

ANTH:1101
Cultural Anthropology
Summer 2024: May 13-June 20
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday on Zoom from 12:30-2:35

Instructor: Kyle Bikowski

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Office Hours: On Zoom, TWTH from 11:00-12:00, or by appointment

Course Home:

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Department Office: 114 MH

Office Phone: 319-335-0522

Department DEO: Dr. Katina Lillios

DEO Office and Phone: 127B MH 319-335-3023

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Course description and objectives:

How and why do human communities develop their ways of living, change these over time, and differ from one another? How is this cultural diversity impacted by globalization, and why does such diversity continue to matter in the 21st century? Cultural anthropology asks and answers these questions through a comparative lens that includes widely diverse peoples, places and times. The field is known for “making the strange familiar, and the familiar strange,” meaning that it sparks reflection not only about cultural differences but also about what we all often take for granted in our own daily experiences. Through readings, lectures, films and other media, we will explore anthropology’s findings about key lifeways, cultural similarities and differences among peoples across the globe, and consider key questions about how anthropologists produce this knowledge.

Ultimately, the key objectives of this course are to (1) introducing how cultural anthropology asks and answers questions about human experience; (2) introducing fundamental concepts and methods that cultural anthropologists use; (3) promoting greater understanding of cultural diversity, especially in the context of contemporary globalization; (4) encouraging students to cultivate deeper insight into their own cultural assumptions, while also developing their critical thinking and analytical writing skills. In pursuing these objectives, students will enhance their understanding of interactions between distinct cultural groups within the contemporary United States, learn more about some of the diverse cultures throughout our world, and begin (or continue) to place their personal experiences within a global comparative framework.

Cultural Anthropology can fulfill either the General Education requirement in Social Sciences or in Values & Culture in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

Email: Email is the official method of communication for this course. Students are expected to check their university email account frequently. If you need to contact the instructor, use your university email account, and allow ample time for a reply (normally within 24 hrs.). Though I will try to respond to your emails as promptly as possible, it is not reasonable to expect that I will always be able to do so right away. Likewise, when I contact you with information or a request, I will allow you ample time to review or respond accordingly

A note on accelerated format:

Please note that this is an accelerated version of the course and, while the instructor has made an effort to reduce the amount of work compared to a full semester, you will still be required to set aside a considerable amount of time outside of class for course assignments and readings.

Course Materials on ICON:

All readings and assigned materials for this course are posted to ICON. These contain a mix of academic articles, book chapters, videos, and podcasts. These materials are meant to complement, rather than reproduce, the lecture material. As such, much of the material will not be discussed in the lectures, and vice versa. This means you will need to both attend the lectures and ensure you have engaged with the assigned materials to do well in this course. You can find the due dates for materials and assignments below.

Grading Policies and Procedures:

This course follows a standard grading scale, i.e. 100-97 = A+, 96-93 = A, 92-90=A-, 89-87 =B+, 86-83=B, 82-80=B-, and so on. The various components of your grade will be weighted as follows:

Quizzes	30%
First Exam	10%
Second Exam	10%
Final Essay Components	20%
Final Essay	10%
Attendance/participation	20%

Quizzes:

You will be assigned a quiz consisting of 5-10 questions each night, which will cover the content presented in class that day and the previous night's readings. The quizzes will open immediately following lecture and be available until noon the following day. These quizzes are open note, open book, and are not timed, although you must complete them in a single session. If you do not do as well as you would like on a quiz, you may meet with the instructor during his office at any point **by the end of the following week**. If you can demonstrate that you now understand why an answer was incorrect OR that you have done the reading/attended lecture but still need to talk it through for more clarification, you will receive points back for the question(s). **This is the only extra credit opportunity in this course.**

Exams:

There will be two exams in this course, which are not cumulative. Exam one will cover the material from weeks 1-3 and Exam two will cover the material from weeks 4-6. The exams will consist of 50 questions. These will be open notes and open book, but you will have a time limit of **1 hour** to complete the exam, meaning looking up each answer will not be feasible.

