

ANTHROPOLOGY 102: HUMAN WAYS OF LIFE

Sections 0413 & 0415

Online

<https://myetudes.org/portal>

Course Description and Approach

Welcome to an introduction to the field of sociocultural anthropology! Anthropology is the study of what it means to be human—anthropologists are interested in everything from chimpanzees (our closest primate relatives) to ancient civilizations, religious beliefs and practices, war, and social inequality. This class is focused on current social and cultural practices and institutions around the world as well as the key concepts, questions, and methods that anthropologists have used in their attempts to make sense of cultural difference.

Our goal is not just to understand “others” but to learn to see ourselves, as well, as the products of particular social, cultural, political, and historical processes. We will learn to make sense of beliefs and behaviors that may at first seem strange and will try to look at the world from another point of view. At the same time, we will start to question what we see as normal and explore the limits of ideas about “human nature.”

This class is wide-ranging and examines the diversity of human life around the world. Topics covered include the “culture” concept and ethnography; language, family, gender, and religion; social stratification and inequality; economic and political systems; cultural change and contemporary globalization.



Your Instructor

Dr. Angela C. Jenks

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Phone: 323-242-5513

Email: jenksa@lasc.edu

Find me in my office:

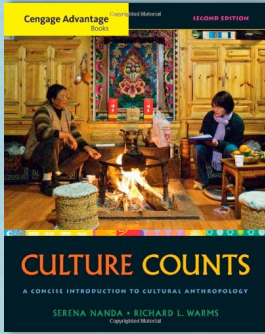
Mon, 4-6; Wed, 3-5pm

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course you will be able to:

- 1) Examine human ways of life holistically and comparatively, applying an anthropological perspective to the analysis of current events and social issues
- 2) Demonstrate an understanding of and respect for human similarities and differences
- 3) Analyze your own cultural biases and perspectives

Materials



1. Nanda and Warms, *Culture Counts*, 2nd ed. ISBN: 978-1-111-30153-8
2. Regular access to a high-speed, internet-enabled computer
3. Enrollment in the course Etudes site (<https://myetudes.org/portal>)

Where Can You Find the Textbook?

LASC Bookstore (used)	\$54
Amazon.com (new)	\$67
Coursesmart.com ebook	\$30
Chegg.com rental	\$28
Library reserve (2 hrs.)	Free

(Prices as of 1/28/2013)

Course Requirements

This class involves a variety of activities that introduce you to the breadth of cultural anthropology. **You should plan to spend approximately 10-12 hours a week on work for this class.** Your final grade will be based on the following:

Participation in Forum Discussions (14% of grade)

Attendance and participation in an online class requires regular posting to course discussion forums. A discussion prompt will be posted each Sunday evening. For full credit, you should post a substantive, thoughtful, and well-written response to this prompt by **Thursday at 11:59pm**. Read your fellow students' discussion postings and **respond to at least two of your classmates' posts by Sunday at 11:59pm**. Each student is allowed ONE absence (i.e., one missed discussion) with no penalty. Students will receive extra credit for participating in all discussions.

Weekly Activities (30% of grade)

This class will involve a variety of learning activities; these may include reading quizzes, reflections, short essays, responses to film clips, additional discussions, or other assignments. Activities will be posted to the course website by Sunday evening of each week and will have clearly-marked deadlines.

Reflective Essays (16% of grade)

Four (4) short written exercises (approximately 500 words) will be assigned throughout the course. These exercises are designed to give you an opportunity to apply the concepts we are covering in class to your own life and to the world around you. These assignments are designed to be informal and reflective but should still be professionally presented; **this means they should be neatly typed, proofread, and follow academic grammatical conventions.**



No make-up, late, or e-mailed assignments will be accepted.

Because Stuff Happens...

You have one **virtual "stuff happens" late pass** that allows you to complete **one** of the weekly activities or reflective essays after the deadline. If you miss an assignment for any reason, please contact me within one week of the deadline and let me know you would like to use your "stuff happens" late pass. I will give you instructions for submitting the activity late. After you have used this late pass, however, no additional late activities will be accepted. This late pass cannot be applied to exams or the final ethnography.

Course Requirements, continued

Exams (20% of grade)

There will be three exams throughout the class.



Exams will be given online and will be timed. No make-up exams will be given for any reason. However, your lowest exam grade will be dropped. Your top two exam scores will be included in your final course grade.

Exams will primarily include identification, short answer, and essay questions. The exams are not simply focused on you repeating factual information, but give you a chance to integrate and apply various issues discussed in class.

