

Culture and the Human Experience

Anthropology 1010 Online

Instructor:

Office:

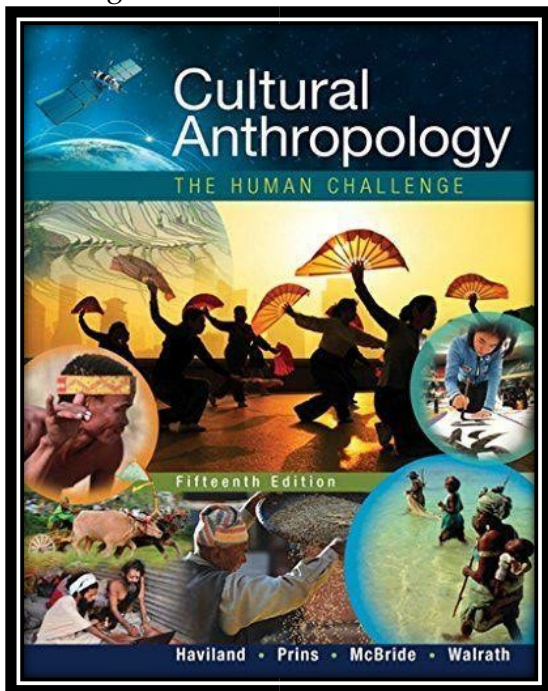
Office Hours:

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the field of cultural anthropology, a study of diverse living peoples throughout the world and to the methods used by anthropologists. It introduces the concept of culture as a framework for understanding similarities and differences in human societies. In addition, the course introduces cultural anthropology as a sub-field of anthropology, a holistic field that studies both cultural and physical diversity in past and contemporary societies.

Required Texts:

Haviland, W. A., & Prins, H. E. (2016). *Cultural anthropology: The human challenge*. Cengage Learning.



Assessments:

There will be 400 points divided among three components:

- **Quizzes:** 90 points
- **Writing Assignments:** 300 points
- **EPortfolio:** 10 points

Description of Assessments:

Quizzes: 90 points total; 10 points each. There will be 11 quizzes covering the assigned readings and films. Each quiz will be composed of fill-in-the-blank, multiple choice, and true/false questions. **At the end of the semester, I will drop your TWO lowest quiz scores.**

Discussions and Written Assignments: 300 points total; 10-points, 20-points, or 40-points each. Every module contains either one 20-point or two-10-point writing assignments. There will be one final 40-point assignment. Sometimes these will be conceptual assignments based on films, outside websites, and/or posted articles. [These assignments are listed on the course schedule in blue.](#) Other times they will be based on your own original **ethnographic fieldwork.** [These assignments are listed on the course schedule in red.](#)

- [Red assignments \[180 points total; two 10-point assignments, six 20-point assignments and a 40-point final report\]:](#) An ethnography is a detailed description of a specific cultural or subcultural group. An ethnographer describes an entire society and uses several methods including direct observation, participant observation, site mapping, kinship mapping, interviews (both formal and informal), etc. In this course, you will conduct ethnographic research into the cultural group of your choice, and report your findings as your signature assignment for the course. The ethnographic study is divided into several small assignments over the course of the semester. Often, these smaller components will be discussion posts for which you will be responsible for a post of your own and responses to at least two of your classmates' posts. You will be graded not only on the number of posts (minimum of 3 - your own and replies to at least two other classmates' postings), but also the quality of your responses (see the grading rubric linked to from the course homepage on Canvas). **Pay careful attention to all due dates as posted on the module overview pages on Canvas. For online discussions you are generally responsible for responding to the discussion prompt on the due date listed, and replying to the postings of two other students two days later.**
- [Blue assignments \[120 points total; two 10-point assignments and five 20-point assignments\]:](#) sometimes your module writing assignment will be one that addresses the module's topics or themes, unrelated to your ethnographic research. These questions will be drawn from the issues raised through your ethnographic discussions, the textbook, primary source readings, films, outside websites, and/or posted articles. Usually, you will submit these assignments directly to me (your classmates will not see

your responses); occasionally, these will be discussion board posts for which you will be required to post responses to your classmates' posts.

ePortfolio: 10 points. You will showcase your signature assignment on your ePortfolio.

Extra Credit: I will offer several opportunities to earn extra credit over the course of the term.

Student Responsibilities

All quizzes lock at midnight on the day they are due and will not be reopened. All other late work is marked down 1 point per day. Equipment or technology failures (e.g. computer, Canvas etc.) are not acceptable excuses for late or absent assignments. It is recommended that you submit work early to allow time to fix any technical problems that arise.

