Homework: Reading Quiz 3 - Due Sunday, Jan. 24, 11:59 pm				
4.1	Jan. 26	Making a Living	Zoom	Chapter 4
4.2	Jan. 28		On Your Own	
Homework: Reading Quiz 4 - Due Sunday, Jan. 31, 11:59 pm				
5.1	Feb. 2	The Ties that Bind: Kinship and the Social Order	Zoom	Chapter 5
5.2	Feb. 4		On Your Own	
Homework: Reading Quiz 5 - Due Sunday, Feb. 7, 11:59 pm				
6.1	Feb. 9	Symbol, Myth, and Meaning	Zoom	Chapter 6
6.2	Feb. 11		On Your Own	
Homework: Assignment - Part One - Due Sunday, Feb. 14, 11:59 pm				
7.1	Feb. 16	Winter Break - No Classes		
7.2	Feb. 18	Winter Break - No Classes		
8.1	Feb. 23	Health, Medicine, and Society	Zoom	Chapter 7
8.2	Feb. 25		On Your Own	
Homework: Reading Quiz 6 - Due Sunday, Feb. 28, 11:59 pm				
9.1	Mar. 2	Gender and Social Expectations	Zoom	Chapter 8
9.2	Mar. 4		On Your Own	
Homework: Reading Quiz 7 - Due Sunday, Mar. 7, 11:59 pm				
10.1	Mar. 9	Race, Science, and Human Diversity	Zoom	Chapter 9
10.2	Mar. 11		On Your Own	
Homework: Reading Quiz 8 - Due Sunday, Mar. 14, 11:59 pm				
11.1	Mar. 16	The Politics of Culture	Zoom	Chapter 10
11.2	Mar. 18		On Your Own	
Homework: Assignment - Part Two - Due Sunday, Mar. 21, 11:59 pm				
12.1	Mar. 23	Anthropology, Cultural Change, and Globalization	Zoom	Chapter 11
12.2	Mar. 25		On Your Own	
Homework: Reading Quiz 9 - Due Sunday, Mar. 28, 11:59 pm				
Unit 3: Wrap-Up and Student Presentations! Woo!				
13.1	Mar. 30	Wrap-Up, Pt. 1	Zoom	Conclusion
13.2	Apr. 1	Wrap-Up, Pt. 2	On Your Own	
14.1	Apr. 6	Student Presentations: Assignment - Part Three	On Your Own	
14.2	Apr. 8	Student Presentations: Assignment - Part Three	On Your Own	
Assignment - Part Four - Due During Exam Period				

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Late Assignment/Make-up Policy: You are expected to follow the schedule as posted and **late assignments will not be accepted**, except with permission of the instructor. Contrary to a popular idiom, it is always better to ask for permission than forgiveness; if you know that you are going to miss a deadline, please let your instructor know in advance.

Attendance and Participation: Attendance will not be taken, and no part of your grade is directly tied to attendance/participation. You are paying good money for this class and committing a significant amount of time to it. In order to get the most for your money and effort, **attendance is strongly encouraged.**

Classroom Climate Expectations: In order to create and maintain a safe and productive learning environment in the classroom, standards of behaviours are expected as follows:

1. **Listen** attentively and **take notes.**
2. **Communicate** clearly and actively when asking questions or during discussions.
3. **Be respectful** when asking questions/discussing topics with everyone.
4. **Refrain** from excessive talking or use of technology for **NONACADEMIC PURPOSES.** You are supposed to be in class, so **BE IN CLASS.**
5. **Keep your mic muted** unless directly interacting with the class. Kids and pets are welcome, but please be mindful of disrupting your classmates.

If you choose to violate the above expectations, either once or repeatedly the following consequences will be enforced:

1. Verbal warning
2. Mandatory meeting after class/in office hours, or
3. Request to leave class immediately for that day, or
4. Dropping from the class roster (i.e. mandatory withdrawal from the class), or
5. More significant official action (only if repeated warnings and interventions and unsuccessful).

A Note on Netiquette: Some topics that we'll be covering in this course may be difficult/controversial for some people. Whether interacting with your classmates online during class time, or engaging in our forums, students are expected to be considerate and respectful. This does not mean that you need to agree with all of the views/opinions expressed, but note that there is a difference between being critical or engaging in a productive conversation, and being confrontational or abusive.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated, and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the section on Plagiarism and Cheating in the College policy titled Student Misconduct: Academic and Non-Academic at (<https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/fetch.php?ID=68>).

Instructors reserve the right to use electronic plagiarism detection services on written assignments. **Instructors also reserve the right to ban the use of any form of electronics (cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, tablets, scanning pens, electronic dictionaries, etc.) during class and exams.**

****Note:** all Academic and Administrative policies are available at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/>