

COURSE OUTLINE

Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology

ANTH 1025F-650

Department of Anthropology

Spring/Summer 2018, Distance Studies



Instructor: Dr. Karyn Olsen

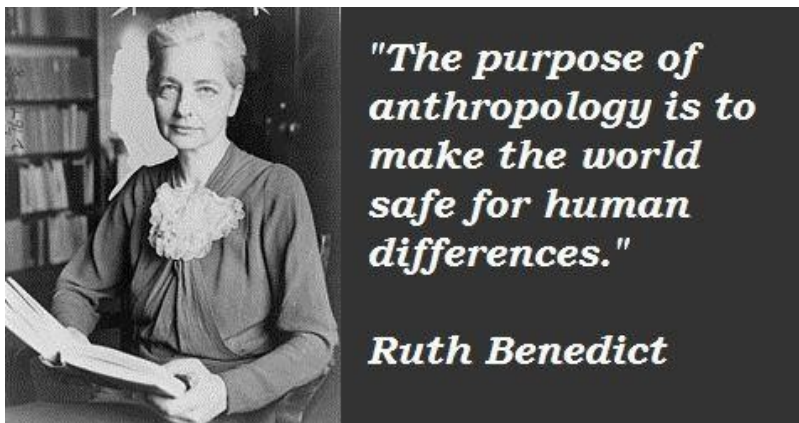
Email: kolsen5@uwo.ca

Office Hours: By appointment

Credit value: 0.5

Pre-requisite for this course: None.

Anti-requisite: Anthropology 1020E: If you have taken 1020E, you cannot receive credit for 1025F.



COURSE DESCRIPTION

Anthropologists seek to explore and explain both the diversity and the similarity among human beings – in this way, the study of anthropology enables us to not only better understand other cultures and peoples, but also ourselves.

This course provides a broad overview of the field of social and cultural anthropology (What is it? Why do we do it? What do we learn? How can it be applied?) that is grounded in varied examples of how anthropology has been and is being conducted. It is not a tour of so-called “exotic” or “primitive” cultures; on the contrary, we will examine why such notions and frameworks are problematic. Its aim is to allow us to rethink our assumptions about the unfamiliar and question the things we take for granted.

Students will be encouraged to reflect on their own assumptions, explore new approaches and ideas, hone critical thinking skills, learn from one another’s unique perspectives, and develop an appreciation for different ways of living and thinking. The skills and attitudes developed through anthropology (such as critical thinking, appreciation for diversity, and a sense of social responsibility) will be useful for you no matter what academic or career path you choose in the future.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- Describe the complexity and diversity of human behaviour in different places and times.
- Critically examine personal assumptions about how the world works by recognizing that one's own day-to-day behaviours, traditions, or attitudes are simply one among many possibilities.
- Explain key anthropological concepts, such as culture, society, community, identity, and kinship, as well as understand foundational methodologies (i.e., what do anthropologists do/study?)
- Apply anthropological frameworks to contemporary issues.
- Identify underlying causes of larger processes such as inequality and globalization and examine the effects of these processes on individuals and communities.

COURSE TEXTS

Cultural Anthropology: A Problem-Based Approach, 3rd Canadian edition (2016)

Editors: Robbins, Cummings, and McGarry

- Available at the Book Store for purchase.
- An e-version of the textbook is available for purchase on the publisher's [website](#).
- The text is also on 2-hour reserve at Weldon Library.

Around the Tuscan Table: Food, Family, and Gender in Twentieth Century Florence (2004)

Author: Counihan, Carole.

- The text is available as a pdf download from Western Libraries.

COURSE EVALUATION

Assessment	Weight
• Course Introduction and Prelude Activity	3.5%
• Quizzes (3 x 1.5%)	4.5%
• Discussion Activities (3 x 5%)	15%
• Reflection Papers (1 = 12%; 2 = 15%; 3 = 18%)	45%
• Final Exam	32%
Total:	100%

DESCRIPTIONS OF ASSESSMENTS

Course Introduction and Prelude Activity (3.5%)

This assignment serves as your self-introduction to the course community. You will share a little bit about yourself and identify the part of the course that you are most excited to learn about. You will reflect on your expectations for knowledge and skills development in this course - and start thinking about the world from an anthropologist's perspective!

Note: Given that this assignment is an introductory course activity, it will not be accepted past the due date (May 16).

