ANTHROPOLOGY 3332G-650

Sociocultural Anthropological Perspectives on the Lifecourse

COURSE OUTLINE

Winter 2021

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Walsh (he/him)

Email: awalsh33@uwo.ca

Mode of delivery: For 2020/2021 this course will be conducted online, synchronously, using Zoom videoconferencing technology, with discussions to take place weekly during the scheduled synchronous class time. Additional required asynchronous activities will be accessible to students through the course’s OWL site.

Synchronous class time: Tuesdays 2:30 p.m. -- 4:30 p.m. EST.

Credit value: 0.5 credit

Calendar Course Description: This course examines how various stages in the human lifecourse are understood and experienced differently in diverse socio-cultural contexts. It begins with a cross-cultural examination of theories of conception and then proceeds similarly through discussions of birth, infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood, elderhood, death and the afterlife.

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: Any Arts and Humanities or Social Science 0.5 or 1.0 Essay course.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Syllabus:

This course examines how various stages in the human lifecourse are understood and experienced in different sociocultural contexts. Students in this course will undertake cross-cultural considerations of topics including conception, birth, infancy, childhood, adolescence, parenthood, aging, death and the afterlife. We will complement weekly readings and discussions on particular stages of the lifecourse with a term-long focus on the question of what it means to live a “good life” in different socio-cultural contexts. This will be accomplished through discussions of particular sources and group projects.

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:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
• Voice a distinctive perspective on the human lifecourse informed by longstanding and recent insights drawn from research in sociocultural anthropology and related disciplines.
• Appreciate the value and the limitations of a cross-cultural approach to the study of the human lifecourse and human aging.
• Reflect critically on the nature/nurture debate within and outside of academia and communicate knowledgably concerning anthropological contributions to this debate.
• Reflect and communicate critically on the relativity of conceptions of “a good life” with reference to specific examples drawn from ethnographic research.

Course Materials:
Registered students will be able to access course readings through the “Course Readings” tool on the course’s OWL site.

Evaluation:
Grades will be based on 10 quizzes on readings, 1 assignment, a research essay, and a final take-home exam, as follows:

10 Quizzes – 3% each (30% total). Students will complete a quiz every week excepting Week one and Week 12.

The Game of Life Assignment – 15%. To be discussed further in class.

Good Life Essay – 25%. To be discussed further in class.

Final (take home) exam – 20%. Students will have three days to complete a series of short essay questions related to key themes raised throughout the term. The due date for this take-home exam will fall within the spring exam period.

All required assignments, papers and take-home exams will 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.

In order to pass an essay course, the student must exhibit some minimal level of competence in essay writing and the appropriate level of knowledge of the content of the course. In order to pass this essay course, students must submit all both written assignments and receive a passing grade on at least one of them.

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.

**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 in Western’s academic policies by clicking on this link: [Western’s academic policies](#).

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