



ANTH 2010-D01 "Cultural Anthropology"

Jan 17 to May 4

(3 Credit Hours)

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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COURSE INFORMATION

Description

As Cultural Anthropologists we are committed to exploring the complex webs of social relations, beliefs, and behaviors through which humanity makes the world into a meaningful and coherent place. In pursuit of this knowledge anthropologists have long been known to travel to the most out-of-the-way places in search of cultural practices that open our eyes to every possible way of being human. We then bring this knowledge back to the classroom in an attempt to make the seemingly chaotic, the "strange," the "exotic," appear more familiar and understandable.

At the same time, cultural anthropology is capable of providing a fresh, sometimes unsettling perspective on our own cultural positions, practices, assumptions, and beliefs. Through anthropology we strive to intellectually distance ourselves from our own familiar surroundings in order to expose the "strangeness" of our own habits. The theories and methodologies of anthropology allow us to explore and, at times, critique those aspects of our lives that we might have never before thought to question. In the process we learn about ourselves, others, and different possible ways to be in the world.

Students will be expected to do the readings, complete online quizzes and exams based on the readings, and contribute discussion posts which will broaden their scope of the materials discussed.

Objectives

General Objectives:

Through the course content and assignments, we hope to encourage global and Intercultural Understanding (a set of cognitive, affective, and behavioral skills and characteristics that support effective and appropriate interaction in a variety of cultural contexts, both local and global).

Through the reading assignments, we aim to develop Critical Thinking skills (the habit of the mind characterized by the comprehensive exploration of issues, ideas, artifacts, and events in the process of accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion).

And finally, through the discussion posts: we will develop how to express ideas and logical arguments through Written Communication (which involves learning to communicate effectively through writing in terms of context and purpose, content development, disciplinary conventions, sources and evidence, and syntax and mechanics).

Specific Objectives:

The ultimate objective of this course is to get students to better appreciate the influence of cultural processes that give meaning to our lived experiences. To accomplish this, the course content is divided into three modules that arrange the content into clear groupings:

Module One:

Module One introduces students to the history, methods, theories, and global scope of cultural anthropology. This focus allows us to explore and examine those aspects of our lives that we might have never before thought to question. Through this process the goal is to encourage students to learn: about their perspective on others, to respect other cultures, and different possible ways of being in the world.

Module Two:

Module Two surveys key themes that cultural anthropologists focus on, like religion, politics, economics, and the environment. The specific objective here is to demonstrate the variety of cultural adaptations and diverse thoughts, traditions, and institutions that can—and do—exist around the globe.

Module Three:

Module Three focuses specifically on what it means to be human from an anthropological perspective. Through readings on how we understand our bodies and the world around them through language, the goal is to get the students to focus on the specifics of issues like gender, sexuality, family, race, illness, and violence, and understand them in terms of cultural specifics rather than biology.

Topics Covered

Module 1: Doing Anthropology: The Focus and the Methods

Module 2: Subdisciplines within Cultural Anthropology

Module 3: Defining and Understanding Cultural Concepts of the Body

Prerequisites and Co-requisites

There are no course pre-requisites for this course.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Textbooks

Robert L. Welsch and Luis A. Vivanco, "Cultural Anthropology: Asking Questions About Humanity" 3rd edition (2021)

[MAKE SURE YOU GET THE RIGHT EDITION—There are more than 1 editions out there, and they are all different!]

This textbook may be ordered online through [Phillips Bookstore](#).

Supplementary Materials

There are no other materials required for this course.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Grading Procedure

Below is a scale showing how grades are related to the course assignments. Points falling into the "A" range are a clear indication of high academic achievement.

Grading Scale

Assignment	Points/Percentage
Discussion Posts (15)	75
Quizzes (15)	150
Exams (3)	150
Reflective Posts (4) (Extra credit)	(16)
Total	375

Letter Grade	Range
A	337-375
B	298-336
C	259-297
D	220-258
F	1-219

NOTE: The "reflective posts" (worth 4 points each for a total of 16 points) are extra credit and therefore are not included in the final points total on the grading scale!

Guidelines and instructions for each assignment will be provided for each item in course content within D2L.

Incomplete Grades

Incomplete grades are given rarely and only in extenuating circumstances. Page 56 of the [MTSU Undergraduate Catalog](#) states: "The grade I indicates that the student has not completed all course requirements because of illness or other uncontrollable circumstances, especially those which occur toward the end of the term. Mere failure to make up work or turn in required work on time does not provide the basis for the grade of "I" unless extenuating circumstances noted above are present for reasons acceptable to the instructor." Please refer to the Undergraduate catalog for the complete Incomplete Grade Policy.

