

**INDIVIDUAL, SOCIETY, AND CULTURE  
ANTHROPOLOGY 100X  
WINTERMESTER 2020  
Monday through Saturday 10:00am-3:00pm  
Bunnell Building 402**

**INSTRUCTOR:**

Gerad Smith  
Office Location: *TBD*  
Office Hours: *By appointment*  
Email: gmsmith2@alaska.edu

**TEACHING ASSISTANT:**

N/A

**COURSE TEXTBOOK**

*Cultural Anthropology* by Barbara D. Miller, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2013, published by Pearson  
ISBN13: 978-0205260010

**REASONS FOR COMPLETING THIS COURSE**

The unifying purpose of Anthropology 100X, *Individual, Society, and Culture* is to enrich the understanding of the human experience through the tools of anthropology. While drawing on insights of the discipline as a whole, this course focuses predominantly on the fundamentals of cultural anthropology – a study of shared beliefs and practices found in contemporary human societies. By developing skills in observation and critical thinking offered through the study of anthropology, students enhance their professional capabilities and enrich their potential for creative expression. They acquire analytical and organizational tools for addressing contemporary human problems. They become more resourceful in learning from others and gain a broader perspective on the cultural processes shaping their own lives. As a result, they are able to work effectively in multicultural environments and collaborate with teammates of diverse expertise and worldviews. This course also serves as an introduction to students considering a major or minor in anthropology – a field highly relevant for careers in business, engineering, healthcare, politics and many more.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Students who pay attention, contribute generously to class discussions, and make an honest effort to complete the assigned work will finish the course with a strong foundational understanding of why and how anthropologists study the human experience. As part of their learning outcomes, such students will:

- acquire an intellectual toolset comprised of questions, concepts, approaches, and research examples that are central to the practice of cultural anthropology;
- become aware of the major challenges and awards of conducting ethnographic research;
- expand their knowledge of the human diversity in the realms of food, medicine, art, economic production, communication, household structure, political life and ecological adaptation;
- understand the principal steps of developing an ethnographic study for the purposes of policymaking, commerce, resource management, and intellectual curiosity in research and science;

- come away with a sense of enrichment, resulting from questioning ethnocentric ideas and learning to look at the social world through the lens of cultural relativism;
- strengthen their collaborative skills and become more aware of the human and cultural resources at UAF through group work and peer-to-peer learning;
- have a roadmap for further studies in the four fields of anthropology and know which anthropology courses are relevant for their major and future work.

### **STUDENT SUPPORT**

Students should become familiar with the various support services available at UAF and feel comfortable to consult the appropriate service for help with schoolwork, research, personal wellness, and adequate access to resources. The UAF main website provides links to the Academic Advising Center, Writing Center, campus libraries, Office of Information Technology, Student Activities Office, and Center for Health and Counseling. The instructor and teaching assistants are available by appointment and immediately after class to assist with questions relevant to the course. The instructor works with the Office of Disabilities Services (208 Whitaker Building, 474-5655) and directly with the students to meet the student individual needs.

### **COURSE CONDUCT AND GRADING POLICIES**

Students are expected to come to every class meeting having read the assigned material and reviewed the notes on lectures, class discussions, or film presented in the previous class meeting. Debate, disagreements, and outspokenness are encouraged during class discussions, but everyone is expected to act respectfully toward classmates and the instructor and/or guest lecturer. Students are not to engage in disruptive behavior: keep your phone ringer off and do not send text messages during class unless it is truly urgent; if you prefer taking notes by typing rather than handwriting, please do not bang on the keyboard; if you can help it, try not to snore ☺ Disruptive use of laptop computers and mobile devices will not be tolerated. If you browse the web during class meetings, you will be expected to share your findings with the class and explain their relevance to the course material.

#### **This is how the final course grade is calculated:**

##### **Student Participation is worth 20% of the course points.**

The participation grade is determined based on the presence in class, and completion of any class activities. Assignments for class activities will be announced during specific class meetings. Students must be present in class in order to complete the assigned activities and receive the participation credit. ***Missed assignments cannot be made up.***

##### **Exam Points are worth 60% of the course points.**

There will be two exams, each worth 30% of the course points.

##### **Term Paper is worth 20% of the course points.**

Instructions for completing the term paper will be provided in class.

##### **Letter grades for the course are assigned as follows:**

Letter grades for the course are assigned as follows:

A+ = 97-100%; A = 92-96.5%; A- = 90-91.5%;  
 B+ = 87-89.5%; B = 82-86.5%; B- = 80-81.5%;  
 C+ = 77-79.5%; C = 72-76.5%; C- = 70-71.5%;  
 D+ = 67-69.5%; D = 62-66.5%; D- = 60-61.5%

## COURSE CALENDAR

This is our “main route” for the semester, however students should expect that some schedule adjustments will be necessary in order to accommodate the emergent interests and classroom dynamics. All changes in the assignment due dates will be announced within a sufficient timeframe to complete the assignment.

### EXAM AND PAPER DUE DATES, see the weekly schedule for details

The stated dates are subject to change to accommodate the necessary schedule adjustments as they emerge in the course of the semester; students will be given sufficient notice.

January 6	Quiz 1
January 10	Quiz 2
January 11	Paper Assignment

Day 1 January 2

#### **Course Introduction, Fieldwork and Ethnography**

Begin reading the textbook section *Introducing Cultural Anthropology*, pp.8-27 and Chapter 1, *Anthropology and the Study of Culture*, Chapter 3, *Researching Culture*

Day 2 January 3

#### **Relationships: Family, Friendships, and Social Bonds in Different Cultures**

Assigned reading: Chapter 8, *Kinship and Domestic Life*

Day 3 January 4

#### **Food, Livelihood, and Way of Life**

Assigned reading: Chapter 4, *Making a Living*

Day 4 January 6 (**Exam**)

#### **Having, Sharing, and Not: Perspectives on Consumption**

Assigned reading: Chapter 5, *Consumption and Exchange*

Day 5 January 7

#### **Arriving, Departing, and in Between: Contemplating Life Stages**

Assigned reading: textbook section *Personality and the Life Cycle*, pp. 142-155

Day 6 January 8

#### **Ideas and Practices of Spirituality**

Assigned reading: Chapter 12, *Religion*

Day 7 January 9

#### **Medical Knowledge, Healing Practices and Cultural Perspectives on Wellbeing**

Assigned reading: Chapter 7, *Disease, Illness, and Healing*

Day 8 January 10 (**Exam**)

#### **Art Objects, Performance, and Ideas of Beauty in Different Cultures**

Assigned reading: Chapter 13, *Expressive Culture*

Day 9 January 11 (**Paper Due**)

#### **The Three Field Siblings of Cultural Anthropology**

Assigned reading: textbook section *Introducing Anthropology's Four Fields*, pp. 4-8 and Chapter 2, *The Evolution of Humanity and Culture*