

Anthropology 300  
Culture Change and Development

Fall, 2017  
Room: 130 ANTH  
MW 4:10-5:25pm

Instructor: Dr. Darrell Lynch, 222 Anthropology Building  
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Office Hours: MW 2:00-4:00pm, or by appointment.

Course Objectives:

This is an intermediate level course on cultural dynamics. It has been designed to give students a broad overview of various forms of cultural change, including the many different methods and theories used to record and interpret such change. Source materials and case studies are drawn from all areas of anthropology, as well as appropriate, allied fields of study. Three primary goals are pursued in this course: to enhance student understanding of the complexities of cultural change, to further one's ability to employ theory in novel and innovative ways, and to clarify the need to apply anthropology in programs of directed change.

Course Requirements

Every student will be expected to attend class regularly, to contribute to class discussion, to take the examinations as scheduled, and to do independent library research toward the required article review, term paper, and presentation assignments.

Required Reading

There is no required textbook for this course. Instead, outside reading in the form of xeroxed articles may be assigned as needed. Copies of these articles will be made available online and/or in the Library.

Attendance and Class Participation

Regular attendance is absolutely essential for passing this course. Lectures will account for over 90% of exam materials and may only be acquired through class attendance- they will not be posted online or otherwise made available. If you must miss a class, it is the responsibility of the student to get notes from another student in the class. Make up exams will only be given for documented excused absences. If you absolutely must miss an exam, contact me in advance to set up a time shortly before or after the exam day to take the test. Although this is primarily a lecture-based class, students are strongly encouraged to ask questions and participate in discussions. Attendance of all student presentations is mandatory.

Exams

Two exams will be given which will cover class materials for each specified time period. We will not have a comprehensive final exam.

Article Reviews:

Each student will write one typed, three to four page review of a recently published article (2000- present) dealing with any aspect of cultural change which interests them. The article, however, must be substantial (10+ pages), and taken from a reputable anthropological journal found in the library. Papers should be double-spaced, with 12 point type, and a normal font (ie. Times New Roman). Titles, indentations, illustrations, and references do not count toward the required length. To avoid any confusion, students are strongly encouraged to have the article approved by the instructor prior to writing the review. These reviews will be due no later than October 11th, only paper copies will be accepted (no email submissions), and paper copies of the articles must be turned in with the abstracts.

### Term Paper and Presentations

Each student will compose a 10-12 page (3000-3600 word) term paper dealing with any important issue related to cultural change. Papers should be double-spaced, with 12 point type, and a normal font (ie. Times New Roman). Titles, indentations, illustrations, and references do not count toward the required length. Topics for these papers will be primarily based on student interest, but they must be worked out with your instructor in advance, and be based upon solid anthropological and ethnographic research. The final two to three weeks of class periods will be used for the presentation and discussion of these papers in class. Each student will submit copies of an annotated bibliography of references to be used for the paper by November 8th. Term papers will be due no later than November 27th. Only paper copies of written assignments will be accepted.

### Grade Distribution

First Exam	30%
Second Exam	30%
Article Review	10%
Written Term Paper, Presentation & Bibliography	30%

### Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, in Cain Hall, Room B118, or call 979-845-1637. For additional information, visit <http://disability.tamu.edu>.

### Academic Integrity Statement

The Aggie Code of Honor states, "An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do." Cheating or plagiarism on any exam, assignment, or essay may result in a failing grade. All instances of cheating will be referred to the Aggie Honor System Office. You may refer to the Honor Council Rules and Procedures at <http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu>.

### Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of information, words, or ideas from another person and passing them off as your own. You are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you have the permission of that person. For more information about plagiarism, please consult the Texas A&M University Student Rules under the section "Academic Misconduct" at <http://student-rules.tamu.edu>.

### Diversity Statement

Respect for cultural diversity is a core concept of Anthropology. In this course, each voice in the classroom has something of value to contribute to class discussion. Please respect the different experiences, beliefs and values expressed by your fellow students and refrain from anti-intellectual comments about other individuals, cultures, groups, or viewpoints. The Anthropology Department supports the Texas A&M University commitment to Diversity, and welcomes individuals of all ethnic groups, genders, sexual orientations, and family backgrounds.

Visit: <http://diversity.tamu.edu/WhatsDiversity/CommitmentToDiversity.aspx>.

### Cell Phones and other Electronic Devices

Use of cell phones, pagers, music players, or similar communication devices during class is absolutely prohibited. All such devices must be turned off and tucked away (not visible) during class meetings. In extraordinary circumstances, cell phones may be placed in a silent (vibrate) mode in order to receive emergency communications, but students must step out of the classroom in order to respond to, or send messages of any kind. Use of tablets and laptops is permitted, but only for the express purpose of taking

notes on class lectures and films. Use of such devices for any other purpose will result in the loss of your privilege to bring them to class.

Tentative Course Outline

8/28	Introduction to the Course
8/30	The Concept of Culture
9/4	Cultural Change, Definition and Overview
9/6	“ “ “ “
9/11	“ “ “ “
9/13	Data Sources and Methods
9/18	Innovation and Diffusion
9/20	“ “ “
9/25	Acculturation
9/27	“ “
10/2	Film or TBA
10/4	<b>First Exam</b>
10/9	Theoretical Approaches- Functionalism
10/11	Cultural Materialism, <b>Article Reviews Due</b>
10/16	Cultural Evolution
10/18	“ “
10/23	Darwinian Evolution
10/25	Culture Change and Health
10/30	“ “ “
11/1	Guns, Germs and Steel
11/6	“ “ “
11/8	Colonial Legacies, <b>Annotated Bibliographies Due</b>
11/13	Directed Change
11/15	“ “
11/20	<b>Second Exam</b>
11/22	No Class: Thanksgiving Break
11/27	Student Presentations, <b>Term Papers Due</b>
11/29	“ “
12/4	“ “
12/6	“ “
12/11	<b>Final Exam Period, Monday 3:30pm:</b> Student Presentations