Final Essay

Over the course of the next six weeks, you will conduct your own mini ethnographic project, designed to help you begin thinking like an anthropologist. To do this you will select a site in which to observe social interactions and then use a course theme of your choosing to write an ethnographic essay. This assignment will be divided over several phases:

1. An initial site selection and observation (**Due May 20th by 11:59PM**)
2. One main research question and two supporting questions (**Due May 27th by 11:59PM**)
3. A summary with what you learned after conducting an interview and a list of at least two course materials and two outside academic sources with a brief description of how they will be used in your essay (**Due June 3rd by 11:59PM**)

You will then use the feedback received on these portions of the assignment to combine (essentially copy and paste with revisions) the parts into a cohesive 4-page essay detailing your findings, which will be due **June 20th by 11:59PM**. It is strongly recommended that you begin writing the essay after step 3 and meet with the instructor before the due date to discuss drafts or get clarification.

Please note that you are being asked to do extremely specific tasks for this essay, as such AI tools are not allowed for the completion of this assignment and likely would not result in a passing grade for this assignment if used.

Late Assignments:

Assignments turned in late will receive a reduction of 5% off the final grade for each of the first four days past the due date until they are turned in. After four days, assignments will not be awarded credit, but can be turned in to receive feedback. This is not meant as a penalty but is meant to assure fairness to your classmates and is in part due to the quick turnaround time needed to provide feedback in a timely manner to move to the next assignment.

Attendance and Participation:

You are expected to attend all lectures and actively participate in class discussions and activities. This means simply showing up is not enough. Each session you will be given a score of 0-2, **0=Absent, 1=Present, 2=Present and Participating**. Your two lowest scores will be dropped at the end of the course. You are responsible for getting notes from a classmate if you need to miss lecture.

Course Schedule:

Below you will find a schedule for the six weeks. It is your responsibility to complete the reading/viewing/listening of materials **BEFORE** coming to class on the assigned day. Once you have carefully read the syllabus, send an email to the instructor by 11:59PM on May 14th with the subject "I have read the syllabus" to receive two bonus points on one of the exams at the end of the course.

Date	Topics	Materials For Class	Assignments Due
Week 1			
T 5/14	Introductions to each other and Anthropology Final Project Discussion	Carefully read through the syllabus and bring questions to class	
W 5/15	The Culture Concept Anthropological Methods	Read: "The Culture Concept" Read: "Body Ritual of the Nacirema" Read: "Doing Fieldwork" Watch: Embedded video about doing fieldwork (8 Min)	
TH 5/16	Symbolic Systems	Read: "Language" + embedded video (6min) Read: "Body Art" Listen: "Learning a Language" (5 Min) Watch: "How language..." (18 min)	
Week 2			
M 5/20			Essay Part 1 Due by 11:59PM on ICON
T 5/21	Race and Ethnicity	Read: "Race and Ethnicity" Read: "Race, Boas, Culture" Read: "Race Drugs" Listen: "Citizen Thind" (21 Min) Watch: "The Power of an Illusion" (5min) Watch: "Brazil in Black and White" (58 min)	
W 5/22	Sex, Sexuality, and Gender	Read: "Gender and Sexuality" Read: "Performance" Watch: "Third Gender" (10 min)	
Th 5/23	Marriage and Kinship	Read: "Family and Marriage" Read: "Uterine Family" Read: "When Brothers Share a Wife"	
Week 3			
M 5/27			Essay Part 2 Due by 11:59PM on ICON
T 5/28	Ritual and Religion	Read: "Religion" Read: "Baseball Magic" Read: "Forget the War, Remember..." Watch: "Hajj Stories" (4min)	

