

*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 1 (21142), Spring 2021

ONLINE, ASYNCHRONOUS

**Course and Contact Information**

Instructor:	Dr. Melissa Beresford
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Office Hours:	Tu/Th 8:00 am – 9:00 am via Zoom (see departmental website for Zoom link)
Class Days/Time:	N/A: All course material will be posted online (see course format description below)
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	D1: Human Behavior

**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.

- Place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts;
- Identify the dynamics of ethnic, cultural, gender/sexual, age-based, class, regional, national, transnational, and global identities and the similarities, differences, linkages, and interactions between them;
- Evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues; and
- Recognize the interaction of social institutions, culture, and environment with the behavior of individuals.

### **Course Format:**

**This course will be an asynchronous online course.** This means that we do not have any scheduled course meetings. All course lectures, readings, and activities will be posted online for students to access. Each week, students will be required to view recorded lectures and videos on the course Canvas site, complete readings from our e-text book, and complete the following activities online (1) two readings checks on our e-text book platform (REVEL), (2) a Think Piece activity that will require students to watch a video, complete an activity, and discuss it with their classmates on the course discussion board, (3) a chapter quiz that covers material in the readings, lectures, and Think Piece activities. Students must complete these activities each week by the due dates outlined on the course schedule. Additionally, students will be required to complete 2 written assignments (that will require research, data analysis and a written response), and a final reflection assignment. All writing assignments must be completed by the due dates on the course schedule.

**Students are required to purchase and use an online electronic textbook, and the course makes use of both the 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>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>
Syllabus Quiz	15	2%
Think Piece Activities (13 total @ 15 points each)	195	20%
Biweekly Reading Checks (30 out of 36 @ 5 pts each)	150	16%
Weekly Quizzes (12 @ 20 pts each)	240	25%
Assignment 1-Exchange of Chocolate	150	16%
Assignment 2-Religion Observation	150	16%
Final Reflection (1)	50	5%
<b>Total Points Possible</b>	<b>950</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.

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

### **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 up until the quiz due date.

### **Think Piece Activities**

Each week, students will be required to complete a short Think Piece Activity. The activity will require that students watch a video, complete an activity, and then log onto the course discussion board to discuss the activity with their classmates. Students make an initial post on the discussion board in response to the posted discussion prompt. Students are also required to respond to 1 other student on the discussion board. The initial discussion post is worth 10 points and will be graded on a pass/fail basis. The response post is worth 5 points and will be graded on a pass/fail basis.

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

There are assigned readings that need to be completed on Tuesday & Thursday each week. At the end of each assigned reading, there is a brief (5 question) quiz that student must complete **on the Pearson REVEL platform**. Refer to the course schedule for information on due dates.

We cover 12 chapters of the textbook in this course. Each chapter has 3 reading sections. There is a reading check/quiz after each section that is 5 questions, each worth 1 point (5 points total). You have one chance per question. The total points possible 12 chapter is 180 points (12 chapters x 3 reading checks x 5 pts). However, only 150 will count toward your course grade. This means that you have 30 free points – but no extra credit above 150 points will be allowed.

For example, if you earn 140/180 for all of the course reading checks, your grade will be 140/150. Or, if you earn 160/180 points, your grade will be 150/150. This means that you can skip up to 6 reading checks (30 points) and still earn 150/150 points.

NOTE: If you are unable to complete a reading check due to illness or other extenuating circumstances, that will count as part of your 6 “free” checks. I generally do not give extensions or make-ups on reading checks because you each get the 30 points/or 6 checks free. However, if you have a long-term illness/extenuating circumstance, please contact me to discuss.

If you experience technical difficulties you must contact me immediately in order to

document the problem and 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 lectures and Think Piece 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. All data collection will occur online or via phone. 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 and approval must be obtained by an email reply from the instructor. If you have an emergency that does not allow you to contact me in advance, please contact me as soon as you are able to.
- 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 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 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.

