

*Note: this syllabus is not a contract. It is subject to further change or revision, to best realize the educational goals of the course. Revisions will be announced in class or in course materials online with appropriate prior notice.*

**San José State University  
Department of Anthropology**

**ANTH 11 Cultural Anthropology**  
Section 01 (21304), Spring 2020

**Course and Contact Information**

Instructor:	Dr. Melissa Beresford
Office Location:	Clark Hall 402G
Email:	<a href="mailto:melissa.beresford@sjsu.edu">melissa.beresford@sjsu.edu</a>
Office Hours:	Thursdays and Thursdays from 9 am – 10 am
Class Days/Time:	Tu/Th 10:30 am – 11:45 am
Classroom:	WSQ 004
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	D1: Human Behavior
Scheduled Final Exam Period	Monday, May 18 <sup>th</sup> 9:45 am – 12 pm

**SJSU Course Catalog Description:**

Basic concepts, theories and methods used in the comparative study of socio-cultural systems. Includes cultural ecology and change; political, economic and kinship systems; language, art and religion; cultural perspectives on contemporary issues.

**Detailed Course Description:**

This course introduces the basic principles of cultural anthropology, a discipline concerned with the origins, development, and diversity of human culture and society. Using illustrative materials from a variety of cultures, we will explore variation in human behaviors and beliefs and consider some of the ways that anthropologists have attempted to account for that variation. A particular concern in the course will be the manner in which global processes of economic, political, and social change intersect with the everyday lives of local people. A broader goal of the course is to introduce students to the way anthropologists *think* about their subject matter.

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Think critically and reflectively about the nature of cultural differences
- Understand how anthropologists use field methods to collect data

- Grasp how the various components of a “culture” form an integrated whole
- Understand and apply concepts of cultural relativism and ethnocentrism
- Learn how anthropological thinking can be applied into careers such as medicine, international development as well as other fields

**GE Learning Outcomes:**

Area D1 Human Behavior: Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to recognize the interaction of social institutions, culture, and environment with the behavior of individuals.

**Course Format:**

This course will be delivered via in-person meetings twice a week. Our in-person meetings will be lecture-based, but will incorporate an active learning environment. Class sessions will have a mix of lecture, videos and activities. Students are required to engage in small & large group discussions every class period.

Students are required to purchase and use an online electronic textbook, and the course makes use of both Canvas learning management system and the REVEL online platform that is affiliated with the electronic textbook. All students are required to check their SJSU email address regularly, as course material, updates, and announcements will be disseminated through both SJSU email and the course platforms.

**Pre-requisites/Co-requisites/Anti-requisites:**

There are no pre-requisites for this course

**Required Texts/Readings (Required):**

- Miller, Barbara (2015) *Cultural Anthropology*. 8<sup>th</sup> Edition. Pearson (ISBN-13: 978-0134419077). Students are required to purchase e-text that connect to REVEL as you will be completing some coursework within REVEL. You can purchase a loose-leaf copy of the text separately if you prefer to read using a hard copy (but you’ll still be required to purchase REVEL and complete assessments there). Information located on the course Canvas site about purchasing the e-text.
  - Note there is also a free-app associated with the e-text that will allow you to access the readings and assessments from your phone or tablet, even allowing you to listen to an audio-version of the textbook.
- Other readings will be provided to you

**Final Grades (based on percentage of total possible points)**

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage of Total Course Points</i>	<i>Assessment</i>
<i>A</i>	92.5-100	Excellent
<i>A minus</i>	89.5-92.4	Excellent
<i>B plus</i>	87.5-89.4	Good
<i>B</i>	82.5-87.4	Good
<i>B minus</i>	79.5-82.4	Good

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage of Total Course Points</i>	<i>Assessment</i>
<i>C plus</i>	77.5-79.4	Average
<i>C</i>	69.5-77.4	Average
<i>D</i>	59.5-69.4	Passing
<i>F</i>	Less than 59.5	Failure

Note on “rounding” grades: The grades here have already been “rounded up” – meaning, if you earn an 89.5, I round up to give you an A minus (rather than a B plus). Grades will not be rounded up further than what is already stated here.

