

Anthropology 1  
Spring, 2004  
Sec. No. 30354  
LBCC-LAC

Cultural Anthropology  
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T/Th 9:30-11:00 AM  
M206

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## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

This is an introductory course in cultural anthropology. We will focus on human cultural development throughout the world both past and present. Variations in social, economic, and political customs, culture change, systems of kinship and family organization, inventions, arts, language, and other topics will be discussed. Current theories of culture, often in conflict with one another, will be reviewed along with the effects of culture contact between different societies. This course will examine human culture from an evolutionary perspective. We will begin with technologically more simple egalitarian societies, then move on to the origin of stratified societies with more specialized and advanced technology. Next, we will review the development of centralized power and growing inequity in resource allocation, then on to the formation of state societies, such as our own, with an elaborate and sophisticated technological base.

As a result of taking this course, students should be able to:

1. understand the origins and development of the human species;
2. identify variations in social customs unique to individual cultures;
3. compare and contrast different societies in scientific terms;
4. understand the uniqueness of human culture and behavior;
5. identify and describe characteristics of human culture;
6. locate and discuss the most important cultural groups on a world map;

7. explain the importance of culture to the human species;
8. discuss various scientific theories as to human cultural variation today;
9. discuss the importance of kinship and the family to human society;
10. trace the evolution of human culture from its beginning to the present; and
11. comprehend the structure and function of various other aspects of human culture such as art, politics, economics, religion, social stratification, subsistence, and other topics.

The grade for the course will be based upon the following considerations:

- |   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. a midterm exam; portion of total points:     | 100 points        |
| 2. four quizzes, 25 points each, total:         | 100 points        |
| 3. four in-class essays, 25 points each, total: | 100 points        |
| 4. a final exam; portion of total points:       | <u>100 points</u> |
| Total Points:                                   | 400 points        |

For an “A”, you need to earn 90% of the points or more (360-400), for a “B” 80-89% of the points (320-359), for a “C” 70-79% of the points (280-319), for a “D” 60-69% of the points (240-279), and below 240 points is a failing grade. Note: Extra Credit points will raise your score.

Two books are required for the course. The text is:

1. Haviland, William A., Cultural Anthropology. San Diego: Harcourt Brace. 10th Ed, 2002.
2. Novotny, Adrian and David Werner. In the Shadow of the Hunter. Los Angeles: Houghton Mifflin, 1997.

You are responsible for reading the assignments before each class. Roughly seventy percent of the material for the quizzes and exams will be derived from the lecture. The remainder of the questions and topics will be drawn directly from the assigned reading,

including material we may not discuss. Therefore it is essential that you read the books consistently in order to pass the course.

This course provides a foundation on which to build a sophisticated understanding of human culture. To be successful, you must take extensive class notes on the lectures and discussions making it necessary that you come to each class with pen, notebook, and the text. We will refer to the text frequently during the class sessions. Tape recording the class lectures is permitted and recommended for anyone having difficulty with class notes.

As you will see, there are definite career opportunities available as a result of a focus in cultural anthropology. Those of you who find this course stimulating may inquire about professional anthropology. Anyone interested in pursuing advanced studies in the field of anthropology after taking this class should visit me during office hours for information on schools, programs, subfields, etc.

This course will be a challenge, but it is potentially very rewarding in terms of understanding human culture and societal variation, and the contemporary human condition. This course will attempt to identify "why things are the way they are" from the standpoint of the science of anthropology.

Keeping up with the reading, studying, quizzes, and exams will be a challenge even for those of you with good study habits. Those who have difficulties studying and learning will need to work harder on this material. I will assist with some handouts on learning skills through the term.

Attendance is mandatory and will be taken at each class. Perfect attendance will be considered in the event a student's course percentage points happen to fall between two letter grades--those with perfect attendance will be assigned the higher letter grade.

Poor attendance, on the other hand, will have dire consequences. According to LBCC academic policy:

"Attendance is the student's responsibility. In the event of excessive absences, the instructor may drop a student from a course or lower the student's grade. Students who are absent more than twenty percent of the total class hours or for two consecutive weeks shall be automatically dropped from the class."

{NOTE: twenty percent of the total class hours for this class is five class meetings. Missing six classes will result in an automatic drop from the class regardless of the reason(s) for the absences}.

I will make every effort to ensure that classroom decorum is conducive to learning. You can help with this mission by actively participating in the class discussions and exercises. However, emotional outbursts or insulting comments directed to the instructor, to other students, or to individuals or groups outside the class will not be tolerated. According to the LBCC catalog:

"Disorderly, lewd, indecent, obscene, or offensive conduct or expression which interferes with the college's primary educational responsibility...(or)...obstruction or disruption of classes...will subject students to disciplinary action."

