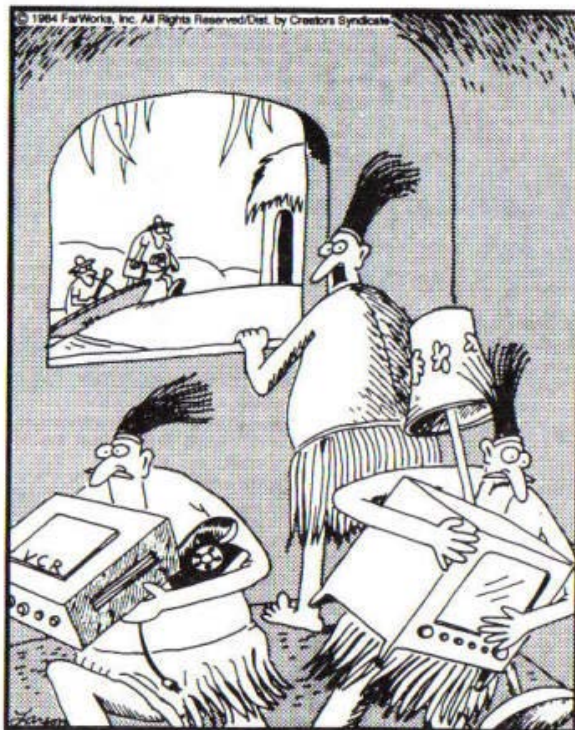


ANTHROPOLOGY 1025F/650
INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOCULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY
Distance Studies
Course Outline
FALL 2016

THE FAR SIDE® BY GARY LARSON



"Anthropologists! Anthropologists!"

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Credit Value: 0.5

Prerequisite: None

Anti-requisite: Anthropology 1020E.

*Anthropology 1020E is an **anti-requisite** for this course, meaning that you cannot receive credit for taking it and this course.*

Course Objectives

This course provides a broad overview of the field of social and cultural anthropology. Anthropology is more than a body of concepts and theories to be learned; rather, it is a way of thinking about the world. Anthropologists seek to explore and explain both the diversity and the similarity among human beings. Thus, the study of anthropology enables us to understand better not only other cultures and peoples, but also ourselves. In this course, students will be encouraged to articulate their thoughts, reflect on their own assumptions, explore new approaches and ideas, hone their critical thinking skills, learn from one another's unique experiences, and develop an appreciation for different ways of living and thinking. The skills and attitudes that students develop in anthropology – skills such as critical thinking, an appreciation for diversity and a sense of social responsibility – will be of use to students regardless of the academic and career path they choose in the future.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Appreciate the complexity and breadth of human behaviour around the world
- Recognize that their own beliefs and ways of living are only some of the possibilities that exist among many equally valid ones
- Examine critically their own assumptions about how the world works, how people should behave and what they should believe
- Master key anthropological concepts such as culture, society, community, and kinship.
- Use cross-cultural comparison to analyze cultural commonalities and differences.
- Understand the connectedness among social processes such as: economic practices, political systems, social organization, belief systems, and other elements of social and cultural life
- Apply anthropological concepts to the analysis of contemporary issues using specific case studies.

Books

Cultural Anthropology: A Problem Based Approach, 3rd Canadian edition. 2017. Richard H. Robbins, Maggie Cummings and Karen McGarry.

Coming of Age in Second Life: an Anthropologist Studies the Virtually Human. 2008. Boellstorff, Tom.

Course Evaluation

Reflection Papers (2 at 15% each) Oct 20, Dec 1	30%
Discussion Forums (2 at 20% each)	40%
Final Exam (during the December exam period)	30%

Course Structure

This course has two components: an interactive online forum discussion component, and reflection papers that respond to questions and issues in the readings.

i) DISCUSSION FORUM:

The advantage of taking part in an online course is that it provides opportunities for all of us to interact on a regular basis through online discussions. All students must participate in the Forums. Every week you are required to make at least two substantial contributions to the conversations. These contributions should be fully developed comments and questions, not simply one or two sentences; however, they should not be more than one or two paragraphs in length. They must deal with issues raised in the course readings, including substantial comments on the reading material, a question that you think might offer useful ideas for exploring the readings, some reflection on your experience with the issues in the course and so on. Feel free to post often and to respond to each other's comments and queries. However, you may not post more than 6 messages in each Forum.

The purpose of these online discussions is to make the learning process interactive and collaborative, a process in which each of us will contribute to the learning of others at the same time that we learn from others. Keep your postings short and focused because students typically won't read beyond one or two paragraphs. It's better to post three short messages, for instance, instead of one long one. Your discussion grade will be based on both the quantity and quality of your online participation. In order to receive an "A" grade your comments must be insightful and original; that is, you can't simply repeat what someone else had already said (although it's great to build on other people's comments). You will receive two evaluations of your work: the first shortly after the end of Week 6; and the second after the end of Week 12. Your total Discussion Board postings mark is worth 40% of your course grade.

Because UWO's academic year starts on Thursday, the Forum for each week will open on Thursday of that week and close the following Thursday. This means that you have a week to comment on the readings assigned for that week and to respond to each other's comments. You may simply respond to someone else's comment or start a new thread of your own. Your instructor

or TA may post a few comments or questions to get the discussion started. You may respond to their comments or questions, or start your own.

ii) REFLECTION PAPERS

During the semester you will write two short papers discussing some aspect of the material that has been covered over the last few weeks. Pick a theme/idea/issue that you find interesting and apply it to something in the world around you – a personal experience, something you saw on television or read in the paper, or something you learned about in your other courses. The purpose of this exercise is to learn to apply anthropological concepts and themes in your thinking about the world.

Each paper will be 2-3 pages in length (approximately 750-1,000 words), double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, with 1 inch margins all around.

You are not required to do any additional research for this. However if you do use any secondary sources you MUST cite them. Detailed instructions regarding citations will be posted on owl.

Because this is an "essay course", all writing assignments in this course must be submitted and receive passing grades in order to pass this course.

The penalty for late papers is 5% a day, up to a maximum of 20% off a late paper. Late papers will not be accepted after the last day of class.

FINAL EXAM

The date for the final exam will be announced when time and place becomes available. No electronic devices will be permitted in the exam room.

Academic Policies:

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

Outline of Topics and Readings

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
1	Sept. 8	Introductions What is Anthropology? What is Culture?	Robbins et al. Chapter 1
2	Sept. 15	Fieldwork and Ethnographies	Robbins et al. Chapter 2
3	Sept. 22	What is Progress? What is Development?	Robbins et al. Chapter 3
4	Sept. 29	Systems of Meaning. Why do we believe what we believe?	Robbins et al. Chapter 4
5	Oct. 6	Kinship. What does it mean to be a family?	Robbins et al Chapter 5
6	Oct. 13	Identity. How do we define who we are?	Robbins et al Chapter 6
7	Oct. 20	REFLECTION PAPER #1 DUE Social Hierarchy. How and why do we create social inequality?	Robbins et al Chapter 7
8	Oct. 27	Nationalism and globalization	Robbins et al Chapter 8
9	Nov 3	Violence	Robbins et al Chapter 9
10	Nov 10	Ethnographic Case Study	Coming of Age Chapters 1-3
11	Nov. 17	Ethnographic Case Study	Coming of Age Chapters 4-7
12	Nov. 24	Ethnographic Case Study	Coming of Age Chapters 8-9
13	Dec 1	REFLECTION PAPER #2 DUE Wrap-up and review	