Course Information

Salt Lake Community College

Cultural Anthropology (SS)

ANTH 1010-001

Fall 2025

Course Section Information

Days: Monday and Wednesday

Time: 01:00 PM - 02:20 PM

Campus: Jordan High Tech Center

Classroom: Room 245

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.

Semester: All

Course Prerequisites/Co-requisites

None

Course Student Learning Outcomes

- Define the field of anthropology and its subfields, its connections and applications to other disciplines, and examine its relevance to major aspects of human behavior.
- Apply the methods of cultural anthropology to collect empirical data on cultural diversity and produce the components of an ethnography.
- Apply social scientific methods to analyze observed patterns of cross-cultural and international diversity and human universals.
- Analyze cultural information from multiple sources and apply cultural knowledge across diverse disciplines.
- Communicate using appropriate terminology and apply cultural relativism in all assessments and communications.

Coursework & Assignment Descriptions

Quizzes (40 points each)

- Purpose: Assess comprehension of key concepts, readings, and lectures.
- Format: Multiple choice, short answer, or matching. Timed in Canvas.
- Tips: Complete readings before class, review notes, and attend regularly.
- Grading Criteria: Accuracy, demonstration of comprehension, and application of concepts.

Discussions (5–40 points each)

- Purpose: Encourage dialogue, reflection, and applying anthropology to everyday life.
- Expectations: 1 original post (150–200 words) plus at least 1 thoughtful reply to a classmate.
- Grading Criteria:

- Quality of engagement (thoughtful, connects to readings/lectures) – 50%
- Respectful, constructive tone – 25%
- Timeliness – 25%

Assignments (10–60 points each)

- Purpose: Applied learning through short writing, analysis, or research tasks. Examples include cultural reflections, ethnographic mapping, or media analysis.
- Grading Criteria:
  - Meets instructions fully (completeness) – 40%
  - Depth of analysis and use of course concepts – 40%
  - Organization, clarity, and mechanics – 20%

Ethnographic Project Series (3 parts, 50 points each + planning tasks)

- Purpose: A semester-long applied project to practice ethnographic methods.
  1. Mapping – Observe and diagram a familiar environment.
  2. Life History Interview – Conduct and analyze an interview.
  3. Observation – Attend and record observations of a cultural/ritual event.
- Final Reflection: Incorporated into your Signature Assignment.
- Grading Criteria: Evidence of observation, application of anthropological concepts, and thoughtful reflection.

Signature Assignment: Ethnography & Everyday Life (60 points)

- Purpose: Culminating assignment for both the course and your ePortfolio.
- Expectations: 3–5 page analysis connecting your ethnographic work to at least 2 major course concepts.
- Reflection: Accompany with 300–500 words reflecting on your learning and how it connects to broader General Education outcomes.
- Grading Criteria: Depth of analysis, integration of course material, quality of reflection, and clarity of writing.

Grading Scale

Participation and Attendance

Because this is an in-person, discussion-based class, your consistent attendance and active participation are essential to both your success and the success of the course as a whole. Anthropology is best learned through shared perspectives and dialogue. You are expected to come to class on time, prepared, and ready to engage in discussion and activities. More than two unexcused absences may affect your final grade. If you need to miss class, please notify me in advance when possible.

Late Work and Make-Up Policy

Assignments are due at the start of class on the specified date. Late work will be accepted up to one week after the due date with a penalty of 10% per day late (unless prior arrangements are made). After one week, late work will not be accepted without documented extenuating circumstances. If you miss an in-class activity or quiz, you may request a make-up opportunity only if you have an excused absence (illness, family emergency, or prior approval).

Extra Credit

Occasional extra credit opportunities may be offered to encourage deeper engagement with course material. These will not replace missed assignments but can help strengthen your overall grade. Extra credit will never exceed more than 5% of your final grade.

Engagement Plan

- I will respond to email within 1 day. I will offer feedback on major assignments within 7 days. The best way to contact me is through Canvas Inbox or email jking186@slcc.edu, as I will prioritize this method over other modes of communication.

- In this course I will be posting interactive announcements which will offer specific opportunities for class questions and extra credit every other week.

- Additionally, I will be participating in the discussion forums with you to share my perspective within the discipline and to offer some nuances of interpretation that may not be present in your textbook.

- Lastly, we'll be holding small group Q & A sessions, where we can learn from our peers (and faculty) on some of the more difficult units within the course.