Quizzes (3 x 1.5% = 4.5%)

Quizzes have been incorporated into this course to help students stay on track with the material over the semester. There are three scheduled quizzes:

- Week 3 - covers textbook chapters 1-3; quiz must be completed by 11:55 pm on Sunday, May 27
- Week 6 - covers textbook chapters 4-6; quiz must be completed by 11:55 pm on Sunday, Jun 17
- Week 9 - covers textbook chapters 7-9; quiz must be completed by 11:55 pm on Sunday, Jul 08

Quizzes will open for two weeks (i.e., starting May 13, Jun 3, and Jun 24 respectively). Each quiz will consist of multiple choice questions directly related to the readings and supplementary material (e.g., videos, mini-lecture, discussion activity, etc.) for that week. Once started, you will have a limited amount of time to complete the quiz. You are free to refer to their readings and notes when taking the quizzes. Additional details will be available on the OWL site.

Note: You will not be able to submit a quiz after the closing date. A missed quiz can be made up through an in-person (or skype) quiz conducted by the professor only when you receive accommodation from Academic Counselling for the time period in which that quiz was due.

Discussion Activities (3 x 5% =15%)

Discussions are incorporated into the course that will allow you to engage with course content by reflecting on weekly topics, reading the thoughts and opinions of your peers, contributing your own questions, or ideas, presenting evidence from independent research on the web, or sharing your own experiences. Additional details for the discussion activities will be posted on OWL. Thoughtful, evidence-based, and well-reasoned contributions will be awarded the highest marks. There are three scheduled discussion activities in this course:

- Week 5 - Must be completed by 11:55 pm on Friday, June 08
- Week 7 - Must be completed by 11:55 pm on Friday, June 22
- Week 10 - Must be completed by 11:55 pm on Friday, Ju1 13

Note: Discussion activities are time sensitive because they involve synthesizing contributions from the whole class. You will not be able to contribute to a discussion activity after the closing date. A missed discussion will only be accepted if you receive accommodation from Academic Counselling for the period that the discussion was due.

During this course, you will write three short reflection papers (~650 words each). The grade weight of the papers increases for the second and third papers as you will have a chance to learn from the professor's feedback and produce better, more effective writing on the successive assignments.

What is a "Reflection" Paper?

- A reflection paper is a critical analysis that asks you to consider and articulate your own knowledge and assumptions about a topic/subject introduced in the readings. However, a reflection paper is not just an opinion piece. The goal is to make connections to current events in a scholarly way. For each reflection, you will connect the anthropological aspect or concept you have chosen with a current real-world event. This focus will enable you to reflect on the applicability and relevance of academic theory/concepts to contemporary real-life situations.
- For each paper, you will get to choose an aspect or specific concept from material that has been covered in the previous few weeks. The flexibility in focus is intended to have you delve more deeply into topics that are interesting to you!

Additional details and instructions on topics for reflection papers will be provided on OWL. The due dates for the three reflection papers are as follows:

- Week 4 - RP1 is due Friday, Jun 1 by 11:55 pm (Choose topics from Chapters 1 - 4)
- Week 8 - RP2 is due Friday, Jun 29 by 11:55 pm (Choose topics from Chapters 5 - 9)
- Week 12 - RP3 is due Friday, Jul 27 by 11:55 pm (Choose topics from *Around the Tuscan Table*)

Questions to Consider When Writing a Reflection Paper¹

- Assess the Reading:
 - What is the concept/topic I plan to write about? What ideas stood out to me in the reading? Why?
- Develop Your Ideas:
 - What do I know about this topic/concept? Where does my existing knowledge come from? What are the observations or experiences that shape my understanding?
 - How did the reading reinforce my existing ideas or assumptions? How did the reading challenge my existing ideas or assumptions?
- Make Scholarly Connections:
 - What connections can I make between your chosen concept/topic and a current real-world event?
 - How did the textbook reading help me to better understand the current real-world event?
 - Can you identify any other class readings/discussions/activities, or published articles (e.g., peer-reviewed journals) that are relevant to this discussion?

Important Guidelines for the Reflection Papers

- The word limit for each reflection paper is 650 words \pm 10% (i.e., 585 - 715 words), excluding the bibliography. Papers that do not meet the minimum or exceed the maximum will lose marks.

¹ Questions modified from: <https://www.trentu.ca/academicskills/documents/ReflectiveWriting.pdf>

- Please note that all papers will be submitted through the OWL site and are subject to review by Turnitin software which assesses student submissions for instances of plagiarism. Click on the Academic Policies link on the final page of this syllabus to learn more about what constitutes an academic offense. Learn how to avoid plagiarism by reviewing this Western Libraries resource: <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html>
- **Note: Late papers will receive a 5% penalty per day (including weekends and holidays). The paper will not be accepted after one week past the due date deadline.** If you are struggling to meet a deadline, please get in touch with Academic Counselling as soon as possible to determine if you are eligible for accommodation.