*For your own protection, you should keep a copy of everything you hand in, and you should keep your graded assignments at least until grades are finalized at the end of the semester, and in the event you wish to contest any grades.*

### **Course Requirements and Assignments:**

<b>Assignment/Exam</b>	<b>Total Pts</b>	<b>% of Grade</b>
Participation (daily)	250	<b>25%</b>
Syllabus Quiz (1)	10	<b>1%</b>
Biweekly Reading Checks (30 out of 36 @ 5 pts each)	150	<b>15%</b>
Weekly Quizzes (12 @ 20 pts each)	240	<b>24%</b>
Assignment 1-Exchange of Chocolate	150	<b>15%</b>
Assignment 2-Religion Observation	150	<b>15%</b>
Final Reflection (1)	50	<b>5%</b>
<b>Total Points Possible</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>100%</b>

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, or 9 hours per week for a 3 credit course) 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.

In this course, the time breakdown is as follows:

- 3 hours/week of in-class meeting
- 2-4 hours/week of required reading
- 2-4 hours/week of out-of-class assignments/activities

Final grades for the course will be assigned on basis of the following. **Refer to the course schedule located on Canvas for due dates.**

#### **Class Participation**

This will be based upon attendance and group discussion participation. All students begin the class with 250 participation points. Lack of participation will result in docking points from this total.

There are two ways you could be docked participation points:

1. *Absence from class discussions and activities*: We will have small group discussions and activities each class period. Students will each need to write down their own individual and their group discussion points. These written responses will be collected on 17 random days throughout the semester. You are allowed two absences (no questions asked) and starting on the third and each subsequent absence you will be **docked 10 points** from your participation grade (unless you have an instructor-approved absence). If you are late to class and miss submitting your participation check, you will be counted as absent (unless you have an instructor-approved reason for being late, or arranged to be late to class with the instructor prior to that day).
2. *Unprofessional Behavior*: Students are expected to participate in class in a professional manner (see below for expectations of class discussions). Students who choose to engage in an unprofessional manner and/or are inattentive in class (e.g. tardiness, talking while others are talking, on their phones or laptops view non-course related material, etc.) will lose participation points after being given a verbal and written warning.

### **Syllabus Quiz**

Each student is required to read through this syllabus and complete a syllabus quiz (located on Canvas) within the first week of the course. You must receive an 80% or higher and you can repeat the quiz until you reach it.

### **Twice-weekly Reading Checks**

There are assigned readings that need to be completed before each class. Students are also required to complete assigned reading checks **via REVEL before each class period**. Refer to the course schedule for information on due dates. There are a total of 12 chapters, and in each chapter there are 3 sections. There is a reading check after each section worth 5 points and you have one chance per question. The original total points possible for this was 180 (12 chapters x 3 reading checks x 5 pts), but I will be counting it out of 150. This means that you have 6 reading checks that you can skip (or 30 pts). However, if you choose to complete those reading checks you can earn extra points (assuming you miss some points) to help you meet the 150 needed (although no extra credit above 150 points will be allowed).

NOTE: If you are sick, even with an excused absence/doctor's note, you will *not* be able to make up reading checks—those will count as part of your 6 “free” checks. If you experience technical difficulties you need to contact the instructor and TA immediately in order to document the problem and so we can help come up with a solution. Inaction on your part will not be an excuse to get an extension.

### **Weekly Chapter Quizzes**

There will be a quiz for each chapter covered in the course. Quizzes will cover materials covered in the readings as well as lecture and classroom activities. These will be made

available via Canvas and are due by the date and time listed on the course schedule. These are open book and open note quizzes.

### **Assignments**

There are two written assignments for this course: 1) Exchange of Chocolate and 2) Religious Ethnography. These assignments will require you to gather data, write up your notes/observations, analyze your data and answer questions. Refer to Canvas for a complete list of instructions.

### **Final Reflection**

For the final culminating activity of the course, students are required to write a short essay reflecting on how concepts in the class can apply to their future careers. Refer to the course Canvas site for instructions. The final reflection is due via Canvas no later than the scheduled final exam period for the course (see beginning of syllabus).

### **Extra Credit**

There will be no extra credit opportunities assigned for this course.

### **Incompletes**

A mark of "I" (incomplete) is given by the instructor when you have completed most of the course (at least 80% of coursework) and are otherwise doing acceptable work (have a passing grade) but are unable to complete the course because of illness or other conditions beyond your control. You are required to arrange with the instructor for the completion of the course requirements.