Pagers, cell phones, beepers, two-way wrist radios, tricorders, etc. must be set on silent ring or turned off during class hours.

Though you are encouraged to participate in class, talking privately with a classmate is distracting and is not acceptable. Violators will receive one verbal warning after which they will be asked to leave the class for the remainder of the day's session.

Leaving class before dismissal without approval is disruptive to the class. If, for some reason, you have to leave early, please make arrangements with me at the beginning of class and find a

seat near the door to avoid disturbing the class when you leave. Anyone leaving early without prior arrangement, will be marked absent for the day.

Arriving late for class is also disruptive. If you arrive late and class is already in session, please enter the class as quietly as possible and find a seat near the door. No makeup quizzes or exams are given so if you know you will not be present for an exam you should take the course another time. Late work is severely penalized. Handing work in late would not be fair to those who submit their assignments on time. You have ample notice of the due dates on this syllabus; be sure to keep them in mind.

On the subject of academic honesty, the college catalog states:

"Lack of honesty in the classroom is considered a very serious offense. Any form of cheating on tests, turning in work which is not one's own (plagiarism), talking during tests, furnishing false information to instructors or knowingly misrepresenting oneself to the college is grounds for disciplinary action."

Please keep this information in mind during quizzes, exams, and when doing assignments. Refer to the back pages of the current Schedule of Classes for additional information regarding LBCC policies and procedures.

Quizzes are unannounced so you should keep up with your reading and studies to be prepared. The quiz questions will be selected from the assigned reading material as well as from the previous lectures. They will normally consist of twenty-five questions.

Exams will usually be in the form of Scantron questions. The exam format and content will be discussed in detail prior to the midterm.

The essays will be on topics being covered in the assigned chapters in the readings and from the lectures. The essays will be done in class, also on unannounced occasions. They will be one or two pages in length and you will have about twenty minutes to complete each essay.

There will be opportunities to earn extra credit during the term. This will be discussed as the semester progresses. All students are eligible to do extra credit assignments.

Anyone absent who misses an exam (the Midterm or the Final), a quiz, or an essay will be given half the points for that assignment in the grade book, as makeup work is not permitted except in extreme cases of medical or other emergency. Please try to maintain good attendance to avoid this penalty for absenteeism.

I will periodically present audiovisual material to complement the class as well. Videos will be shown to amplify and illustrate significant topics covered in the course.

Several handouts will supplement the text, lectures, and video presentations to clarify and expand several of the more important topics covered in this course. You are expected to learn the material from these handouts as well as from other sources of information.

You are encouraged to form study groups to meet outside of class to help one another learn the material. Participation in such groups raises scores. I will assist in forming these groups, if students show an interest in this excellent study method.

A tentative schedule to guide your reading and to indicate the various due dates is as follows. While the lectures and discussions may not be exactly synchronized with this schedule, you should read the assigned material before it is covered in class.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Chapters in Text</u>	<u>General Topics</u>
1 (1/12/04)	1:1	Introduction
2 (1/19)	1:2	The Nature of Culture
3 (1/26)	1:3, 2:1	Evolution; <u>Shadow</u> , 1(S-1)
4 (2/2)	1:3	Evolution (cont).
5 (2/9)	1:4, 2:2	Language, S-2
6 (2/16)	1:5	The Human Animal
7 (2/23)	1:6, 2:3	Subsistence, S-3
8 (3/1)	1:7	Economics
9 (3/8)	1:8	<b>Midterm</b> ; Sex & Marriage,
10 (3/15)	1:9, 2-4	Family & Household, S-4
11 (3/22)	1:10	Kinship & Descent
12 (3/29)	1:11, 2:5	Nonkin Groups, S-5
13 (4/5)	1:12	Politics
14 (4/12)	none	<b>Spring Recess, No Classes</b>
15 (4/19)	1:13, 2-6	Supernatural World, S-6
16 (4/26)	1:14	The Arts
17 (5/3)	1:15	Culture Change
18 (5/10 )	1:16	The Future & Review

Final Exam (Thur. 5/20, 8-10:30 AM)

Holidays and Other No Class Days This Term

Jan. 19, Mon, Dr. Martin Luther King Day

Feb. 3, Tue, Flex Day

Feb. 13, Fri, Lincoln's Birthday

Feb. 16, Mon, Washington's Birthday

Mar. 24, Wed, Flex Day

Apr. 12-18, Mon thru Sun, Spring Break

May 31, Mon, Memorial Day

I hope you will enjoy this study of human culture and leave the class with a new appreciation for the concept of "human nature."