

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

### **Anthropology 1025G-001**

#### **Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology**

***Winter 2019***

**Lectures:** Mondays 3:30–5:30 pm and Wednesdays 4:30-5:30 pm

**Classroom:** 3M-3250

**Instructor:** Dr. Lindsay Bell

**Office:** SSC-3312

**Office hours:** Tuesdays 3:00-5:00

**Email:** Lindsay.Bell@uwo.ca

**Course Teaching Assistant: Please refer to the course OWL site for information.**

**Credit value:** 0.5 credit

**Calendar Course Description:** An introduction to the basic concepts used in the anthropological study of non-Western social and cultural institutions that focuses on the unity and diversity of human experience. Topics include: kinship, economics, politics, religion, and the present-day conditions of indigenous societies. The ethnography of various peoples is discussed.

Prerequisite(s): None.

Antirequisite(s): Anthropology 1020 (or the former 1020E).

#### **Course Syllabus:**

If all human beings are part of a single species, why are we so different from one another? Around the world, and even within a group of friends we observe that people eat differently, speak differently, and hold different beliefs and values. What accounts for such diversity? The short answer is culture. But what exactly is culture? How does it work? Why does it change?

Anthropology is a documentation of human life and possibility. At the core of the field is the concept of culture. The aim of "Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology" is to explain the concept of culture and see how it works in the world around us. We will develop tools to understand the different beliefs, values and practices held by others. We will place equal emphasis on understanding how we come to see the world and ourselves the way we do.

Cultural anthropology is a dwelling science. We make our arguments by being in the worlds we describe. To be successful in this course you must be prepared to dwell and be open to thinking about cultural difference, differently. What does that involve? Curiosity. Generosity.

Rigour.

This course is process oriented. You will be guided to cultivate new habits for engaging with academic material and the world. This requires a commitment on your part to work-as-you go. There is no 'cramming' for this course. You need consistent work throughout the term and a sincere engagement with lectures and readings to pass. You will do 'on the spot' writing in class and be assigned homework to channel your focus while doing the readings. There will not be any memorization of facts. There will be tasks that ask that you apply concepts we are grappling with. Participation in these exercise are vital to your success in the course.

*A full course schedule including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings will be available on the course's OWL site before the first day of class.*

### **Learning Outcomes:**

The aim of this course is to have students gain a compassionate sense of human diversity and understand their position in a global world.

By the end of the course, students will be able to describe how human beings are biologically similar and discuss how culture shapes beliefs, values and practices.

Students will come away from the class curious about human difference and will be able to better evaluate the limitations of media accounts of global events.

Students will be able to articulate strategies for developing a nuanced and sophisticated understanding of diversity, belonging and conflict in national and international contexts.

### **Course Materials:**

Required Textbook (Available at Western Bookstore)

Robbins, Cummings & McGarry (2017) Sociocultural Anthropology: A Problem-Based Approach. Third Canadian Edition. Nelson Education.

Required Online Resource

Online Subscription to [Public Anthropology Community Action Project](#). Can be purchased online (Approximately 20\$).

### **Required Notebook**

You will need 1 *Wide Ruled Composition Books*. These are available at the Western Book Store and can be found for less at most grocery or dollar stores. Composition books must be brought to every class.

*Registered students will be able to access information about additional course readings through the course's on-line OWL site before the first day of class.*

## **Evaluation:**

### *Composition Notebook– 20%*

Our course is process oriented. Meaning, the journey is as important as the destination. The composition book is where your thinking will be done for class. In it there will be a range of homework assignments, in-class writing prompts and activities that will help reveal how habits of meaning are formed and interpreted. Your books are also the best place to take notes in class and while doing the readings. Keeping all of the course ideas in a single place will serve you well.

The composition work will be graded using a ✓-/-✓/✓+ system. If you have a majority of check minuses, you will receive between 0-13 points out of 20. If you have mostly checks you will receive between 14-16 points and mostly check pluses between 17-20 points. Earning a ✓+ requires making an EXCEPTIONAL contribution. That means somehow going above and beyond what is asked of you. So for instance, if you are asked to choose 5 key words from a text for homework and you provide me with 5 relevant key words you will get a ✓. If you give me five relevant words, plus journal some thoughts on the piece that connect to our class, then you are up for a ✓+.

There is no way to make up for missed in-class work. You can miss two lectures worth in-class assignments without penalty. Your book will be graded twice during the semester. February 13 and April 1<sup>st</sup>. If you miss more than two classes, you can submit documentation from academic services at the time you turn in your notebook.

If, for any reason, hand writing is not ideal for your learning needs, an online version of a notebook can be created using Microsoft One Note on the UWO platform.

### *Midterm Test – 20%*

February 13<sup>th</sup> we will have an in-class midterm that will take the full 50 minutes. The test will consist of 40 multiple-choice questions. Use of electronic devices will not be allowed during midterm/term tests.

### *Essay 20%*

Friday February 1<sup>st</sup> at 10am a 750 word essay will be due. Submissions accepted only via OWL. Essay topics and instructions will be available on OWL when the course begins.

### *Policy on Late Papers*

Unless a student receives accommodation for illness through Academic Counselling, late assignments will be penalized at the rate of 3% of the assignment grade per day late for up to a total of 5 days (including weekends) following the due date. Late assignments will not be accepted after 5 days.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

#### *Community Action Research Letter– 20% March 11-27*

Our class is participating in a two-week long project in public anthropology along with a dozen other Canadian and American Universities. The goal of the program is to apply anthropological thinking and skills to a real world problem. This year's theme is climate change.

During the first week of the Project, you will read background information on the climate change dispute and write 750-800-word letters to those with whom they disagree on the issue, seeking not only "common ground" but, hopefully, ways they can collaborate together in addressing the problem. Four other letter writers from across the country will grade your paper. I am happy to re-grade your letter if you are unsatisfied with the grade, but in general, students are more generous than professors.

During the second week, you will anonymously evaluate four letters from other students without knowing who wrote them or which schools they are from. You will evaluate these letters on four criteria and, for each criterion for each paper, provide a one to two sentence explanation justifying their assessment. I will receive a report that documents how much time you spent reviewing the letters.

The best letters from our course, and the best from across North America will be posted on the class website at the project's completion. More information about this project will be posted to OWL.

#### *Final Exam – 20%*

The final exam will take place during the designated exam period for this course. Use of electronic devices will not be allowed during the final exam. The exam will cover material from the second half of the course only.

#### *Course Specific Conditions Required to Pass this Course*

In order to pass this essay course, students must submit and receive a passing grade on their midterm essay and their community action project letter.

## **Course Specific Statements and Policies:**

### *Statement on Seeking Special Accommodations:*

No accommodations will be granted retroactively more than 10 days after an assignment's due date or a missed quiz or test. Please see your academic counsellor immediately if you will be seeking accommodations based on medical or compassionate grounds.

### *Statement on Plagiarism:*

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing. It is also a scholastic offence to submit the same work for credit in more than one course. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence.

### *Policy on Laptops and Cellphones in Class:*

Be sure that all cellphones are turned off at the beginning of class. Laptops are strongly discouraged. If you choose to work on a computer, please seat yourself where your screen will minimally distract others (at the back, off to the side of the lecture hall).

## **Institutional Statements and 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 on the Anthropology website.](#)*