

Syllabus Fall 2019

COURSE TITLE: CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Course Number: **ANTH 101**

Current Semester: **Fall 2019** Room Number: **2C06**

Course Meeting Days and Times: **M (Online) F 2:00-3:30** Credit Hours: **3**

Instructor's Name: **Dr. Isa Karasioglu**

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Office Hours: **By appointment on Friday 1:00 to 2:00**

Course Description:

Welcome to an introduction to the field of sociocultural anthropology. Anthropology is the exploration of human diversity. Anthropologists study the human condition in a holistic manner, that is; past, present, and future, culture, society, language, biology. This class is focused on the key questions, concepts, and methods that have been used within the field of anthropological inquiry. Our goal is not only understand others but also ourselves as a product of particular, historical, social and cultural processes. The analysis of human culture as it has evolved to the present, covering theories and methods, cultural universals and variations in such areas as marriage and family, politics, economics, kinship, religion and the arts, with an emphasis on non-Western and non-industrial societies.

Course Objectives: By the end of the semester students should be able to:

1. Develop and use a holistic perspective to investigate how people -past and present-have developed viable survival strategies worldwide.
2. Understand what anthropology offers to society in identifying and analyzing global-scale issues from multiple perspectives inclusive of non-Western and underrepresented cultures.
3. Examine cultural practices through the lens of cultural relativism, so students learn that no culture is intrinsically more valuable than another.
4. Investigate the ethnographic and ethnological research methods used in anthropology, exposing the big questions and problems facing contemporary anthropologists and global society.
5. Develop and apply critical thinking and written communication skills within the context of the anthropological perspective

Required Materials:

Smith, S., & Young, P. D. (1998). *Cultural anthropology: Understanding a world in transition*. Allyn & Bacon. Additional readings are available on blackboard and can be seen in the course calendar.

Academic Honesty

A violation of academic integrity is any instance when a student attempts to pass off someone else's words or ideas as their own, *no matter where they obtained those words or ideas*, and no matter where these ideas are presented. There is nothing wrong with representing someone else's ideas in your work; you just have to give them credit, which we will practice in this course. Additionally, when getting help on an assignment, remember the final product must be the result of your own work. All academic integrity violations will result in an F (zero) on the assignment, and/or a failing grade in the course, and/or referral to York College's Academic Integrity officer.

York College gives four definitions of types of academic integrity violation (these definitions can be found in the York College policy on academic integrity, which I have linked to below):

- **Cheating:** Cheating is the unauthorized use or attempted use of material, information, notes, study aids, devices or communication during an academic exercise.
- **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is the act of presenting another person's ideas, research or writings as your own.
- **Obtaining Unfair Advantage:** Obtaining Unfair Advantage is any activity that intentionally or unintentionally gives a student an unfair advantage in his/her academic work over another student.
- **Falsification of Records and Official Documents**

York College's policies and procedures concerning academic integrity can be found here:

<http://www.york.cuny.edu/president/legal-compliance/legal-affairs/cuny-legal-policies-procedures/Academic-Integrity-Policy.pdf>

For more information about plagiarism, see the description in the The York College Bulletin. <http://york.cuny.edu/produce-and-print/contents/bulletin> and Purdue University's Online Writing Lab resource, "Avoiding Plagiarism," http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_plagiar.html

York College Resources

Computers with word processing software and internet access are available in the library and in computer labs.

York College Library: <http://york.cuny.edu/library>

York College Computer Labs: <http://york.cuny.edu/it/acet/computer-labs>

York College Collaborative Learning Center:

<https://york.cuny.edu/student/writingcenter> Located in the Academic Core 1C18, The Collaborative Learning Center assists students with writing skills. The Center

offers scheduled tutoring, drop-in tutoring and workshops. For more information, stop by, call (718) 262-2494, or check the CLC Website.

English as Second Language (ESL) Tutoring Center

Tutoring is available for ESL students in Academic Core 3C08. Call (718) 262-2831 for schedule.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities may contact the Center for Students with Disabilities to learn about and gain access to resources available to them at the college. See their website at <https://www.york.cuny.edu/student-development/csd> for more details.

Instructor Specific Policies: Lateness to Class: Lateness will only be tolerated within the first 5 minutes of each class if the Students inform the instructor about their (reasonable) lateness by sending an email prior to the class. In the event of absence, students are responsible for following the content (i.e. tips for the quizzes, assignments and the exam) of that particular class by contacting their classmates, not the instructor. This policy on absence is expected to serve the particular purpose of socialization and building new friendships.