Feedback

- Students can email me at any time in the semester for course feedback, and grades and assignment feedback will be provided if possible within 24 hours; assignment feedback and grades will be posted as soon as possible, and within two weeks of the assignment submission.
- Assignment deadlines will be listed on the calendar in D2L.

PARTICIPATION

Course Ground Rules

The following are expected of all students in this course:

- learn how to navigate in the learning management system; refer to your D2L resources within the course for help;
- address technical problems immediately; and
- be respectful to your instructor and peers; please refrain from derogatory statements.

Class Participation

Student participation is required in all aspects of the course. Please adhere to the following:

- participation is required; you are expected to log into the course a *minimum* of 3 times per week;
- adhere to all due dates and deadlines as listed in your course calendar;
- utilize the ask the class discussion board when you have questions about course content
- communicate with the instructor as a learning resource;
- check the course homepage for important announcements from the instructor.

Academic Integrity/Misconduct

Please review the information on [Academic Integrity and Misconduct](#). The instructor will be submitting materials to an online service (Turnitin.com) which will review the work for plagiarism. Students should also review the report generated for each assignment and self-check for plagiarism. Information on how to cite work correctly is provided within the course modules or through the [University Writing Center](#). You may read more about how to avoid plagiarism from the [Office of the University Provost](#).

Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Submitting as one's own work, themes, reports, drawings, laboratory notes, computer programs, or other projects prepared by another person
- Knowingly assisting another student in obtaining or using unauthorized materials
- Submitting assignments previously used in other courses where you received credit for the work
- Improperly crediting or lack of crediting an original author's work

Students guilty of academic misconduct are immediately responsible to the instructor of the class. In addition to other possible disciplinary sanctions (including expulsion from the university), which may be imposed through the regular institutional procedures as a result of academic misconduct, the instructor has the authority to assign an "F" or zero for an activity or to assign an "F" for the course. Students guilty of plagiarism will be immediately reported to the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs.

I am True Blue

As a member of this diverse community, I am a valuable contributor to its progress and success. I am engaged in the life of this community. I am a recipient and a giver. I am a listener and a speaker. I am honest in word and deed. I am committed to reason, not violence. I am a learner now and forever. I am a BLUE RAIDER. True Blue!

Attendance Reporting

MTSU Administration requires that instructors complete an attendance report for each course each semester. Regular class attendance is required and will be monitored by: the D2L system report; participation in the discussion board; and timely submission of course assignments. If several class assignment submissions are missing, student attendance will be reported as "no longer attending."

Email

Per the [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#) all course communication will be conducted using D2L email. Faculty will not respond to student emails via a non-institutional assigned email

STUDENT RESOURCES

Technical Support

[D2L Resources](#) are available to MTSU Online Students. You can also find help for the basic D2L functions used most often directly in your D2L course under the D2L Help for Students module.

Students with Disabilities

Middle Tennessee State University is committed to campus access in accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Any student interested in reasonable accommodations can consult the [Disability & Access Center \(DAC\)](#) website and/or contact the DAC for assistance at 615-898-2783 or [DAC Email](#)

Tutoring

MTSU Online supports multiple [Online Student Services](#).

Grade Appeals

[University Policy 313, Student Grade Appeals](#), provides an avenue for MTSU students to appeal a final course grade in cases in which the student alleges that unethical or unprofessional actions by the instructor and/or grading inequities improperly impacted the final grade.

Title IX

Students who believe they have been harassed, discriminated against or been the victim of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence or stalking should contact a Title IX/Deputy Coordinator at 615-898- 2185 or 615-898-2750 for assistance or review [MTSU's Title IX website](#) for resources.

MTSU faculty are concerned about the well-being and development of our students and are legally obligated to share reports of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking with the University's Title IX coordinator to help ensure student's safety and welfare. Please refer to [MTSU's Title IX website](#) or contact information and details.

Hope (Lottery) Scholarship Information

Do you have a lottery scholarship? To retain the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship

eligibility, you must earn a cumulative TELS GPA of 2.75 after 24 and 48 attempted hours and a cumulative TELS GPA of 3.0 thereafter. A grade of C, D, F, FA, or I in this class may negatively impact TELS eligibility.

If you drop this class, withdraw, or if you stop attending this class you may lose eligibility for your lottery scholarship, and you may not be able to regain eligibility at a later time.

For additional Lottery rules, please refer to your [Lottery Statement of Understanding form](#) or contact your [MT One Stop Enrollment Counselor](#).