W 5/29	Subsistence Strategies Exchange	Read: "Subsistence" Read: "The Hunters" Read: "Reciprocity and the power of Giving" Watch: "The History of the world..." (5 min)	
Th 5/30	Political Systems Exam Review	Read: "Politics" Read: "Political Anthropology"	
Week 4			
Su 6/2			Exam 1 Due by 11:59PM on ICON
M 6/3			Essay Part 3 Due by 11:59PM on ICON
T 6/4	Globalization Colonialism	Read: "Globalization" Read: "The Kayapo Resistance" Read: "Power, Conquest, and a World System"	
W 6/5	Development Inequality	Read: "The Humble Cookstove" Watch: Embedded video (2 min) Read: "Poverty and Work" Listen: "I have Class Anxiety" (5 min) Watch: "Kimberlé Crenshaw TED" (6 min) Watch: "Intersectionality and Health" (4 min)	
Th 6/6	Humanitarianism The Anthropocene	Read: "Bear Humanity" Read: "Surviving Climate Change in Italy" Watch: "Radiaid 2.0"	
Week 5			
T 6/11	Expressions of Identity and Resistance	Read: "Creative Expression" Read: "Village to Vinyl"	
W 6/12	Health and Medicine	Read: "Health and Medicine"	
Th 6/13	Sustainability Local knowledge	Read: "Culture and Sustainability" Read: "The Watchful World" Read: "Hokule'a Voyages"	
Week 6			
T 6/18	Virtual Worlds and Digital Spaces	Read: "#Ferguson" Read: "League of Dreams" Read: "Game Boy Afterlives"	

W 6/19	Anthropology in Action	Read: "Using Anthropology"	
Th 6/20	Course Wrap Up Exam Review		Final Essay Due at 11:59PM on ICON
F 6/21			Exam 2 Due at 11:59PM on ICON

Campus Policies at the University of Iowa: College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Attendance and Classroom Expectations

Students are responsible for attending class and for knowing an instructor's attendance policies, which vary by course and content area. All students are expected to attend class and to contribute to its learning environment. Students are also expected to comply with University policies and directives regarding appropriate classroom behavior or other matters. Students also have the right to be evaluated solely on their academic achievement and the fulfillment of related requirements.

Absences

Students are responsible for communicating with instructors as soon they know that an absence might occur or as soon as possible in the case of an illness. Students may use the CLAS absence form (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/sites/default/files/ABSENCE%20EXPLANATION%20FORM.pdf>) to aid in communication with instructors who will decide if the absence is excused or unexcused; the form is located on ICON within the top banner under "Student Tools." Delays in communication could result in a forfeit of what otherwise might be an excused absence.

Absences: Illness, Unavoidable Circumstances, and University Sponsored Activities

Students who are ill, in an unavoidable circumstance affecting academic work, or who miss class because of a University sponsored activity are allowed by UI policy to make up a missed exam. Documentation is required by the instructor except in the case of a brief illness. Students are responsible for communicating with instructors as soon as the absence is known.

Absences: Holy Days

Reasonable accommodations are allowed for students whose religious holy days coincide with their classroom assignments, tests, and attendance if the student notifies the instructor in writing of any such religious Holy Day conflicts within the first days of the semester and no later than the third week. (See the University Operations Manual: <https://opsmanual.uiowa.edu/students/absences-class#8.2>).

Absences: Military Service Obligations

Students absent from class due to U.S. veteran or U.S. military service obligations (including military service-related medical appointments, military orders, and National Guard Service obligations) must be excused without penalty. Instructors must make reasonable

accommodations to allow students to make-up exams or other work. Students must communicate with their instructors about the expected possibility of missing class as soon as possible. (For more information, see <https://opsmanual.uiowa.edu/iv-8-absencesclass%C2%A0-0>).

Academic Misconduct

All undergraduates enrolled in courses offered by CLAS have in essence agreed to the College's Code of Academic Honesty. Academic misconduct affects a student's grade and is reported to the College which applies an additional sanction, such as suspension. Outcomes about misconduct are communicated through UI email (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/academic-fraud-honor-code>).

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

UI is committed to providing an educational experience that is accessible to all students. A student may request academic accommodations for a disability (such as a mental health, attention, learning, vision, and a physical or health-related condition) through the Student Disability Services (SDS) office. The student is responsible for discussing specific accommodations with the instructor. Note that accommodations are not granted retroactively but from the time of the student's request to the instructor onward; additionally, accommodations must be requested at least two weeks in advance of the related assignment or exam (<https://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu/>).