This course focuses on cultural diversity and students are expected to approach all subject matters and discussions with cultural relativity. This especially includes time spent observing your cultural group. **Be respectful and sensitive to the opinions of others.**

Students are referred to the Student Code of Conduct regarding appropriate behavior, cheating, plagiarism, discrimination, etc.

http://www.slcc.edu/policies/docs/Student_Code_of_Conduct.pdf

Plagiarism Statement

Plagiarism is taking credit for another person's words, works, and ideas or failing to acknowledge that person's words, works, and ideas. If you borrow from someone else, you must give that person credit through proper citations. The first offense in which students are caught plagiarizing or cheating on assignments and tests will result in the failure of that assignment. A second offense may result in course failure.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Statement

Generative artificial intelligence (AI) software is a rapidly emerging tool that students may be interested in using. If doing so, SLCC students are expected to adhere to the same standards as the Student Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities statement on plagiarism. **Presenting generative AI software content as your own is a violation of academic integrity. In this class, AI generated work will be treated the same as plagiarized work. All formal assignments must cite the ONLY the course materials unless otherwise stated. In general, this means that**

examples from the readings will include page numbers, examples from films will include video timestamp, all examples from lecture will include a date and/or slide number, and all direct quotes will include quotation marks. Specific requirements will be included on each individual assignment.

All assignments - including discussion board posts - will be subjected to multiple AI checks. At the discretion of the instructor, flagged assignments will receive no credit. Further offenses may result in course failure and formal institutional sanctions.

Class Schedule

Orientation Module: Orientation

- [Introduce Yourself Discussion:](#)
- [Choose a Group Discussion:](#)

Module One: The Essence of Anthropology

- Quiz: January
- [Ethics in Anthropology Assignment:](#)

Module Two: What is Culture?

- Quiz:
- [Cultural Relativism Discussion:](#)

Module Three: Ethnographic Research

- Quiz:
- [Ethnographic Observation Discussion:](#)
- [How to Keep an Ethnographic Fieldnotes Journal Assignment:](#)

Module Four: Language and Communication

- Quiz:
- [Ethnographic Observation Discussion:](#)

Module Five: Patterns of Subsistence

- Quiz:
- [Interpreting a Worldview Discussion:](#)

Module Six: Economic Systems

- Quiz:
- [Finalize your Group Choice Discussion:](#)

Module Seven: Kinship and Descent

- Quiz:
- [Participant Observation, Part One Discussion:](#)

Module Eight: Sex, Marriage, and Family

- Quiz:
- [Participant Observation, Part Two Discussion:](#)

Module Nine: Gender

- Quiz:
- [Sexually-Patterned Violence in India Assignment:](#)

Module Ten: Politics, Power, War, and Peace

- Quiz:
- [Participant Observation, Part Three Discussion:](#)

Module Eleven: Spirituality, Religion, and Shamanism

- Quiz:
- [Everyday Magic Assignment:](#)

Module Twelve: Ethnographic Final Report and ePortfolio

- [Participant Observation, Part Four Discussion:](#)
- Fieldnotes:
- [Ethnographic Final Report:](#)

- ePortfolio:

Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:
explain the field and subfields of anthropology including the approaches and methods used by anthropologists
use the methods of cultural anthropology to collect qualitative and quantitative data (five hours minimum) on cultural diversity (e.g. economic practices, political systems, the dynamics of power, stratification, gender, race/ethnicity, kinship, marriage, and the formation of families, creative expression, religious beliefs, practices, and rituals, etc.) and write an ethnography (six pages minimum)
identify and analyze ethnocentrism as a matter of perspective (your own and that of others)
explain, compare, contrast, and/or analyze global cultural diversity (e.g. economic practices, political systems, dynamics of power, stratification, gender, race/ethnicity, kinship, marriage, and the formation of families, creative expression, religious beliefs, practices, and rituals, etc.) including <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. cultural universals that transcend national borders 2. the impact of power on these aspects of culture 3. the interconnectedness of these aspects within and between cultures (I.e. the holistic approach and comparative method of anthropology) 4. How identity is shaped by one's culture and the power structures within
Discuss, evaluate, and/or analyze ethical issues faced by cultural anthropologists including pressing issues
communicate using appropriate terminology and/or synthesize information from multiple sources and multiple disciplines; apply cultural relativism in all assessments and communications
explain what culture is according to anthropologists and draw insights about the impacts of living in a globalized society (e.g. the complexities of global systems, global issues and collaborative and equitable solutions, etc.)

Institutional Syllabus

Find information regarding code of student rights and responsibilities, college-wide grades and grading policies, Title IX, hate and bias incident reporting policies and procedures, the college's land acknowledgement statement, the college's anti-racism declaration, and more on the institutional syllabus [here](#).

