

**Department of Anthropology**

**ANTHRO 2273B-200: Livelihoods and Workers' Lives**

**BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE**

**Winter 2026**

*Date: June 16, 2025*

**Instructor and course information:**

Instructor: Dr. Kim Clark

Method of delivery: Blended with one hour of asynchronous online activities and a one-hour scheduled class session each week that may be attended in person or on Zoom (Western calls the delivery format of the scheduled class session "Multi-Access Learning").

Credit value: 0.5

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: None.

**Calendar Course Description:**

This course on the anthropology of work explores the world of work across the globe and through time, examining continuities and divergences among forms of work, how structural features of work shape workers' lives, and emphasizing the ties that connect us through the labour that we do. 2 hours.

**Course Overview:**

Anthropologists study human society whenever and wherever it exists, situating social practices in a comparative framework to appreciate their full diversity. This allows us to "make the familiar strange," bringing new insights to phenomena that are familiar to us by placing them alongside practices from a range of different social and cultural contexts. In this course, we bring those perspectives to the world of work, exploring what is similar and different among many forms of labour across the globe. We will examine both structural features of different kinds of work and how these circumstances shape workers' lives, identities and experiences. Scholarly readings, focusing on ethnographic case studies from around the world, will be supplemented with recent news articles, short videos, and other materials.

Note that this course has one hour of asynchronous learning, including lecture recordings, short videos and other online learning activities, which students can complete over a week at a time of their convenience. This is followed by one hour of interactive synchronous learning in-person or on Zoom. Activities for the weekly class session are designed so that students can participate fully whether they are on Zoom or in the classroom. Students attending in person should bring a device (laptop, tablet, or smartphone) so that they can participate in these activities. (If this will pose a problem for you, please let me know in the course survey.)

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

## **Learning Outcomes:**

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

- Recognize and distinguish between a wide range of forms of work in which humans have engaged over time and across the globe.
- Identify social processes that shape people's work experiences in diverse contexts.
- Interpret continuities and differences in how work contexts familiar to students are related to how work is organized in different places and time periods.
- Refine critical thinking skills for understanding how work processes undertaken across the globe shape all of our experiences, identities, and opportunities.

## **Course Materials:**

Required readings will be available through the Course Readings tool on the course site, at no cost to students.

## **Evaluation:**

### **Weekly Activities – 35% of your final grade**

The following weekly activities are designed to keep you engaged with the material to deepen your learning.

- Quizzes – 20%
  - 12 brief weekly quizzes to assess reading comprehension, to be completed on OWL Brightspace before our class session. Quizzes will consist of five true-or-false questions about the assigned readings and will take 10 minutes to complete. Your top 10 quiz marks will be counted at 2% each.
- Brief OWL Activities – 15%
  - 12 brief exercises that will engage you with the weekly topic in a non-graded format (they will simply be reviewed for relevance to the prompt and graded for completion). They are designed to take 10-15 minutes to complete and must be submitted before the weekly class session. You will earn 1.5% towards your final grade for each exercise you submit, up to 10 of them, for a maximum of 15% of your final grade.

### **Tests and Examinations – 65% of your final grade**

Examinations in this course provide an opportunity to review and consolidate your learning.

- Midterm test – 25%
  - The midterm test will be a timed assessment conducted on Brightspace at the time of our regular class meeting in Week 6. You will have 50 minutes to complete it. Questions will be in formats such as multiple choice, true or false, matching items, and so on. A study guide will be provided a week before the test.
- Final examination – 40%
  - The final exam will be a timed assessment conducted on Brightspace and will be scheduled by the Registrar's Office during the April examination period. It will cover all course material, but with greater emphasis on the second half of the course. The format will be similar to the midterm test. A study guide will be provided in the final class.

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