

Cultural Anthropology

Online at the following website:

<https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1227088>

Professor Circe Sturm

Office: SAC 5.122, circe@austin.utexas.edu

Online Office Hours: Wednesdays, 3:00 pm-5:00 pm. These are held online only at Google Hangouts using my regular email address: circe@austin.utexas.edu.

Graduate Teaching Assistants

Megan McQuaid

Office: Texas Coffee Traders, Geosciences Bldg., mmcquaid@utexas.edu,

Office Hours: Thursdays, 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Kate Maddox

Office: Graduate Student Lounge, SAC 5.114 (Desk 8), katherinenora@gmail.com,

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1:00 pm-3:00 pm

Diyana Sastrawati

Office: Graduate Student Lounge, SAC 5.114, diyana@utexas.edu,

Office Hours: Monday 2:00 pm- 4:00 pm

Josh Wainner

Office: Graduate Student Lounge, SAC 5.114 (Desk 11), joshwainner@utexas.edu,

Office Hours: Tuesdays 4:00 pm-6:00 pm

José Villagran

Office: Graduate Student Lounge, SAC 5.114, josevillgran956@gmail.com,

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursday 11:00 am- 12:00 pm

Course Description

By studying a range of selected topics and case studies, this online course introduces you to the cultural diversity of human beings and will provide you with tools for thinking critically about the classic concepts, theories and methods of cultural anthropology. Our primary objective will be to understand both the universal manner in which all human beings constitute themselves through culture, and the great diversity of specific cultural expressions that have resulted from these processes. In the past anthropologists have pursued these ends by studying distant and “exotic” peoples, the more different from “us” the better. In this class we will critically examine this “we/they” dichotomy and how it has shaped the discipline. We will also explore what happens when we turn the anthropological lens back on our own societies and experiences.

Course Format

This is the **digital version** of the introductory course in Cultural Anthropology, Anthropology 302. Unlike most other courses offered at the University of Texas, more

often than not you will be viewing this class online (from the comfort of your own home, library, or coffee joint) rather than in-person. The official class website where you will log in to participate is as follows: <https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1227088>. Delivered via the Internet, you are expected to “attend” class by logging into the course site to watch video lectures and participate in class activities, however you may do this on your own pace, as long as you keep up with the materials required for the regularly scheduled exams. It is *very important* that you treat logging into the course website the way you would treat attending a traditional course held in a classroom. This means that you must cover all the assigned readings and lectures as required by the examination dates. You cannot wait to take the exams at your own pace. All students will take examinations at the same time, helping to ensure that everyone completes the course in a timely fashion. As you watch lectures, you will also have the opportunity to participate in instant polls and other online exercises. These items will automatically appear as you view the lectures.

Assigned Readings

1. Kenneth J. Guest (2017), *Essentials of Cultural Anthropology: A Toolkit for a Global Age*, 2nd edition. *Available for purchase at the University Co-op or directly for the publisher, W.W. Norton & Co., New York.
2. Kenneth J. Guest (2017), *Cultural Anthropology: Fieldwork Journal*, 2nd edition. *Available for purchase at the University Co-op or directly for the publisher, W.W. Norton & Co., New York
3. Bourgois, Philippe (2002) *In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio*, 2nd edition. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge. This is a traditional paper copy of the book available from the University Co-op, though digital versions are also available from various sources, including the publisher and online sites such as Kindle, Amazon, etc.
4. Selected Chapters and Articles, available for viewing and download on Canvas.

Requirements

Because the course relies upon a blend of online lectures and exercises, reading in advance is encouraged. Students should view the recorded lectures with questions and ideas in mind. Students are also required to keep up with the key points presented each week. If you are having difficulty with any of the ideas presented in class, then it is your responsibility to chat with other students or to attend office hours, virtually with the professor or in person with the graduate teaching assistants to clarify course materials. During regularly scheduled **office hours** (see above), individual members of the teaching team are able to meet with you in person or can field questions on line, if they are not otherwise engaged with a student. The physical location for in-person office hours is listed above. To attend virtual office hours with the primary instructor, please use Google Hangouts and call her at her regular email address during office hours. Please use these different opportunities to your advantage.

