

ANTH 11 Cultural Anthropology

**Fall 2019, Section 60 (45963)
San José State University
Department of Anthropology/ College of Social Sciences**

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Office Hours:	Tuesdays 10:30-11:30 or by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:30-5:45
Classroom:	Clark Hall 202
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	Area D1

Canvas and MYSJSU Messaging

Copies of the course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, and grades can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](#). You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through [MySJSU](#) or [Canvas](#) to learn of any updates.

Course Description

Cultural anthropology is the study of how humans adapt to, interpret and affect the world in which they live. This course is designed to provide you with an overview to the discipline, as well as an appreciation of what it has meant to be human in different places at different times. By the end of the course you should have a sense of the anthropological perspective and its merits. After learning some basic concepts and cross-cultural comparisons, we finish the course by showing the practical applications of this perspective in America and elsewhere. Furthermore, you will be gaining first-hand experience in observing the world as an anthropologist, giving you an experiential and intellectual appreciation of a perspective which can be used to better understand a variety of academic, professional, and community contexts.

The course satisfies requirements for the Human Behavior / D (1) Area in the General Education Core, as well as departmental and program requirements in anthropology and behavioral science. There are no pre-requisites to this course.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- CLO1 Be able to apply appropriately the concept of culture to human behavior.
- CLO2 Gain a working knowledge of how cultural anthropologists conduct field research through completing a class project.
- CLO3 Be able to recognize and analyze the interaction of social institutions, culture and environment with individual and collective behavior.
- CLO4 Develop a cross-cultural perspective on how humans relate to each other and the material world through symbols.
- CLO5 Have knowledge about several societies in depth using ethnographies.
- CLO6 Understand the relevance of cultural anthropology for understanding the complexities of modern life both globally and in this country.

GE Learning Outcome (GELO)

- Area D1 Human Behavior Students will be able to recognize the interaction of social institutions, culture, and environment with the behavior of individuals.

Required Texts/Readings

1-Essentials of Cultural Anthropology. Kenneth Guest, W. W. Norton & Company, 2018. 2nd edition (earlier editions acceptable). ISBN: 9780393624618. This is a book package that includes:

- a-A toolkit for a global age (E)*
- b-A reader for a global age (R)*
- c-A Fieldwork journal*

2-Distant Mirrors: America as a Foreign Culture (DM). Philip DeVita editor. Weveland Press, Inc., 2016 2nd edition. ISBN 9781478630630.

- **Other readings:**

Supplementary course readings or handouts will be available on the course Canvas page.

Course Requirements

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.” [University Syllabus Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9)
(<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>)

NOTE: “Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently

essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading.” [University Attendance and Participation Policy F15-12](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf>)

Course Assignments and Grading Policy

Students will be graded on the following assignments:

- **Two Exams:** (each exam = 100pts). Exams will consist of a combination of multiple choice, short definitions, and short essays.

Failure to take any exam will result in a failing grade regardless of other completed work

- **Term paper:** (100 pts). An ethnographic paper of 1500 words (approximately 6 pages, double spaced) of original work is required for this course.

Failure to complete this assignment will result in a failing grade regardless of other completed work.

- **In-class Exercises:** (150pts). There will be a number of class interactive exercises and discussions in individual or group form throughout the semester. All written activities are due the same day during class and **cannot be made up**.
- **Class participation/discussion:** (50 pts). Participation in-class activities as well as contribution to the class in the form of questions, comments, or ideas will be also evaluated and considered for the final grade in the class. Student participation is important to promote critical thinking and evaluate the understanding of class material. It provides an indication of your engagement in your own education.
- **Attendance:** Roll will be taken sporadically. Attendance is strongly encouraged and expected. Your success in the class depends on your presence during lecture and class activities. I do not provide the PowerPoints of the lectures hence you are responsible for obtaining class notes. Missing lectures may result in failing the class. **I do not drop students for non-attendance; you are responsible for your registration status.**

A grade of **Incomplete** will not be given to avoid an F in the class.

Assignments and Grade Break-down

Midterm	100	20%
Final	100	20%
Writing Assignment	100	20%
In-class exercises	150	30%
Class participation	50	10%
Total	500	100%

Below are basic guidelines for grading. Letter grades will be assigned based on score percentages, as follows:

A	B	C	D	F
97-100% = A plus	87-89% = B plus	77-79% = C plus	67-69% = D plus	Below 60% = F
93-96% = A	83-86% = B	73-76% = C	63-66% = D	
90-92% = A minus	80-82% = B minus	70-72% = C minus	60-62% = D minus	

IMPORTANT: Read the syllabus, familiarize yourself with Canvas, and keep up with the reading. Your presence in class is very important; if you miss a day you are responsible to get the notes from a classmate. If you have any questions or issues do not hesitate to contact me or see me during office hours. Do not wait too long to communicate if you are having problems in class or with the class material. Your success in the class depends on your understanding of the material and completing the assignments on time. I strongly encourage you to reach me through email or in person for any questions you may have that are not already addressed in the syllabus or Canvas.

