



Department of Anthropology
ANTH 1025F-001
Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology
COURSE OUTLINE
Fall 2016

Prerequisite: none.

Antirequisite: Anthropology 1020E. You cannot receive credit for taking both courses since they cover similar material.

3 lecture hours, 0.5 course

Classes: Wednesdays 3:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Location: Biological and Geological Science Building (B&GS-0153)

Instructor: Dr. Randa Farah

Office: SSC 3423

Office hours: Wednesdays 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Email: rfarah2@uwo.ca

Teaching Assistants:

Name: Hana Shams Ahmed

Office: SSC 3303

Office hours: Thursdays 10:00-12:00

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Name: Rashedul Alam

Office: SSC 3308

Office hours: Tuesdays 11:00-1:00

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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 aims to make us re-examine and question 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

Cultural Anthropology: A Problem-Based Approach. . Third Canadian Edition. Richard Robbins, Maggie Cummings, Karen McGarry, Sherrie Larkin, Nelson, Education Ltd. The book is available at Western's bookstore. Options: A **print copy** at the bookstore, or you can go online and purchase an **EBOOK** (cheaper) and/or E CHAPTERs via www.nelsonbrain.com. See <https://www.nelsonbrain.com/shop/search/9780176570163>

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, please do not ask your TAs or your instructor questions already answered here.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 Sept 14 Introduction to the course
Library presentation: Kristin Hoffman

WEEK 2 Sept 21
Read: Chapter 1: Culture and Meaning

WEEK 3 Sept 28
Read: Chapter 2: Doing Fieldwork in Sociocultural Anthropology

WEEK 4 Oct 5
Read: Chapter 3: The Meaning of Progress and Development
Short quiz - 1 hour

WEEK 5 Oct 12

Read: Chapter 4: Constructing Realities

WEEK 6 Oct 19

Read: Chapter 5: Constructing Families and Social Relationships

WEEK 7 Oct 26 **Midterm exam. 2 hours**

WEEK 8 Nov 2

Read: Chapter 6: Constructing Identities

Essay Proposal due today

WEEK 9 Nov 9

Read: Chapter 7: Social Hierarchies

WEEK 10 Nov 16 No class today, you will have an **out-of-class assignment**

Read: Chapter 8 Globalization, Neoliberalism, and the Nation-State pp. 198-226

WEEK 11 Nov 23 (cont'd)

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

WEEK 12 Nov 30

Read: Chapter 9 Resolving Conflict

WEEK 13 Dec 7 **Essay due today**

Review

Final Exam will be assigned between Dec 10 and Dec 21.

Classes are interactive, they include lectures, discussions, and documentary films.

<u>Evaluation</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Weight/Percentage</u>
Short Quiz	Oct 5	10%
Midterm Exam	Oct 26	20%
Essay Proposal and References	Nov 2	5%
Out-of-class assignment	Nov 16	5%
Essay	Dec 7	30%
Final Exam	TBA	30%

DETAILS

- 1. Attendance!!** Only brief lecture outlines will be posted on the website, thus attendance is critical. It is important that you attend every class. You are expected to read the assigned material and engage in class discussions. **If you miss more than 4 classes without a note from Academic Counseling justifying your absence 2% of your final course grade will be deducted, if you miss 6 or more classes without the required note from the Academic Counseling Office, 6% of your final grade will be deducted.** The instructor will reserve the right to give a bonus point (1% added to final course grade) for students who never miss class and regularly participate in discussions.
- 2. Short Quiz 10%:** This covers all material covered from week 1 - week 4, including the chapter assigned for that week.
- 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. Out-of-class Assignment 5%:** This involves you writing a paragraph of about 250 words online (Forum, course website on OWL). The assignment will be on the chapter you read for the week and a documentary film (will provide you with the url link to it the week before).
- 5. 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).
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**.
- 6. Midterm Exam 20%:** 2 hour exam held in class. It covers week 1- 6 (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.
- 7. 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 Dec 10-21.

Essay

Essay Details: Passing an essay is critical to pass the course. If you plagiarize the essay 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. If you are not sure about what topic to write about, review abstracts of articles, tables of content in books, review the themes covered in the course and textbook, or look at anthropological journals and

books for topics you are interested in and bring some ideas with you if you wish to consult with the teaching team.

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/>

The teaching team will provide examples **on citation** and how to **find sources** at the beginning of the term.

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.

Make sure the essay is coherent and arguments are 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 - Euro-Canadian colonialism and then be specific about the displacement of the Innu in 1948 and 1967, their contemporary conditions, etc.

2. *Body of the Essay* The body of the essay is where you present your in-depth discussion that support your main thesis or argument. 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. Try to avoid direct quotes, or use direct quotes sparingly.

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

You need to cite the ideas from articles and books 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”. Avoid long quotes; it is much more effective to paraphrase.

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.

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 only for an urgent issue or question. **Use office hours** if you have questions or need guidance. Each member of the teaching team has different office hours, which will allow you to see at least one of us during a given week.

Undergraduate Chair: Prof. Sherrie Larkin, SSC 3328, Phone: 519-661-2111 x85084

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

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

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

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

Laptops and other electronic devices

- You are allowed to use laptops to take notes on lectures, documentaries and class discussions.
- **Turn OFF** your cell phones. **It is not permissible to use** cell phones or other devices that are not used for taking notes. Do not use the class to catch up on texting, messages, etc. it is disrespectful and distracting to you and other students.
- **It is not permissible** to use any electronic devices during in-class written work, or exams.
- **You are NOT allowed to tape-record or video anything during class.**

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Evidence of suspected plagiarism will be reported to the Department Chair, who will give the student an opportunity to respond to the allegation. Where a determination of plagiarism has been made, the Chair shall assess appropriate penalties up to and including a zero on the assignment and failure in the course. The case will be reported to the Dean, who may assess additional penalties.

Accommodation for Medical Illness

If you are unable to submit an assignment worth less than 10% of the final grade in a timely fashion you need to make an appointment with the instructor, who will make the decision whether to allow for a late submission or alternative assignment.

If you miss the mid-term or the exam or fail to submit any assignment worth more than 10% without a legitimate cause (non-illness causes and accommodation not granted) you will get a zero. If Academic Counseling provides approval for accommodation it is your responsibility to **contact the TAs** to find out the dates and times for make-up exams, and contact me for the new submission date of your essay.

Helpful Websites

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

Essay help, citation, style guides, plagiarism and other: <http://www.lib.uwo.ca/essayhelp/>

Writing Support Centre for counselling sessions, online writing help, and workshops.

<http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing/>.