

Anthropology 102 Online: Culture & Society

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What is this course about?

In this course we'll look at a wide range of cultures around the world and you'll learn to see these cultures as anthropologists do. Here are some examples of what's in store for you.

We'll look at how the ancient Hebrews dealt with leprosy, how to manage polyandrous families in Tibet, how to behave during competitive feasting in the Amazon, how hunter-gatherers make a living in Southern Africa, what role a "third sex" played among the Plains Indians, how body art defines the person in America, how to bribe a police officer in Bolivia, what it means to be a good sport in the Pacific Islands, what are the proper techniques of being a Christian snake-handler in West Virginia, how Hmong American healers do their work in Illinois, how to arrange a marriage in India, how people get bewitched in Africa, how hip-hop made it to Japan, how to be a successful crack dealer in Spanish Harlem, and much more.

For a more formal statement of **Learning Objectives**, please see the Word doc by that title in the Content area of our Canvas site.

How do I get in touch with the instructor?

By email. Make certain that you put "**Anthro 102**" as your subject header: I get a ton of email each day, and it's easy to overlook something important!

Where do I buy the textbook required for this course?

There is no textbook for this course. All reading and audiovisual materials will be made available to you online, free of charge.

What computer resources do I need for this course?

You will need routine access to a computer that has a broadband connection or a campus network connection to the Web. If you don't have your own computer, you will need to use one of the campus lab computers, or perhaps a computer in the public library. The computer you use must have a basic word processing package such as Word for Windows. You will also have to be able to view PowerPoints, Adobe PDF files, Windows Media (.wmv) files, and video files.

How much time will I be expected to spend online each week?

All of your videos, readings, lectures, and assignments will be accessed and completed online. You should plan to spend approximately **11-17 hours per week** on this course for each of the four weeks.

How will I be graded on my work in this course?

1. You will make brief (approximately 300-500 words) online postings to the class discussion forum or bulletin board on 10 occasions during this course. Each of these postings will be worth 4 points, for a total of 40% of your grade. Your short postings will draw on the ideas and examples in your readings, lectures, and videos for a particular week. For a more formal statement of how you will be graded, see the **Rubric** Word doc in our Canvas course site.
2. You will post slightly longer (approximately 700-1000 words) assignments to the class discussion forum or bulletin board on 4 occasions during this course. In other words, on weeks when you're not doing a short response posting you'll be doing a longer project posting. Each of these postings will be worth 10 points, or a total of 40% of your grade. These project postings will call for you to perform brief "fieldwork" activities such as interviewing a relative, describing a celebration in which you have participated, or identifying the cultural patterns you see in a mall. Each of the project postings will also involve a response to someone else's posting. For a more formal statement of how you will be graded, see the **Rubric** Word doc in our Canvas course site.
3. You will be given a "final exam" (take-home, open book) essay (approximately 1500 words) worth 20% of your grade. You will be able to choose one of two questions.

Point Value of Assignments

10 short response postings	40%
4 project postings	40%
1 final exam essay	20%

Grading scale

Percentage	Grade
95-100	A
90-94	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-

0-59

F

University Policies and Procedures

Information regarding the following campus policies is available at
<http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/SyllabusLinks.pdf>:

Schedule of Readings, Assignments, and Exams

Day 1: What is culture?

Readings: Lecture

Film: Paris is Burning

Day 2: Anthropology of the body

Readings: Lecture; “Body ritual among the Nacirema” (Miner); “Territories of the self” (Goffman)

Day 3: Fieldwork

Readings: Lecture; “Doing fieldwork among the Yanomamo” (Chagnon); “Tricking and tripping” (Sterk); “Fact vs. fiction” (Benedict).

Days 4 & 5: Language and anthropology

Readings: Lecture; “Genderlect styles” (Tannen)

Day 6: Exchange and reciprocity

Readings: Lecture; “Eating Christmas in the Kalahari” (Lee); “Bribing a policeman in Bolivia” (McNamara).

Film: The Feast

Day 7: Making a living

Readings: Lecture; “Selling crack in Spanish Harlem” (Bourgois).

Day 8: Women and men

Readings: Lecture; “Divorce in Japan”

Day 9 & 10: Families

Readings: Lecture; “When brothers share a wife” (Goldstein); “Arranging a marriage in India” (Nanda); “Land of the walking marriage” (Yuan)

Film: Family Ties

Day 11: Politics

Readings: Lecture; “The modern state” (van den Berghe).

Film: Ongka’s Big Moka

Day 12 & 13: Ritual and symbol

Readings: Lecture; “Run for the wall” (Dubisch); “Abominations of Leviticus” (Douglas); “Betwixt and between” (Turner).

Film: Return to Belaye

Day 14: Magic, witchcraft and sorcery

Readings: Lecture; “Baseball magic” (Gmelch); “Witchcraft explains unfortunate events” (Evans-Pritchard).

Film: Jero Tapakan

Day 15: Trance and possession

Readings: Lecture; “The adaptive value of religious ritual” (Sosis); “Dance and difference” (Sullivan).

Film: Holy Ghost People

Day 16: Social change

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Readings: Lecture; “Kayapo resistance” (Turner), “Why do migrant women feed their husbands tamales?” (Williams), “China’s big mac attack” (Watson)

Day 17: Medical anthropology

Materials TBD.