How to Navigate to Canvas

This course uses the Canvas course management system. All students must use Canvas to retrieve course readings, access web pages, upload assignments, receive course announcements, and review the class section's syllabus.

General Education Information

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This course fulfills the above 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.

How to Succeed in the Course

Anthropology is all about exploring what it means to be human — past, present, and future. To get the most out of this class:

- Stay curious. Let your interests guide you. Follow the questions that come to mind as we move through the material, even if they feel big or messy.

- Ask questions. Whether in class discussions, office hours, or assignments, don't be afraid to seek clarity or challenge assumptions. Asking questions is one of the best ways to learn.

- Think critically. Anthropology often pushes us to look at the world from new perspectives. Practice analyzing evidence, questioning your own assumptions, and considering multiple viewpoints.

- Have fun. Learning works best when it's enjoyable. Engage with the material, your classmates, and activities with an open mind. Anthropology gives us a chance to connect with ideas, people, and cultures in meaningful and exciting ways — enjoy the journey.

Additional Class Policies

Appropriate Use of AI Tools

Artificial intelligence (AI) tools (such as ChatGPT or similar programs) can be useful for brainstorming ideas, clarifying concepts, or practicing study skills. However, they are not a substitute for your own work, analysis, or voice in this course.

You may use AI tools responsibly for:

- Exploring background information or examples to help you better understand course concepts.

- Brainstorming study strategies, essay outlines, or discussion questions.

- Checking grammar and clarity in your writing (similar to using spellcheck or Grammarly).

You may not use AI tools for:

- Submitting AI-generated work as your own (this is considered academic dishonesty).

- Having AI complete assignments, quizzes, or exams for you.

- Avoiding course readings or original engagement with materials.

If you use an AI tool to help with brainstorming or editing, you must acknowledge it in your assignment (e.g., "I used ChatGPT to help brainstorm an outline, but all writing and analysis are my own").

The goal of this course is to develop your ability to think critically, communicate clearly, and apply anthropological perspectives. AI can support your learning, but it cannot replace the learning process itself. Misuse of AI will be treated as an academic integrity violation.

Course Content Advisory

Please be advised that this course may include discussions, readings, and other content that some students might find distressing or triggering. Specifically, the course may cover topics such as:

- Violence or traumatic events
- Sensitive social and political issues
- Discussions of mental health, including depression and anxiety
- Graphic or explicit descriptions and imagery
- Any other specific content relevant to the course

Our aim is to explore these topics thoughtfully and respectfully, understanding their importance in our field of study. However, we recognize that such material can be challenging. If you have concerns about your ability to engage with certain course materials due to past experiences or personal reasons, please feel free to discuss this with me privately. We can explore alternative ways for you to engage with the material while ensuring your educational experience is not compromised.

Your well-being is important, and support services are available through the college's counseling support services should you need them.

Institutional Policies

As members of our academic community, we would like to invite you to review the Institutional Syllabus which covers important policies and procedures. This document contains important links for students on the code of student rights and responsibilities,

academic integrity, and grading policies, Title IX and other important acknowledgements. By familiarizing yourself with this information, you can help us create a safe and respectful environment for everyone.

For more information, navigate to the Institutional Policies tab on the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page.

Learning Support and Tutoring Services

We are pleased to offer a range of tutoring and learning support services to help you achieve your academic goals. Whether you need assistance with a specific subject or want to improve your study skills, you have many options for tutoring or other support.

To learn more about the services we offer and how to access them, visit the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page under the Tutoring and Learning Support tab. We encourage you to take advantage of these resources to help you succeed in your studies. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a tutoring session, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to support you in any way we can.

Advising and Counseling Support Services

At our institution, we are committed to supporting your academic and personal growth. That's why we offer a range of advising and counseling services to help you navigate the challenges of college life. To learn more about the resources available to you and how to access them, visit the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page under the Advising and Counseling Support Services tab. Our advising team and the support centers across campus are here to support you in achieving your goals and overcoming any obstacles you may face.

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Lecture

Student Academic Calendar

As students you should be aware of all important dates in the semester, such as the day that courses begin and end, as well as the drop date and the last day to withdraw. To learn more about those dates, navigate to the Student Academic Calendar below:

[SLCC Student Academic Calendar](#)

Assignment Schedule

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
	[Introductory Prompt – Cultural Anthropology](#)	Discussion	5
	[Introductory Prompt – Cultural Anthropology](#)	Discussion	5