Late Work: Will be accepted with 10% penalty per day

Classroom Management: This class consists of two meetings per week. The course schedule and readings are assigned as a total of those two classes per week. Cell phones and other handheld electronic devices must be switched off or kept in silent mode during the class session. Laptops/Tablet PC's are permitted only if disengaged from the Internet and used for class-related purposes. No food or drink is allowed in class except for water. Students are expected to conduct themselves respectfully and professionally at all times. Academic study rests on principles of respect for people, their ideas, and their right to learn. Behavior that is rude, disrespectful, or disruptive not only violates school rules but also violates the individual dignity and interferes with the educational process. Academic and classroom misconduct will not be tolerated. If any student does not comply with academic and classroom conduct, he/she will be asked to leave the room and will be counted as absent for the class meeting. Further action may be necessary and will affect grades.

Other Relevant Policies: The best way to reach the instructor is by email. Students should feel free to contact faculty with questions and concerns by email. The York student email accounts will be used as contact information. Thus, students are responsible for updating their York student email accounts in the system on time. Also, students are responsible for knowing how to use Blackboard, check the course webpage and emails regularly, upload required assignments, and contact help-desk technician if they experience any technical difficulties.

Course Requirements, Assignments and Grading:

Quizzes 30% Discussions 24%
Two Writing Assignments 20%
Participation 6%
Final Exam 20%

Quizzes (%30)

There will be two quizzes throughout the semester. It will be worth 30% of the final grade. It will cover the material presented during the class lectures and in the assigned readings. The quiz will cover all material presented up until that point in the class. It will include 20 multiple choice (or may be mixed type true/false & multiple choice) questions that students will answer within the class time limits. Additional details will be given in the class before the exam. Please refer to the class calendar below for the quiz dates. Absence will receive "0" points and can only be excused only in case of health related condition which needs to be documented by a physician.

Two Writing Assignments (%20)

1-) Random observation Students will conduct a random observation on a subject of their choice and submit a hard copy of their observation. Random observations could be conducted in any social setting such as work place, a family or friend gathering, a party, an event of a volunteer or non-profit organization, a religious or traditional ritual occasion etc. Students are expected to read Geertz, C. (1973). *Thick description: The interpretation of cultures. New York: Basic.* and try to approach their observation by taking Geertz's points into consideration. Students are also expected to approach their observations through the lenses of an anthropological/sociological topic (one of the titles/chapters in your textbook).

2-) Writing (taking) Social Study Notes

Conklin, H.C., 1960. A Day in Parina. *In the Company of Man. JB Casagrande, Ed. New York: Harper and Brothers*, pp.119-125.

Students will first write a one-page summary of Conklin's work and then write their own day in a similar fashion.

Discussion Board (%24)

Students will either be submitting a summary of the

Participations (% 6)

Students are expected to contribute to each class by voicing their comments and interpretations. For class preparations, students should complete the assigned readings, take notes on the authors' main points, and think about possible discussion questions that can be asked in class. **Students will be randomly asked to answer the discussion questions or summarize the main points of the readings. It is students' responsibility to show willingness of participation even if the student is not asked to participate by the instructor.**

FINAL EXAM (%20)

There will be a final exam at the end of the semester. It will be worth 30% of the final grade. Final exam will be take home essay writing. Students will be provided with 2 Essay questions and will be asked to answer one of them on the exam day.

Grading:

0 -59 = F 60 -66 = D 67 -69 = D+ 70 -72 = C-73 -76 = C 77 -79 = C+ 80 -82 = B-83 -86 = B 87 -89 = B+ 90 -92 = A 93 - 100 = A (Not doing an assignment = 0)

Class Schedule

All online assignments are due on Wednesdays of the week by 11:59 pm

Date	Class Topic & Assignments Due	Assigned Readings
Week 1 Aug-30	Welcome Session, Syllabus Review and Introduction	Introduction: Studying Anthropology in Smith, S., & Young, P. D. (1998). <i>Cultural anthropology: Understanding a world in transition.</i>
Week 2 Sep 2-6	No Class on Sep.2nd Schedule Adjustment: Class-Sep 5	Introduction: Studying Anthropology in Smith, S., & Young, P. D. (1998). <i>Cultural anthropology: Understanding a world in transition.</i> Online Assignment: Sociological Imagination (Submit one page summary)
Week 3 Sep 9-13	What is Anthropology Thinking like an anthropologist Anthropological Theory Making the familiar strange	Introduction: Studying Anthropology in Smith, S., & Young, P. D. (1998). <i>Cultural anthropology: Understanding a world in transition.</i> Online Assignment: Shakespeare in the Bush by Laura Bohannan https://law.ubalt.edu/downloads/law_downloads/IRC_Shakespeare in the Bush.pdf (Submit one page response)
Week 4 Sep 16-18	Doing Cultural Anthropology (method) Scientific method -Critical thinking Doing Cultural Anthropology (method)	Chapter 1: Studying Cultures in Smith, S., & Young, P. D. (1998). <i>Cultural anthropology: Understanding a world in transition.</i> Online Assignment: Read: A day in Parina by Harold Conklin (Available on blackboard) Respond to the discussion question in at least 250 words: What advantages do you see in ethnographic research techniques?