### **Late Assignments**

Students are responsible for knowing the course due dates (listed on Canvas), and for turning work in on time.

- If you need an accommodation/extension on course assignments for religious practices, please follow the [university procedure](#) to request an accommodation.
- If you have a personal or medical reason for requesting an extension on an assignment, you must do so *in advance* of the assignment due date. Requests for excuses must be written, either on paper or email, and approval must be obtained, either by an email reply or by having the paper excuse signed by the instructor. In order to get credit, with the late assignment you must turn in a copy of the email approval or signed written excuse.
- Quizzes/Reading Checks - If a student misses a quiz or a reading check for any reason, they will receive a grade of 0 (zero). There are no make-ups for reading checks as students are all allowed to miss up to 6 reading checks with no penalty. A make-up quiz will only be given in the case of a serious emergency that is documented by a physician's letter or the equivalent and approved by the instructor. Please discuss any circumstances with the instructor.
- Written assignments will be accepted up to 5 days late (including weekends) and will be docked 10% points (i.e. one letter grade) for each day that they are late on top of assigned grade. Students can request an extension without penalty only in cases of documented medical or personal emergencies/circumstances approved by the instructor.

*Please note:* If there is a system-wide outage when an assignment is due you will not be punished for not turning it in on time, but will be required to turn it in by the newly stated day and time.

### **Absences**

Students are allowed two absences (excused or unexcused, meaning no documentation is needed). On the third absence you'll lose points off your participation grade (see above for details), unless it is an excused absence approved by the instructor. Students **MUST** provide proper documentation for excused absences. The conditions for approved absences include:

- *Illness/medical or other personal situation in which the student can provide documentation or has discussed their situation in advance with the instructor. Having to work is not grounds to request an excused absence or extension on assignments.*
- *Excused absences related to religious observances/practices that are in accordance with [S14-7](#) "Accommodations to Students' Religious Holidays."*

### **Tardiness**

Tardiness is very disruptive to the class and repeated tardiness will not be tolerated and will result in a decrease participation grade. If you happen to be tardy, you should enter the classroom as quietly as possible to diminish the disruption to your fellow classmates.

### **Cell Phones**

Cell phone ringtones should be turned off upon entering the class and speaking on cell phones during class is prohibited. Excessive use of cell phones that is not class-related will result in a decrease in participation grade.

### **Laptops**

Students are allowed to be on their laptops for the purpose of course-related activities. Excessive use of computers on non-course related activities will result in a decrease in participation grade.

### **Discussions**

This course will rely heavy upon your thoughts and insights as we complete discussion and activities

- Respect others' rights to hold opinions and beliefs that differ from your own. When you disagree, challenge or criticize the idea, not the person.
- Listen carefully to what others are saying even when you disagree with what is being said. Comments that you make (asking for clarification, sharing critiques, expanding on a point, etc.) should reflect that you have paid attention to the speaker's comments.
- Be courteous. Don't interrupt or engage in private conversations while others are speaking. Use attentive, courteous body language.
- Support your statements. Use evidence and provide a rationale for your points.
- Share responsibility for including all voices in the discussion. If you have much to say, try to hold back a bit; if you are hesitant to speak, look for opportunities to contribute to the discussion.

- Recognize that we are all still learning. Be willing to change your perspective, and make space for others to do the same.

### **University Policies Applicable to All SJSU Courses**

Please go to <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/> to review university policies, procedures, and resources that are applicable to all SJSU courses. These include the following:

- General expectations, rights, and responsibilities of students
- Workload and credit hour requirements
- Attendance and participation policies
- Expectations for timely feedback class assignments
- Accommodations to students' religious holidays
- Dropping and adding courses
- Consent for recording of class and public sharing of instructor material
- Academic integrity
- Campus policy in compliance with the American Disabilities Act
- Student technology resources
- SJSU Peer Connections (tutoring services)
- SJSU Writing Center
- SJSU Counseling and Psychological Services

### **Schedule of Readings and Assignments**

Below is the anticipated course schedule. This schedule is subject to change in order to meet the goals of the course, and students should be sure to regularly check the course Canvas site and their SJSU email accounts for updates.

