

Course Description:

There are approximately 200 countries or nations in the world today. This tally, however, does not even begin to tell the entire story of human diversity. In fact, there are well over ten times that many languages and cultures in the world. And yet, given all that diversity, there are a great many things that all cultures share. In fact, cultural anthropologists often have a hard time deciding which is *more* fascinating: the human universals that unite us, or the details of those common elements that draw distinctions between us!

This course is intended to provide a broad overview of the sub-field of cultural anthropology. The first few weeks of the semester will focus on how anthropologists think about, study and define *culture*. The middle portion of the course will focus on the essential elements which cultures all over the world share (e.g., language, subsistence strategies, recognizing and classifying kin, marriage, exchange, relations with the supernatural, social control etc.), but which vary considerably in terms of specifics. The final segment of the course will explore how anthropological concepts, perspectives and methodologies are being *applied* to current world problems (e.g., hunger, disease, ethnic conflict).

Course Format:

In-class course material will be presented primarily through lectures, small group discussions/tasks, and videos. Your ideas, questions and observations during class will always be emphasized and encouraged. Work outside of class will consist of assigned readings and short projects (see below).

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course you will be able to:

- A. describe the process of enculturation (socialization) and to articulate the crucial distinction between genetically determined and culturally influenced behavior.
- B. summarize the basic concepts of linguistics and be able explain the role of language in transmitting culture and how it both reflects and shapes human perception and experience.
- C. discuss the similarities and differences among human social systems, especially in the realms of kinship, marriage/family, leadership, and the supernatural.
- D. explain the role of technology in shaping and limiting behavior and social forms in various cultures.
- E. analyze the similarities and differences among human value systems and their relationship to social structures and technology.
- F. describe how the concepts, perspectives and methodologies of anthropology are being applied to real-world problems.
- G. utilize critical thinking and communication skills in the context of this course.

Dates/Topics

Reading Assignment

Jan	20	
	Introduction	Text Chpt 1
	25	Bohannon (Webcampus) &
	Defining Culture	Text Chpt 2
	27	
Feb	1	
	Culture Cont.	-----
	3	Chagnon (Webcampus) &
	Methods of Investigation	Text Chpt 3
	8	
	M of I Cont.; Film: <u>A Man Called Bee</u>	-----
	10	Shildkroun (WebCampus) &
	Language and Culture	Text Chpt 5
	Film: <u>Language and Communication</u>	
	15	
	No Class: President's Day Holiday	
	17	
	Language Cont./Food-getting Adaptations	Text Chpt 7
	22	
	F-g Cont. Film: <u>Last of the First</u>	Lee (WebCampus) &
		Text Chpt 9
	24	
	F-g Cont.	-----
	29	
	F-g Cont.	-----
March	2	
	Exam #1	-----
	7	Counts (WebCampus)
	Exchange	
	9	
	Stratification/Political Org.	Text Chpt 12
	14	
	Gender/Sex	
	16	Williams (WebCampus)
	G/S Continued/Marriage	Nanda (WebCampus) &
		Text Chpt 11
	21&23	
	No Class: Spring Break (Yahoo!)	Are you kidding?
	28	
	Marriage Cont	
	30	
	Marriage Cont. Film: <u>Dadi's Family</u>	-----

<u>Dates/Topics</u>	<u>Reading Assignments</u>
April 4 Kinship	Text Chpt 10
April 6 Kinship Cont.	-----
11 Exam #2	-----
13 Belief in the Supernatural	Miner (WebCampus) & Text Chpt 7
18 ...Supernatural Cont.	-----
20 ...Supernatural Cont.	Gmelch (WebCampus)
25 Ethnicity	-----
27 World Hunger; Film: <u>The Global Banquet</u>	-----
May 2 World Population	-----
4 (Last day of class!) Cultural Survival and Globalization	Diamond (WebCampus) & Text Chpt 14

**Final Exam: Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 10:10 – 12:10**

Required Texts:

*Cultural Anthropology (9<sup>th</sup> Edition): Custom Edition for UNLV* (Oxford Press: 2014)  
EA Schultz and RH Lavenda

Supplemental readings will be available through WebCampus class website  
In: *Annual Editions in Anthropology – 2005/6 (28<sup>th</sup> Edition)*, E. Angeloni, ed.,  
(McGraw-Hill Press; 2005)

Grades:

Grades will be based upon cumulative points earned on the three, non-cumulative exams (100 points each), the successful completion of two out-of -class assignments\* (worth a total of 100 points), and 10 critical responses\* (worth a total of 100 points), for a grand total of 500 points.

A = 457-500; A- = 440-456  
B+ = 423-439; B = 407-422; B- = 390-406  
C+ = 373-389; C = 357-372; C- = 340-356  
D+ = 323-339; D = 307-322; D- = 290-306  
F = 289 or less

\* See separate handouts (under “Handouts” on WebCampus class website).

Attendance:

Attendance is “required” (although I will not take role) in the sense that it will be impossible for you to do well in the course without attending and participating regularly. Material assigned outside of class will be referenced and drawn upon extensively when we meet as a class.

Make-up Exams:

Make-ups/extensions for exams will be made available only in cases of documented emergencies.

Your professor has the right to make and announce changes to the course syllabus and schedule.

**Academic Misconduct**—Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV’s function as an educational institution.

An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the *Student Academic Misconduct Policy* (approved December 9, 2005) located at: <https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct>.

**Copyright**—The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves **with** and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. **You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws.** Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>.

**Disability Resource Center (DRC)**—The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, <http://drc.unlv.edu/>, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to discuss what options may be available to you. If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

**Religious Holidays Policy**—Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any

other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor within the first 14 calendar days of the course for fall and spring courses (excepting modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for summer and modular courses, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit: <http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531>.

**Transparency in Learning and Teaching**—The University encourages application of the transparency method of constructing assignments for student success. Please see these two links for further information:

**<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/teachingandlearning>**

**<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/transparency>**

**Incomplete Grades**—The grade of I—Incomplete—can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student’s control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester for undergraduate courses. Graduate students receiving “I” grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade.

**Tutoring and Coaching**—The **Academic Success Center (ASC)** provides tutoring, academic success coaching and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, visit <http://www.unlv.edu/asc> or call 702-895-3177. The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of the SSC (ASC Coaching Spot). Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library and College of Engineering TEB second floor.

**UNLV Writing Center**—One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 702-895-3908. The student’s Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>.

**Rebelmail**—By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students' Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV's official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students' e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always [@unlv.nevada.edu](mailto:unlv@unlv.nevada.edu). **Emailing within WebCampus is acceptable.**

**Final Examinations**—The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur at the time and on the day specified in the final exam schedule. See the schedule at: <http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>.

**Library statement:**

Students may consult with a librarian on research needs. For this class, the Subject Librarian is [https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians\\_by\\_subject](https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians_by_subject)). UNLV Libraries provides resources to support students' access to information. Discovery, access, and use of information are vital skills for academic work and for successful post-college life. Access library resources and ask questions at <https://www.library.unlv.edu/>.