Classroom Protocol

- **Arriving late and leaving early is not acceptable** unless there is an exceptional circumstance or has been previously arranged with the instructor. Students will be asked to leave the classroom when this occurs on a regular basis since it is disruptive to the class.
- **All electronic devices including laptops, tablets, and cell phones, must be turned off and out of sight during class.** Students should be aware that according to Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations, "Standards for Student Conduct," grounds for student discipline includes: "Participating in an activity that substantially and materially disrupts the normal operations of the University," {Section 41301(b)(4)} which could include use of electronic devices in classroom settings.
- **All assignments are due the date marked in the class schedule** unless the date has been officially changed by the instructor. **All written assignments are to be submitted through "Turnitin" in Canvas or as indicated by the instructor.** **Unexcused late written assignments** will not be accepted. **All assignments are due before the last day of class.**
- **In-class activities/assignments/exercises cannot be made up.**
- **Assignments described as mandatory and all exams are needed to pass the class.**
- **Make-up exams** will be given only if 1) you know in advance that you are unable to attend due to an important and verifiable reason and have arranged in advance with the instructor for an alternative date prior to its scheduled date, 2) if any reason arises beyond your control you need to notify the instructor before class by email and provide a verifiable reason (note from physician/nurse, etc.) for the absence. Only students with a valid documented excuse will be able to take a

make-up a test (or turn in a late assignment). Make-up exams will only be scheduled within one week from the original due date.

- **The Final Exam cannot be made-up. You must take the Final Exam at the scheduled time or earlier with the approval of the instructor.** [University policy S17-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S17-1.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S17-1.pdf>)
- **Students may not leave the room during an examination.** This will be an indication to the instructor that the student has completed the exam and it will be collected without further opportunity to continue.
- **All lectures and course materials, including exams, assignments, quizzes, handouts, and exercises, are copyrighted and may not be distributed without written permission from the instructor.**
- Discussions of controversial topics can become emotional. Such discussion demands respect and intellectual honesty toward and between fellow students, instructor, and from instructor toward students. Personal attacks on individuals holding non-conventional/controversial ideas will not be tolerated.
- Students are encouraged to ask questions before, during, and after class and to take full advantage of scheduled office hours or to make appointments.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

All students must obtain the instructor's permission if they wish to record lectures or distribute materials from the class. [University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf) <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>

Resources

The university provides resources that can help you succeed academically. Just look here.

[Academic Success Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/) <http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/>

[Peer Connections website](http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu) <http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu>

[Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter) <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>

[Counseling Services website](http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling) <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>

ANTH 11: Cultural Anthropology, Fall 2019, Tentative Course Schedule

Schedule is subject to change with fair notice made available from the instructor by email and class announcements.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/22	Introduction to the course: Cultural Anthropology.
2	8/27 8/29	Module 1: Anthropology in a global age. Anthropology and its subfields. Globalization. The effects of globalization. Reading: Ch 1 (E) Activity: Fieldwork Ex # 1 Reading: Minding the body, pg 32 (R)
3	9/3 9/5	Culture, its meaning and concept framework. Nature vs. nurture. Buying culture. Reading: Ch 2 (E) Activity: Fieldwork Ex # 2 Reading: Understanding ourselves (DM); 100 % American, pg 1 (DM); Reflections on American culture, pg 5 (DM).
4	9/10 9/12	Fieldwork and Ethnography. History of its practice. Nuts and bolts of conducting fieldwork. Moral and ethical concerns. Reading: Ch 3 (E). Activity: Fieldwork Ex # 3. Reading: From number our days, pg 72 (R); Life and cultures, pg 89 (DM).
5	9/17 9/19	Language. Origins. Language and communication. Language and power. Language and gender. Reading: Ch 4 (E). Activity: Fieldwork Ex # 4 Reading: Shakespeare in the Bush, pg 95 (R).
6	9/24 9/26	Module 2: Structures of Power. Race and racism. Biological and cultural concepts. Globalization and power. Reading: Ch 5 (E). Activity: Fieldwork Ex # 5 Reading: # Ferguson..., pg 133 (R)
7	10/1 10/3	Ethnicity and Nationalism. Assimilation vs. multiculturalism. Anti-colonialism and nationalism. Interpreting American culture. Reading: Ch 6 (E). Activity: Fieldwork Ex # 6 Reading: A Russian teacher in America, pg 67 (DM); Shifting borders, pg 107 (DM).
8	10/8 10/10	Assimilation vs. multiculturalism. Interpreting American Culture. Reading: Professor Widjojo..., pg 30 (DM); An American in Kenya..., pg 57 (DM) Review MIDTERM

9	10/15 10/17	Gender and Sexuality. Biological and cultural concepts. Gender/sexuality and power. Reading: Ch 7 and 8 (E). Activity: Fieldwork Ex # 7 Reading: The egg and the sperm, pg 179 (R);
10	10/22 10/24	Kinship, Family, and Marriage. Cross-cultural notions of family and kinship. Reading: Ch 9 (E). Activity: Fieldwork Ex # 8 Reading: The troubling case of NS, pg 221 (R); Arranging a marriage in India, pg 124 (DM). Video: The dirty war in Argentina and the search for descendants.
11	10/29 10/31	Class and Inequality. Egalitarian and ranked societies. Global economy and inequality. Reading: Ch 10 (E). Activity: Fieldwork Ex # 9 Reading: Helping or hindering?, pg 250 (R); First impressions, pg 112 (DM)
12	11/5 11/7	Module 3: Change in the Modern World: Global economy. Early trade in antiquity. The effects of a global economy. Reading: Ch 11 (E). Activity: Fieldwork Ex # 10 Tracing chocolate Reading: Additional material
13	11/12 11/14	Politics and power. Before institutions. What is the State? Who's in control? Reading: Ch 12 (E). Activity: Video
14	11/19 11/21	Politics and Power: Social movements Reading: Ch 12 (E). Reading: Ch 13 Activity: Video
15	11/26 11/28	Religion and Power. Globalization and religion. Reading: Ch 13 (E). No Class, Thanksgiving Holiday
16	12/3 12/5	Art and Media. Art/Media and power. Reading: Ch 15 (E). Reading: Designer vandalism...pg 375 (R). Review and concluding remarks
Final Exam	12/17	2:45 – 17:00 (Tuesday)