Date	Chapter/Topics	Pages (in hard copy)	Topics Covered	Quizzes/Reading Checks & Assignments due by 10:30 am
23-Jan	None-first day of class		Introductions, syllabus, class expectations, textbook	
28-Jan	Using SJSU Resources		Using SJSU email, library, and other resources	
30-Jan	Values and Culture		Personal and Cultural Values	
4-Feb				Syllabus Quiz
4-Feb	1- Anth and Study of Culture	2-11 (up to "The Concept of Culture" )	Introducing Cultural Anthropology	Reading Check 1.1
6-Feb	1- Anth and Study of Culture	11 -- 25	Three Theoretical Debates & Distinctive Features of Cultural Anthropology	Reading Check 1.2, 1.3
22-Feb				Chapter 1 Quiz
11-Feb	3-Researching Culture	53-64 (up to fieldwork techniques)	Working in the Field	Reading Check 3.1
13-Feb	3-Researching Culture	64-76	Fieldwork Techniques	Reading Check 3.2, 3.3 Start Chocolate Assignment
18-Feb				Chapter 3 Quiz
18-Feb	4-Making a Living	78-88 (up to agriculture)	Culture and Economic Systems & Making a Living	Reading Check 4.1
20-Feb	4-Making a Living	88-100 (start at agriculture)	Industrialism/Digital Age & Changing Livelihoods	Reading Check 4.2, 4.3
25-Feb				Chapter 4 Quiz
25-Feb	5-Consumption and Exchange	101-112 (up to culture & exchange)	Culture and Consumption & Forbidden Consumption	Reading Check 5.1
27-Feb	5-Consumption and Exchange	112-125	What Is Exchanged? & Modes of Exchange	Reading Check 5.2, 5.3 Chocolate Assignment Due
3-Mar				Chapter 5 Quiz
3-Mar	6-Reproduction and Hum Dev	127-137	Modes of Reproduction: & Culture and Fertility	Reading Check 6.1, 6.2
5-Mar	6-Reproduction and Hum Dev	137-150	Personality and the Life Cycle	Reading Check 6.3
10-Mar				Chapter 6 Quiz
10-Mar	7-Disease, Illness, Healing	152-163	Ethnomedicine	Reading Check 7.1
12-Mar	7-Disease, Illness, Healing	163-175	3 Theoretical Approaches & Globalization and Change	Reading Check 7.2, 7.3
17-Mar				Chapter 7 Quiz
17-Mar	8-Kinship and Domestic Life	177-190	How Cultures Create Kinship	Reading Check 8.1
19-Mar	8-Kinship and Domestic Life	190-201	Households and Domestic Life & Changing Kinship and Household Dynamics	Reading Check 8.2, 8.3 Start Religion Assignment
24-Mar				Chapter 8 Quiz
24-Mar	9-Social Groups and Soc. Stratification	203-211	Social Groups	Reading Check 9.1
26-Mar	9-Social Groups and Soc. Stratification	211-224	Social Stratification & Civil Society Graduate School	Reading Check 9.2, 9.3
7-Apr				Chapter 9 Quiz
31-Mar	NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK			Enjoy your break!
2-Apr	NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK			Enjoy your break!
7-Apr	10-Political and Legal Systems	225-235	Public Power: Political Organization, and Leadership	Reading Check 10.1
9-Apr	10-Political and Legal Systems	235-249	Social Order and Social Conflict & Changing Public Power Relations	Reading Check 10.2, 10.3
14-Apr				Chapter 10 Quiz
14-Apr	12-Religion	273-284	Religion in Comparative Perspective	Reading Check 12.1
16-Apr	12-Religion	284-298	World Religions and Local Variations & Directions of Religious Change	Reading Check 12.2, 12.3 Religion Assignment Due
21-Apr				Chapter 12 Quiz
21-Apr	11-Communication	251-263	The Varieties of Human Communication & Language, Diversity, and Inequality	Reading Check 11.1, 11.2
23-Apr	11-Communication	263-272	Language and Communication Change Study Abroad	Reading Check 11.3
28-Apr				Chapter 11 Quiz
28-Apr	13-Expressive Culture	300-311	Art and Culture	Reading Check 13.1
30-Apr	No Class Meeting -- Alternative Online Assignment TBD			
5-May	13-Expressive Culture	311-22	Play, Leisure, and Culture & Expressive Culture	Reading Check 13.2, 13.3
7-May	Last Class- Wrap Up/Review			
13-May				Final Reflection & Chapter 13 Quiz