<p>Week 5 Sep 23-27</p>	<p>Culture Cultural Relativism Vs. Ethnocentrism</p>	<p>Introduction: Studying Anthropology in Smith, S., & Young, P. D. (1998). <i>Cultural anthropology: Understanding a world in transition</i>.</p> <p>Online Assignment: What are the different kinds of learning? On which kind (or kinds) of learning is culture based? How is culture transmitted across generations? (respond to the question in at least 250 words and feel free to do internet research – scholarly accounts)</p>
<p>Week 6 Sep 30 Oct 4</p>	<p>Sep 30 NO CLASS</p> <p>Culture</p> <p>Oct 4 Quiz1 (covers first 5 weeks)</p>	<p>Chapter 4: Bands and Tribes: Remote Peripheries in Smith, S., & Young, P. D. (1998). <i>Cultural anthropology: Understanding a world in transition</i>. No online assignment</p>
<p>Week 7 Oct 7-11</p>	<p>Making a Living Language and Communication (social interaction)</p>	<p>Chapter 4: Bands and Tribes: Remote Peripheries in Smith, S., & Young, P. D. (1998). <i>Cultural anthropology: Understanding a world in transition</i>. Online Assignment: Read: the chapter and respond to the discussion question in at least 250 words; Anthropologists often say that in nonindustrial societies, economic relationships are embedded in social relationships. What does this mean?</p>
<p>Week 8 Oct 14-18</p>	<p>Marriage No Class on Oct 14</p>	<p>Reading for the class meeting will be posted on blackboard</p> <p><u>No online Assignment</u></p>
<p>Week 9 Oct 21-25</p>	<p>Sex and Gender In class Film on Sex & Gender</p>	<p>Reading for the class meeting will be posted on blackboard Online Assignment: Submit a one page summary indicating the significant points of the reading: Gmelch, G. (1978). Baseball magic. <i>Human Nature</i>, 1(8), 3240.</p>

<p>Week 10 Oct 28-- Nov 1</p>	<p>Sex and Gender (if needed extra time) Religion</p> <p><u>Nov 1 Quiz 2 (covers weeks 6-9)</u></p>	<p>Reading for the class meeting will be posted on blackboard Online Assignment: Read the article below and submit a 250 word response to the discussion question reading : “Murder Most Foul in Delhi” by Vibhuti Agarwal The Wall Street Journal, June 15, 2010 http://blogs.wsj.com/indiarealtime/2010/06/15/mur-der-most-foul-in-delhi?KEYWORDS=religion Q: What barriers exist in your religious background in terms of social control?</p>
<p>Week 11 Nov 4-8</p>	<p>Religion (if needed extra time) Political Systems and Political organization</p>	<p>Chapter 5: Chiefdoms in Smith, S., & Young, P. D. (1998). <i>Cultural anthropology: Understanding a world in transition.</i> <u>No online Assignment</u></p>
<p>Week 12 Nov 11-15</p>	<p>Race and Ethnicity</p>	<p>Chapter 7: Ethnicity in Smith, S., & Young, P. D. (1998). <i>Cultural anthropology: Understanding a world in transition.</i> Online Assignment: Submit a one page response to the discussion question: Examine the people in your life from the perspective of minority and dominant groups. Do the characteristics of the two concepts hold up in your experience? Why or why not?</p>
<p>Week 13 Nov 18-22</p>	<p>Family, Kinship, Descent</p>	<p>Chapter 4: Bands and Tribes: Remote Peripheries</p>

<p>Week 14 Nov 25-29</p>	<p>Social Stratification NO CLASS on Nov 29 Ethnographic Film Screening</p>	<p>Online Assignment: Read the article below and submit a 250 word response to the discussion question Reading: “Struggling in the Suburbs” The New York Times; July 7, 2012 http://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/08/opinion/sunday/struggling-in-the-suburbs.html</p> <p>Q: What does the rise in suburban poverty tell you about the changes in income and wealth in the United States?</p>
<p>Week 15 Dec 2-6</p>	<p>Random Observation Colloquium <i>Wrap up & Final Assignment</i></p>	

This syllabus is offered as a guide; however, it is subject to change throughout the semester, as necessary.