Assignments will be due as listed in the syllabus and there will be no make-up exams, incompletes, or time extensions, except in the case of emergencies or required university activities. To document such occurrences, please provide a physical copy of a medical or other written excuse, ideally signed by someone other than a family member, to any member of the teaching team.

The scale for final grades is such that 94 to 100% = A, 90 to 93% = A-; 87 to 89 = B+, 84 to 86 = B, 80 to 83% = B-; 77 to 79% = C+, 74 to 76% = C, 70 to 73% = C-; 67 to 69% = D+, 64 to 66% = D, 60 to 63% = D-; 59% and below = F.

You will be evaluated and assigned a grade on the following basis:

3 Exams	300 pts.
Participation (see requirements below)	100 pts.
Fieldwork Journals	100 pts.
Family Altar Exercise	<u>100 pts.</u>
	600 pts.

Your grade is determined by your total points scored, scaled against everyone else in the class. No extra credit assignments are available.

Exams will be taken online and are comprised of multiple-choice questions. They must be taken at the specific dates and times listed below in the syllabus. The exams are generally about 50% from lecture and 50% from the texts and films. Cheating will not be tolerated! Please be aware that we have extensive systems in place for monitoring cheating in the online classroom. Anyone caught cheating will be charged under the academic misconduct code. Please see the University Honor Code for more information: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct/standardsconduct.php>

Class Participation is primarily based on interfacing with online resources, including consistently viewing lectures in their entirety, successfully completing instapolls in each of the lecture modules, and completing the online surveys. We are able to monitor how often you log into the class site, how active you are when using it, and how much time you spend. Therefore, your participation grade will be largely based on the following three features:

- 1. Instapolls** (successful participation in instant polling during lecture viewing) **60 points**; two instapolls are associated with most lectures, not including films. You will see that the lecture topics are broken up into smaller segments, including the instapolls. The answers to the instapolls are to be found in viewing the relevant lecture materials. You will receive credit for answering the instapolls correctly.
- 2. Flash Card Assignments 30 points**; five flash card terms will need to be identified fully before each of the three exams. Detailed instructions will be provided with the terms and the due dates are listed in the syllabus. These key terms will help you prepare for the exams and keep you on track with lecture viewing. You will be able to pull the definitions from both lectures and assigned readings.
- 3. Online surveys 10 points**; before you can access course material you must complete the pre-course module, which contains information and resources to prepare you for online success and will introduce you to the class format. This module also includes several short surveys. You will be awarded an automatic 5 points for completing these surveys; these 5 points will count toward your participation grade.

Fieldwork Journals are to be handed in at the end of the semester by the due date listed on the class schedule. You must select 8 of the possible 17 exercises and complete them by answering the questions or following the guidelines of the activities presented in the textbook. You do not need to do all 17 exercises, only 8. You will receive credit based on quality of answers, care and attention to detail, and completion.

Piazza is an online discussion platform that the course utilizes, though your participation in Piazza is optional and not a required component of your grade. However, many students find that Piazza provides them with a useful forum for discussion of key concepts and getting clarity on any questions they might have about course materials and requirements. Access to Piazza can be found via a link on the Canvas website. The TA and Professor will keep track of student questions as they are posted and will monitor these discussions, providing feedback when needed.

Guidelines for the **Family Altar** exercise are posted on Canvas in the course documents and become relevant when we do the unit on kinship and hold a virtual conference.

Technical Requirements: An internet-enabled device. All students are required to have access to an internet-enabled laptop or desktop computer. Tablets and smartphones are not supported. Your computer should meet the following requirements:

- Laptop or desktop computer
- 2GB memory / RAM
- Modern operating system (macOS or Windows)
- Chrome (highly recommended), Safari or Firefox

Please confirm that your computer is able to stream the video lectures by visiting <https://www.laits.utexas.edu/tower/tech.html>, before the start of class on June 1st, 2017.