## **Discussions**

This course will rely heavily 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/read carefully to what others are saying/writing even when you disagree with what is being said/written. 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/writer's comments.
- Be courteous.
- Support your statements. Use evidence and provide a rationale for your points.
- 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 11:59 pm.
27-Jan - 29-Jan	None - First Days of Class		Introductions, syllabus, class expectations, textbook	Buy e-book/register for Pearson REVEL w/SJSU email account
<b>1-Feb</b>				
2-Feb	Values and Culture		Personal and Cultural Values	Buy e-book/register for Pearson REVEL w/SJSU email account
4-Feb	Values and Culture		Personal and Cultural Values	Buy e-book/register for Pearson REVEL w/SJSU email account
<b>8-Feb</b>				<b>Syllabus Quiz &amp; Intro Think Piece</b>
9-Feb	1- Anth and Study of Culture	2-11 (up to "The Concept of Culture" )	Introducing Cultural Anthropology	Reading Check 1.1 & Ch 1
11-Feb	1- Anth and Study of Culture	11 -- 25	Three Theoretical Debates & Distinctive Features of Cultural Anthropology	Reading Check 1.2, 1.3 & Ch1
<b>15-Feb</b>				<b>Chapter 1 Quiz &amp; Ch 1 Think Piece</b>
16-Feb	3-Researching Culture	53-64 (up to fieldwork techniques)	Working in the Field	Reading Check 3.1 & Ch 3
18-Feb	3-Researching Culture	64-76	Fieldwork Techniques	Reading Check 3.2, 3.3 & Ch 3 Think Piece Response <b>Start Chocolate Assignment</b>
<b>22-Feb</b>				<b>Chapter 3 Quiz &amp; Ch 3 Think Piece</b>
23-Feb	4-Making a Living	78-88 (up to agriculture)	Culture and Economic Systems & Making a Living	Reading Check 4.1 & Ch 4
25-Feb	4-Making a Living	88-100 (start at agriculture)	Industrialism/Digital Age & Changing Livelihoods	Reading Check 4.2, 4.3 & Ch 4
<b>1-Mar</b>				<b>Chapter 4 Quiz &amp; Ch 4 Think Piece</b>
2-Mar	5-Consumption and Exchange	101-112 (up to culture & exchange)	Culture and Consumption & Forbidden Consumption	Reading Check 5.1 & Ch 5
4-Mar	5-Consumption and Exchange	112-125	What Is Exchanged? & Modes of Exchange	Reading Check 5.2, 5.3 <b>Chocolate Assignment Due</b>
<b>8-Mar</b>				<b>Chapter 5 Quiz &amp; Ch 5 Think Piece</b>
9-Mar	6-Reproduction and Hum Dev	127-137	Modes of Reproduction: & Culture and Fertility	Reading Check 6.1, 6.2
11-Mar	6-Reproduction and Hum Dev	137-150	Personality and the Life Cycle	Reading Check 6.3
<b>15-Mar</b>				<b>Chapter 6 Quiz &amp; Ch 6 Think Piece</b>
16-Mar	7-Disease, Illness, Healing	152-163	Ethnomedicine	Reading Check 7.1
18-Mar	7-Disease, Illness, Healing	163-175	3 Theoretical Approaches & Globalization and Change	Reading Check 7.2, 7.3
<b>22-Mar</b>				<b>Chapter 7 Quiz &amp; Ch 7 Think Piece</b>
23-Mar	8-Kinship and Domestic Life	177-190	How Cultures Create Kinship	Reading Check 8.1
25-Mar	8-Kinship and Domestic Life	190-201	Households and Domestic Life & Changing Kinship and Household Dynamics	Reading Check 8.2, 8.3 <b>Start Religion Assignment</b>
<b>29-Mar</b>				
30-Mar	NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK			Enjoy your break!
1-Apr	NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK			Enjoy your break!
<b>5-Apr</b>				<b>Chapter 8 Quiz &amp; Ch 8 Think Piece</b>
6-Apr	9-Social Groups and Soc. Stratification	203-211	Social Groups	Reading Check 9.1
8-Apr	9-Social Groups and Soc. Stratification	211-224	Social Stratification & Civil Society <b>Graduate School</b>	Reading Check 9.2, 9.3
<b>12-Apr</b>				<b>Chapter 9 Quiz &amp; Ch 9 Think Piece</b>
13-Apr	10-Political and Legal Systems	225-235	Public Power: Political Organization, and Leadership	Reading Check 10.1
15-Apr	10-Political and Legal Systems	235-249	Social Order and Social Conflict & Changing Public Power Relations	Reading Check 10.2, 10.3
<b>19-Apr</b>				<b>Chapter 10 Quiz &amp; Ch 10 Think Piece</b>
20-Apr	12-Religion	273-284	Religion in Comparative Perspective	Reading Check 12.1
22-Apr	12-Religion	284-298	World Religions and Local Variations & Directions of Religious Change	Reading Check 12.2, 12.3 <b>Religion Assignment Due</b>
<b>26-Apr</b>				<b>Chapter 12 Quiz &amp; Ch 12 Think Piece</b>
27-Apr	11-Communication	251-263	The Varieties of Human Communication & Language, Diversity, and Inequality	Reading Check 11.1, 11.2
29-Apr	11-Communication	263-272	Language and Communication Change <b>Study Abroad</b>	Reading Check 11.3
<b>3-May</b>				<b>Chapter 11 Quiz &amp; Ch 11 Think Piece</b>
4-May	13-Expressive Culture	300-311	Art and Culture	Reading Check 13.1
6-May	13-Expressive Culture	311-22	Play, Leisure, and Culture & Expressive Culture	Reading Check 13.2, 13.3
<b>10-May</b>				<b>Chapter 13 Quiz &amp; Ch 13 Think Piece</b>
11-May	Work Week - No modules assigned		Work on Final Reflection & Individual Meetings w/ Professor (if desired)	Work on final reflection
13-May	Work Week - No modules assigned		Work on Final Reflection & Individual Meetings w/ Professor (if desired)	Work on final reflection
<b>17-May</b>				
19-May				<b>Final Reflection Due</b>