Ant 101: Cultural Anthropology

Block 2. Room: West 30

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Course Description

Through an introduction to the theories and methods of cultural anthropology, this course will challenge our basic assumptions of what is "normal" or "appropriate" human behavior, social categories, and social organization. By the end of this course you should be able to identify the core concepts of anthropology, have a complex and nuanced understanding of "culture," and be able to use the methods learned in this class to evaluate current social issues and interactions that occur in your everyday life, the media, or the workplace from an anthropological perspective.

Course Objectives

This course aims to:

- Denaturalize cultural assumptions and introduce students to diverse social worlds
- Help students develop critical thinking skills in order to appreciate the social, economic and political roots of cultural diversity within a historical context
- Enable students to recognize the value of anthropology in understanding complex social phenomena.
- Demonstrate how to break down readings into thesis, main points, and supporting evidence.
- Help students identify the kinds of data anthropologists rely on and in what way they these data to make claims and build arguments.

The course supports the Educational Priorities and Outcomes of Cornell College with emphasis on knowledge, inquiry, communication, ethical behavior and intercultural literacy.

Course Texts

- All required readings available on Moodle.

Course Information

Responsibility: As students at a liberal arts college, you are responsible for your own engagement in the academic conversation. This means being a prepared and active participant. Read the syllabus and all the assigned material, think critically, ask questions, come to class with your own ideas and responses to course material, and engage in dialogue with others. If you do not understand a topic of discussion, an assignment, a grade, or have any other questions or concerns, please come and talk with me.

You should not take this class if you do not feel that you are able to (1) complete the required reading, (2) examine course material from an analytic, sociological perspective, and (3) engage in productive, non-combative discussions.

Class Structure:

This class mixes lecture and discussion and is designed to promote interaction and exchange. Everyone will contribute to class discussions, which requires that you read carefully and think about the assigned material. Your comments should relate to course material and add to discussion topics. We will all engage with each other, which requires patience, empathy, and mutual respect. Share your ideas and remain open to opposing perspectives. It is possible to disagree and still interact respectfully. Listening carefully, asking questions, and responding to what people have said demonstrates respectful engagement. Rude or disconnected responses and persistent inattention, of course, do not contribute to positive dialogue and are not permitted.

Technology Policy: Access to the internet and a computer are required for this course. If you anticipate issues, please correspond with me to ensure your ability to participate.

Late Work: Without prior approval or evidence of a serious emergency, late work will not be accepted. If you have any issues, please consult with me **prior** to the assignment deadline.

Attendance: Attendance is required for this course. You are allowed 1 absence (excused or unexcused) without penalty. After this, your grade will be negatively affected by each additional absence. Missing 3 class sessions will result in an automatic failure.

Evaluation and Grade Scale: See Moodle for assignment and grading details.

For your final grade, I will use the following scale: **A** 93-100; **A-** 90-92; **B+** 87-89; **B** 83-86; **B-** 80-82; **C+** 77-79; C 73-76; **C-** 70-72; **D+** 67-69; **D** 63-66; **D-** 60-62; **F** Below 60
However, failure to complete a course assignment and/or missing more than 2 class sessions may result in a failing course grade.

Course Accommodations: Cornell College makes reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. Students should notify the Coordinator of Academic Support and Advising and their course instructor of any disability related accommodations within the first three days of the term for which the accommodations are required, due to the fast pace of the block format. For more information on the documentation required to establish the need for accommodations and the process of requesting the accommodations, see http://www.cornellcollege.edu/academic-support-and-advising/disabilities/index.shtml. Additionally, I am available for any students who wish to discuss academic challenges they may be facing.

Academic Honesty Expectations: Cornell College expects all members of the Cornell community to act with academic integrity. An important aspect of academic integrity is respecting the work of others. A student is expected to explicitly acknowledge ideas, claims, observations, or data of others, unless generally known. When a piece of work is submitted for credit, a student is asserting that the submission is her or his work unless there is a citation of a specific source. If there is no appropriate acknowledgement of sources, whether intended or not, this may constitute a violation of the College's

requirement for honesty in academic work and may be treated as a case of academic dishonesty. The procedures regarding how the College deals with cases of academic dishonesty appear in The Catalogue, under the heading "Academic Honesty."

Additional Resources: There are a number of resources on campus to support your academic work. I strongly encourage you to utilize the support of the Social Science Consulting Librarian, the Quantitative Reasoning Consultant, the Writing Studio, and the Academic Media Studio. Consultants in these offices can provide both basic help as well as advanced guidance to help polish your research, writing, and presentation skills. If you have technology problems, you can put in a Work Order Request at https://www.cornellcollege.edu/information-technology/index.shtml. Resources are also linked in the document on our moodle site titled "How to Access the Library, Studios, and Other CTL Services".

Covid-19 Related Course Policies
See campus protocols for up-to-date information:
https://www.cornellcollege.edu/response/campus-protocols.shtml
Students who are symptomatic or exposed should remain home and follow proper guidance. Masks are required in our classroom at all times.

Graded Work
Assignment details on Moodle

Participation & Attendance	**20%**
Includes daily writing activities	
Three Writing Engagements	
	1: 10%
	2: 10%
	3: 10%
Exam 1	**25%**
Exam 2	**25%**