Technical Support: technical support for students will be available through Canvas.

Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating their other abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss the necessary accommodations to ensure your full participation in the class and to facilitate your educational opportunities. If not already registered, students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 512-471-6259, <http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/>

This course carries the flag for Cultural Diversity in the United States. Cultural Diversity courses are designed to increase your familiarity with the variety and richness of the American cultural experience. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one U.S. cultural group that has experienced persistent marginalization.

I reserve the right to amend or change the course syllabus as necessary, primarily due to any unforeseen circumstances that may arise during the course of the semester. However, any changes in the syllabus should not adversely affect your grade or workload.

Also, the concealed carry of handguns is not permitted in my office, located in SAC 5.122, at any time. I will be providing oral notice of this during the first week of class. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me directly. Relax and enjoy the course!

Course Schedule

Key: G = Guest Main Textbook, Respect = In Search of Respect, CNV = Article Posted on Canvas. All readings are to be completed on the day assigned.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Lecture 1	Introductions and Aims of the Course Assignments: Post Image of Snack One thing they cannot tolerate	
Lecture 2	Cultural Anthropology—What? Why? How? Exercise: Snack Day	G Ch. 1
Lecture 3	The Features of Culture and Cultural Relativism Discuss: One thing they cannot tolerate	G Ch. 2
Lecture 4	Language: American Tongues (Film)	G Ch. 4 CNV Whorf
Lecture 5	Language and Communication Cont. Discuss Nacirema	CNV Miner
Lecture 6	Participant Observation and Ethnographic Fieldwork: Methods and Theory	G Ch. 3
Lecture 7	Race, Ethnicity and Systems of Social Inequality	G Ch. 5
Lecture 8	Ethnicity and Race Continued: Whiteness and The Invisible Knapsack	G Ch. 6 CNV McIntosh
Lecture 9	Economic and Political Systems	G Ch. 11
October 1	First Flash Card Assignment Due	
October 3	FIRST EXAM, Online from 4:00 pm to 5:15 pm	
Lecture 10	Theoretical Frames: Materialism vs. Idealism	Respect Intro & Ch. 1
Lecture 11	Marxism 101	Respect Ch. 2 & 3
Lecture 12	The Interpretive Turn	CNV Geertz Respect Ch. 4
Lecture 13	Theory Applied: Okie Noodling (Film)	G Ch. 10 Respect Ch. 5
Lecture 14	Gender, Sexuality and Status SXSU video: Imagining switching genders	G Ch. 7
Lecture 15	Families, Kinship and Descent Begin working on Family Altar exercise	G Ch. 8

Lecture 16	Marriage: Small Happiness (Film)	G Ch. 9
Lecture 17	Religion	G Ch. 13
Lecture 18	Ritual and Women: Texas Tavola (Film)	CNV Seriff Respect Ch. 6
November 3	Second Flash Card Assignment Due	
November 5	SECOND EXAM, Online from 4:00 pm to 5:15 pm	
Lecture 19	The World System and Colonialism(s) Ted Talk: Cultures at the Edge of the World	G Ch. 12 CNV Hughes
November 19	Family Altar Assignment Due, Post online	
Lecture 20	Virtual Conference on Family Altars	Respect Ch. 7& 8
Lecture 21	Applied and Activist Anthropology: Ethics	G Ch. 14
Lecture 22	Practice Theory	Respect Ch. 9, Finish All, incl. epilogue
Lecture 23	What is Modernity? A Critique	G Ch. 15 CNV: M. Foucault
Lecture 24	Live Final Exam Review Final Exam Review Sheet Posted around Dec 3 rd	
December 3	Fieldwork Journals Due by 5:00 pm, Hand in at Box located in Anthropology Office SAC 4.102	
December 8	Third Flash Card Assignment Due	
December 10	THIRD EXAMINATION, Online from 4:00 pm to 5:15 pm	