Student Responsibilities

All late work is marked down 1 point per day. Equipment or technology failures (e.g., computer, Canvas etc.) are not acceptable excuses for late or absent assignments. It is recommended that you submit work early to allow time to fix any technical problems that arise.

This course focuses on cultural diversity and students are expected to approach all subject matters and discussions with cultural relativity. This especially includes time spent observing your cultural group. **Be respectful and sensitive to the opinions of others.**

Students are referred to the Student Code of Conduct regarding appropriate behavior, cheating, plagiarism, discrimination, etc.

http://www.slcc.edu/policies/docs/Student_Code_of_Conduct.pdf (Links to an external site.)

ePortfolio:

Each student in General Education courses at SLCC maintains a General Education ePortfolio. **Instructors in every Gen Ed course will ask you to put at least one assignment from the course into your ePortfolio, and accompany it with reflective writing.** It is a requirement in this class for you to add to your ePortfolio, and this syllabus details the assignments and reflections you are to include. Your ePortfolio will allow you to include your educational goals, describe your extracurricular activities, and post your resume. When you finish your time at SLCC, your ePortfolio will then be a multi-media showcase of your educational experience. For detailed information visit <http://www.slcc.edu/gened/eportfolio> or <http://www.slcc.edu/eportfolio/>

After you have picked an ePortfolio platform, go to the corresponding help site to watch the tutorials and look at the examples so you can get started on your own:

<http://www.slcc.edu/eportfolio/>

<http://slcceportfolio.wix.com/slcceportfolio> <http://slcchelpsite.jimdo.com>

<https://slccwordpresshelpsite.wordpress.com>

<https://sites.google.com/site/slcchelpsite/>

If you would like to start your ePortfolio in a computer lab with a person there to help you, please visit an ePortfolio Lab on the Taylorsville-Redwood, Jordan or South City Campus during business hours, and staff will help you without an appointment. For lab hours and locations please see the following site: <http://www.slcc.edu/eportfolio/>

Finally, questions regarding the ePortfolio can be directed to Emily.Dibble@slcc.edu.

General Education Statement:

This course fulfills the International/Global (IG) requirement for the General Education Program at Salt Lake Community College. It is designed not only to teach the information and skills required by the discipline, but also to develop vital workplace skills and to teach strategies and skills that can be used for life-long learning. General Education courses teach basic skills as well as broaden a student's knowledge of a wide range of subjects. Education is much more than the acquisition of facts; it is being able to use information in meaningful ways in order to enrich one's life.

While the subject of each course is important and useful, we become truly educated through making connections of such varied information with the different methods of organizing human experience that are practiced by different disciplines. Therefore, this course, when combined with other General Education courses, will enable you to develop broader perspectives and deeper understandings of your community and the world, as well as challenge previously held assumptions about the world and its inhabitants.

Writing Intensive Designation

NOTE: this course is designated as writing intensive. The AAC&U's definition for this high impact practice is as follows, "These courses emphasize writing at all levels of instruction and across the curriculum, including final-year projects. Students are encouraged to produce and revise various forms of writing for different audiences in different disciplines. The effectiveness of this repeated practice 'across the curriculum' has led to parallel efforts in such areas as quantitative reasoning, oral communication, information literacy, and, on some campuses, ethical inquiry." For more information, see here:

<https://www.slcc.edu/gened/hips/writing.aspx>

Estimated Assignment Wordcounts

FORMAL Writing Assignments			
Assignment name	Brief Description	# of words (estimate 250 words/page)	% of FINAL grade
10-point ethnographic activities (formal portions) and 10-point formal assignments	Formal responses to ethnographic observation activities and assignments: sometimes formal discussion board posts, sometimes standard formal essays.	2,750-4,125	7%
20-point ethnographic activities (formal portions) and 20-point formal assignments	Formal responses to ethnographic observation activities and assignments: sometimes formal discussion board posts, sometimes standard formal essays.	5,500-8,250	39%

ePortfolio signature assignment: final report	3- 5-page final report that combines revised and consolidated earlier ethnographic writing assignments with original research.	1,200-2,000	10%
Totals for Formal Assignments		9,450-14,375	56%
INFORMAL Writing Assignments			
Assignment name	Brief Description	# of words (estimate 250 words/page)	% of FINAL grade
10-point and 20-point discussion assignments: informal portions (22)	Responses to classmates' discussion board posts.	550-1,100	19%
Ethnographic Fieldnotes	Fieldnotes	1,000-3,000	NA
Totals for Informal Assignments		1,550-4,100	19%