



**Department of Anthropology**  
**ANTH 1025G-001**  
**Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology**  
**COURSE OUTLINE**  
**Winter 2018**

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Classes: Wednesdays 3:30 - 6:30 p.m  
Location: Biological and Geological Science Building (B&GS-0153)

Instructor: Dr. Randa Farah  
Office: SSC 3423  
Office hours: Thursdays 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
Email: rfarah2@uwo.ca

**Teaching Assistants**

Name: Carolina Delgado	Name: Tyler MacIntosh	Name: Abdulla Majeed
Office: SSC 3301	Office: SSC 3304	Office: SSC 3417
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See Owl course site for Teaching Assistant's office hours.

Prerequisite: none.

Antirequisite: Anthropology 1020E is *anti-requisite* for this course, meaning that you cannot receive credit for taking both courses since they cover similar material.

3 lecture hours/week, 0.5 course

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**Course Description**

Why do we think other cultures are exotic and alien, or worse 'backward' and underdeveloped? Why do we believe that "our" values, beliefs and cultural practices are superior or more 'civilized' than others? This course re-examines and questions what we regard as familiar and natural, while simultaneously viewing what seem odd and strange cultural practices and beliefs as familiar, understandable and historical. Despite the diversity we see in human societies and cultural configurations, what unites us as humans is stronger and more enduring.

## Course Materials

1. *Cultural Anthropology: A Problem-Based Approach*. 2013. Third Canadian Edition. Richard Robbins, Maggie Cummings, Karen McGarry, Sherrie Larkin, Nelson, Education Ltd. The book is available at Western's bookstore. Additional articles or sources might be posted on the website or distributed in class.

**Learning Outcomes:** At the end of the course students will learn to:

- Describe what anthropologists do and how they go about it.
- Explain how societies are interconnected, and why /how they transform over time.
- Examine changing social relations and cultural practices as inseparable from the political and economic realms.
- Render familiar cultural practices/beliefs as strange, and the alien or foreign as familiar.
- Analyze the underlying causes of social schisms, inequalities and hierarchies, racism, stereotyping, etc. and how dominant state institutions attempt to forge collective identities despite these inequalities.
- Interpret globalization as processes and examine their effects in the context of a world order based on the nation-state.
- Examine causes of violence and its meanings in different contexts and societies.

**You are required to read this syllabus carefully!!**

### Weekly Schedule

#### **Week 1** Jan 10

Introduction to the Course

#### **Week 2** Jan 17

Read Chapter 1: Culture and Meaning

#### **Week 3** Jan 24

Read Chapter 2: Doing Fieldwork in Sociocultural Anthropology

#### **Week 4** Jan 31 **Short Test**

Read Chapter 3: The Meaning of Progress and Development

#### **Week 5** Feb 7

Read Chapter 3: The Meaning of Progress and Development

**Week 6** Feb 14

Read: Chapter 4: Constructing Realities

**Week 7** Feb 21 **Spring Reading Week**

**Week 8** Feb 28 **Midterm**

**Week 9** March 7

Read: Chapter 5: Constructing Families and Social Relationships

**Week 10** March 14 **Essay Proposal**

Read: Chapter 6: Constructing Identities

**Week 11** March 21

Read: Chapter 7: Social Hierarchies

**Week 12** March 28

Read: Chapter 8 Globalization, Neoliberalism, and the Nation-State

**Week 13** April 4

Read: Chapter 9 Resolving Conflict

**Week 14** April 11 **Essay due today**

Review

**Final Exam** will be assigned by the registrar during exam period (April 14-30).

<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Weight/Percentage</b>
Attendance and Participation	.....	5%
Short Test	Jan 31	10%
Midterm	Feb 28	20%
Essay Proposal and References	March 14	5%
Essay	April 11	30%
Final Exam	April...	30%

## Details

Classes are interactive, they include a lecture, short in-class assignments and discussion, and documentary films.

- 1. Attendance and Participation 5%:** Attendance and participation in class is critical! An attendance sheet will be circulated each week.
- 2. Short in-class test 10%:** This entails your critical ideas and comments on a theme or themes we covered and you read from week 1 - 4. For example, I may ask you to write a critical review of a documentary we watched in class and link it to themes in the chapters.
- 3. Essay Proposal 5%:** Hand in a proposal (one page double-spaced) outlining topics/questions you are interested in researching and writing about for your essay. Include a minimum of four anthropological references you have reviewed by then and plan to use in your essay. The references should include anthropology sources at least 2 books and 2 scholarly articles.
- 4. Essay 30% (see details on essay below):** Write an essay (1500 - 2000 words) on a topic related to the themes covered in class. You need to have a minimum of 6 anthropology references (books and articles combined) that you used in writing your essay.  
**Submission:** Please note a **hardcopy** of your paper should be handed in class and on time. In addition, an **electronic** version should be submitted to **Turnitin** through the course's OWL site.
- 5. Midterm Exam 20%:** 2 hours exam held in class. It covers chapters 1 - 6. The midterm includes questions from readings, lectures, documentary films and ideas discussed in class. The midterm format is a combination of multiple choice, true and false, definitions fill-in the blanks, short and/or long answers.
- 6. Final Exam 30%:** Most questions will be from the weeks we have not covered in the midterm, although there will be some questions related to all chapters. The exam format includes a combination of the following: multiple choice, true and false, fill in the blanks, definitions, and short/long answers. The date of the final exam will be determined by the registrar and will be scheduled between April 14-30.