Class Recordings: Privacy and Sharing

Course lectures and discussions are sometimes recorded or live-streamed. These are only available to students registered for the course and the intellectual property of the faculty member. These materials may not be shared or reproduced without the explicit written consent of the instructors. Students may not share these recordings with those who are not enrolled in the course; likewise, students may not upload recordings to any other online environment. Doing so is a breach of the Code of Student Conduct and could be a violation of the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA); also see <https://dos.uiowa.edu/policies/code-of-student-life/>.

Communication: UI Email

Students are responsible for all official correspondences sent to their UI email address (uiowa.edu) and must use this address for any communication with instructors or staff in the UI community (Operations Manual, III.15.2). Emails should be respectful and brief, with complex matters addressed during the instructor's drop-in hours, for example. Faculty are not expected to answer email after business hours or during the weekends.

Communication: Free Expression

The University of Iowa supports and upholds the First Amendment protection of freedom of speech and the principle of academic freedom to foster a learning environment where open inquiry and the vigorous debate of a diversity of ideas are encouraged. Students will not be penalized for the content or viewpoints of their speech if student expression in a class context is germane to the subject matter of the class and is conveyed in an appropriate manner. To learn more, visit <https://freespeech.uiowa.edu/>.

Complaints about Academic Matters

Students with a complaint about a grade or a related academic matter should first visit with the instructor and then with the course supervisor if one is assigned, and finally with the Chair of the department or program offering the course. Students may next bring the issue if not resolved to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. See <https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/student-rights-responsibilities>.

Final Examination Policies

The final exam schedule is published during the fifth week of the fall and spring semesters or on the first day of summer classes; students are responsible for knowing the date, time, and place of their final exams. Students should not make travel plans until knowing this information. A student with exams scheduled on the same day and time or who have more than two final exams on the same day should visit this page for how to resolve these problems by the given deadline: <https://registrar.uiowa.edu/makeup-finalexamination-policies>. No exams are allowed the week before finals, but with some exceptions made for labs, language courses, and off-cycle courses (<https://registrar.uiowa.edu/final-examination-schedulingpolicies>).

Home of the Course

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) is the home of this course, and CLAS governs the courses add and drop deadlines, the “second-grade only” option (SG0), and other undergraduate policies and procedures. Different UI colleges may have other policies or deadlines. See <https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook>. Questions? Contact CLAS at clasps@uiowa.edu or 319-3352633.

Mental Health

Students are encouraged to seek help as a preventive measure or if feeling stressed or overwhelmed. Students should talk to their instructors for guidance with specific class-related concerns and are encouraged to contact University Counseling Service (UCS) at 319-335-7294 during regular business hours to schedule an appointment. USC offers group and individual therapy as well as counseling for couples about relationships while making referrals to other resources (<https://counseling.uiowa.edu/>). Student Health can also address related concerns (<https://studenthealth.uiowa.edu/>). These visits are free to students. After hours, students are encouraged to call the Johnson County Community Crisis Line at (319) 351-0140 or dial 911 in an emergency.

Nondiscrimination in the Classroom

The University of Iowa is committed to making the classroom a respectful and inclusive space for people of all gender, sexual, racial, religious, and other identities. Toward this goal, students are invited in MyUI to optionally share the names and pronouns they would like their instructors and advisors to use to address them. The University of Iowa prohibits discrimination and harassment against individuals based on race, class, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, and other identity categories indicated by the University’s Human Rights policy. For more information, contact the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity at <https://diversity.uiowa.edu/division/office-equal-opportunity-and-diversity-eod>.

Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff; all members of the UI community are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that maintains an environment free from sexual harassment and sexual misconduct. Those experiencing sexual harassment are strongly encouraged to report the incidents and to seek help (<https://osmrc.uiowa.edu/>).

UI's Writing Center is a key resource for students at any level who want to improve their writing skills:

<https://writingcenter.uiowa.edu/>.