Final Exam (32%)

The final exam will take place during the exam period as scheduled by the Registrar. Exams will be written in person on Western University campus or at the nearest Exam Centre. The final exam is cumulative for the course and may include multiple choice questions, short answer, and/or essay questions. Finalized details will be announced closer to the date of the exam. The final week of the course will include an exam review and preparation session.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topic	Readings	Due Dates
1	May 07 - 13	Course Introduction: What is Anthropology? What is Culture?	Robbins et al. Chapter 1	
2	May 14 - 20	Fieldwork and Ethnographies The Meaning of Progress and Development	Robbins et al. Chapter 2 & 3	Course Intro Assign. Due May 16
3	May 21 - 27	Worldviews/Constructing Realities: Why Do We Believe What We Believe?	Robbins et al. Chapter 4	Quiz #1 Complete by May 27
4	May 28 - Jun 03	Kinship – Families and Social Relationships	Robbins et al. Chapter 5	Reflection Paper #1 Due Jun 1
5	Jun 4 - 10	Identity – How and Why Identities Are Constructed?	Robbins et al. Chapter 6	Discussion Activity #1 Due Jun 08
6	Jun 11 - 17	Social Hierarchies, Inequalities, and Marginalization	Robbins et al. Chapter 7	Quiz #2 Complete by Jun 17
7	Jun 18 - 24	Globalization and Nationalism	Robbins et al. Chapter 8	Discussion Activity #2 Due Jun 22
8	Jun 25 - Jul 01	Conflict/Violence	Robbins et al. Chapter 9	Reflection Paper #2 Due Jun 29
9	Jul 02 - 08	Ethnographic Case Study	<i>Around the Tuscan Table</i> Chapters 1-3	Quiz #3 Complete by Jul 08
10	Jul 09 - 15	Ethnographic Case Study	<i>Around the Tuscan Table</i> Chapters 4-6	Discussion Activity #3 Due Jul 13
11	Jul 16 - 22	Ethnographic Case Study	<i>Around the Tuscan Table</i> Chapters 7-9	
12	Jul 23 - 29	Ethnographic Case Study Final Exam Review	<i>Around the Tuscan Table</i> Chapter 10	Reflection Paper #3 Due Jul 27
Exam Period	Jul 30 - Aug 02	The final examination date will be scheduled by the Registrar’s Office The Exam will be written on campus or at an Exam Centre location		

INSTRUCTOR POLICIES

Learning Environment

This course relies on the OWL course site. The syllabus, assignment outlines, content, and other course material will be posted there. Here, you will engage with the professor and your peers as we progress through the course. Please contribute respectfully.

Email

You may contact me by e-mail, but it may take up to 24 hours for a response. If I cannot provide an immediate response, or if the matter is something I cannot address quickly, I will direct you to meet with me through skype or in-person at my office on campus. Please ensure that your e-mails are worded professionally and include the course number (1025) in the subject line.

Support Services to Help Students Succeed

Wellness

- Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Writing Support Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing/>

- The goals of the Writing Support Centre are as follows (1) to enhance the writing and communication skills of students and build their confidence, (2) equip students with tools, resources and knowledge to effectively communicate through writing, (3) increase critical analysis abilities to effectively communicate scholarly ideas, (4) convey university level writing expectations, and (5) provide students with skills they need to navigate academic transitions.

Learning Skills Services <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/learning/>

- The goal of Western's Learning Skills Services is to make good students even better students. The counsellors answer questions and provide advice on how to be successful at Western. They help students develop new skills or strengthen existing academic skills. Students can choose from a variety of services: they can make an individual appointment with a learning skills counsellor, attend learning skills presentations, drop by SDC's PAL Center, or receive helpful information via e-mail. As well, information on important learning skills topics is available online.

Assignments

Assignments must be submitted electronically, through the Assignments tab in OWL. Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day (including weekends and holidays) unless Academic Counselling supports a request for an extension. Submissions must be completed by the designated due date to avoid late penalties. An assignment will NOT be accepted if it is submitted more than one week past the due date. Make sure to back up all your written work, including notes, drafts, etc. Computer-related problems cannot be used as a justification for extensions or accommodations.

Western regulations stipulate that students completing a 0.5 credit essay course (like this one) are required to write a minimum of 1500 words in essay assignments.

Missed Deadlines

Occasionally illness or other personal issues make it impossible to meet assignment deadlines. In all cases where accommodation is being sought for work totaling 10% or more of the final grade, students

should contact their Faculty Academic Counseling Office who will determine if accommodation is warranted and will require appropriate written documentation. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate your situation if your documentation is accepted by Academic Counselling. In cases where accommodation is being sought for work totaling less than 10% of the final grade, students must contact me first and be ready to provide written documentation to their Faculty Dean's Office in support of their request.

Missed Exams

University policy states that students who fail to appear for an examination at the time set in the timetable will not be allowed to write the examination they missed. Students missing an exam must report it immediately to the office of their Dean. Students may, with the approval of the relevant Department Chair petition their Dean for permission to write a Special Examination.

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