## Essay

**Essay Details:** Passing an essay is critical to pass the course. If you plagiarize, you will get a zero and risk failing the course and other disciplinary measures according to Western policies.

Start to think about the essay and begin research earlier in the term!

An essay is neither a summary of books, nor a descriptive paper; rather, it involves developing an argument. Analysis and arguments must be supported with scholarly references.

### *Helpful links*

For citation and information on style guides, plagiarism and other, consult:

<http://www.lib.uwo.ca/essayhelp/>

The **Western Writing Support Centre** offers free one-on-one counselling sessions, online writing help, and workshops. See <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing/>

*General information about your essay*

Number of words 1500 – 2000 (marks will be deducted if maximum number of words significantly exceed or fall short of the minimum).

Number pages, double space, font 12 Times New Roman, no space between paragraphs!

Students must use a minimum of **6 sources**, with **no less than 4** from anthropological sources.

An essay is not a summary of readings, but an in-depth argument about a question or topic that you support drawing on scholarly sources.

Make sure the essay question is related to the topics covered during the term, that it is not too general, and its scope not too wide to cover in the limited pages you are allowed for the essay.

The essay has to be coherent and its arguments clear. Do not ramble or repeat the same idea to fill space.

*How should my papers be organized?*

An essay should include an introduction, body, conclusion, and references.

A cover page with the title of the essay, course number, instructor's name, student's name and number.

*1. Introduction* Begin the essay with your main question, argument, and general context:

Question example: How did the forced relocation of the Innu in Canada in the 20th century affect family life and structure? or modes of livelihood? (This is better than for example an essay titled 'First Nations' Cultures, which is too broad).

Then state your thesis, proposition or argument example: In this essay, I propose or I will argue that the involuntary displacement of the Innu destroyed family life and...because....(whatever your argument is).

Context example: Discuss the larger historical context – in this case Euro-Canadian colonialism and then say something more specific about the displacement of the Innu, for example that they were displaced in 1948 and 1967, then about their contemporary conditions, etc.

*2. Body of the Essay* This is where you present your arguments that support your main thesis or question. All your discussion and points raised in the body should be in support of the main question and argument you provided in the introduction. That is, don't include material that is irrelevant to the topic. Your discussion and supportive arguments here should draw on scholarly sources. Do not rely on one or two sources, but draw on a number of articles and books and make sure you paraphrase and cite the source. Avoid long direct quotes.

*3. Conclusion* Summarize the main arguments. You may also end by raising new questions for future research.

You need to cite within the text and at the end of the essay. At the end of the essay list the books, articles etc. you cite in the paper; be consistent with the citations and references. **Wikipedia is not a scholarly source.**

Write clearly! Use spell check AND read your paper before handing it in. Pay attention to spelling mistakes and do not confuse words such as “there and their”, “here and hear”.

**Submission:** You need to submit a **hard copy** as well as an electronic one to **Turnitin**.

**Late Assignments:** 2% of your essay grade will be deducted for each day you are late in submitting the paper, no assignments will be accepted five days (including weekends) after the due date. This means if your essay grade is 80%, it will become 78% if one day late, or 76% if two days late.

**Website** The syllabus, lecture outlines, important announcements, other relevant information and grades will be posted on the class website. Brief lecture outlines will be posted after class. You may download these on your computer, but **you are not allowed to make these public or download onto other websites.** It is your responsibility to daily check the website for updates.

**Emailing instructor and TAs** Please email the teaching team for an urgent issue or question. **Please use office hours** if you have questions or need guidance. The instructor and TAs have different office hours, which will allow you to see at least one of us during a given week.

**Undergraduate Chair:** Prof. Andrew Walsh, SSC 3402 519- 661-2111 x85092

**Department Chair:** Prof. Kim Clark, SSC 3323, 519-661-3430

Take a look at some of our Minors, including: Minor in Refugee and Migrant Studies:

[http://anthropology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program\\_information/index.html](http://anthropology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_information/index.html)

### Important Information

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current academic policies regarding **accessibility, plagiarism and scholastic offences, and medical accommodation.** These policies are outlined, with links to the full policies, at: [http://anthropology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/course\\_information/academic\\_policies.html](http://anthropology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/course_information/academic_policies.html)

#### Laptops and other electronic devices

You are allowed to use laptops to take notes in class, but nothing else. Turn OFF your cell phones and all electronic devices while in class other than the laptop. You are NOT allowed to tape-record or video anything during class.

**No electronic devices** are allowed during the exam.

#### Helpful Websites

Registrar: <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Anthropology website: <http://anthropology.uwo.ca/>