Research Paper: Mini-ethnography (20% of grade)

Ethnography is the main method and product of cultural anthropology. We will be talking quite a bit about ethnography throughout the course and will be reading many examples of ethnographic research. **For your final project in the course, you will complete your own mini-ethnography of some aspect of life in the Los Angeles area.**

Choose an unfamiliar public place or event where you can participate or discreetly conduct observations. The setting is up to you—it could be a store, restaurant, park, cultural event, tourist attraction, etc.

Design your research and turn in a 1-paragraph proposal describing the setting or group you propose to observe. Conduct your participant-observation research and write field notes either during your observation or shortly afterward.

Write a 5-7 page paper (typed, 12pt font, double-spaced, 1-inch margins) in which you report on your research and analyze your data. I encourage you to turn in outlines and rough drafts and to come to office hours to discuss your project. **A final copy of your paper is due by Monday, May 27. Please respect deadlines. Five (5) points will be deducted for each day your paper is late (including weekends and holidays).** If you cannot turn in your paper on time due to extreme circumstances, you must discuss this with me **before** the due date.

Please do not wait until the last minute to begin this assignment. Feel free to contact me if you would like to talk more about your particular project.

How Will Your Grade Be Calculated?

Discussions	70 pts.
Weekly Activities	150 pts.
Exams (top 2)	100 pts.
Reflective Essays (4)	80 pts.
Research Paper	100 pts.
TOTAL	500 pts.

450-500 pts.	A
400-450 pts.	B
350-400 pts.	C
300-350 pts.	D
Below 300 pts.	F

Course Policies

College classes (whether in-person or online) are professional, scholarly settings, and our actions should reflect respect for each other and for the educational process.

LACCD Code of Conduct: You are expected to adhere to the district code of conduct and all policies outlined in the college catalog.

How to Approach Controversial Topics: Anthropology seeks to understand the diversity of human life. The lectures, discussions, and assignments required in this class will address many controversial topics, including sexual behavior, gender norms, and religious beliefs and practices. Some of the examples covered may seem strange and possibly objectionable to you, just as your own way of life may seem objectionable to others.

This class does not require you to agree with or choose to follow any

particular way of life, and it does not ask you to be uncritical about social or cultural patterns. However, you are expected to approach alternative perspectives with respect and to listen to and seek to understand unfamiliar

points of view. You also have the right to have others respectfully listen to and seek to understand your point of view. Please feel free to come and see me at any point in the semester if you have any concerns.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Learning in this class depends on you completing all required assignments yourself.

Per the LACCD's Board Rule 9803.28, **violations of academic integrity of any type provide grounds for disciplinary action by the instructor or college.**

These violations include, but are not limited to, the following actions: cheating on an exam, plagiarism, working together on an assignment, paper or project when the instructor has specifically stated students should not do so, submitting the same term paper to more than one instructor, or allowing another individual to assume one's identity for the purpose of enhancing one's grade.

Violations of academic integrity will result in no credit for an assignment or exam and possible course failure and referral to the college for disciplinary action. If you are unsure about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism, please see the instructor or complete this useful tutorial: <https://www.indiana.edu/~istd/>.



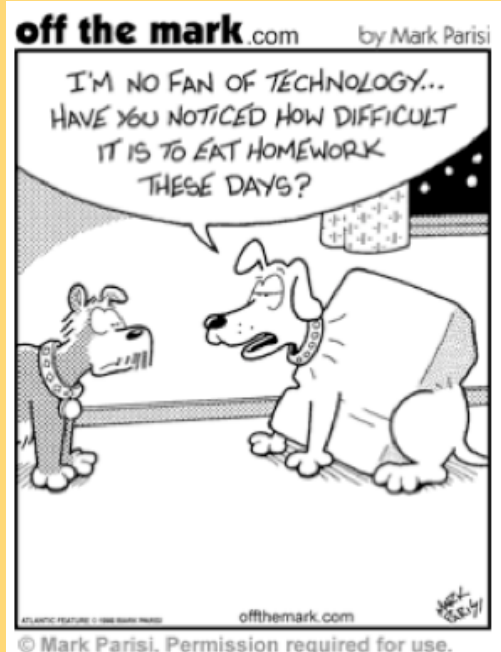
Technical Difficulties

All of the required activities and assignments in this class must be completed through the Etudes system.

It is always a good idea to anticipate computer and website problems. As in any class, don't wait until the last minute to begin an assignment, and remember to back up your work often. Late work and make-up policies will not be altered because of individual technical problems. Please see the "Help and Resources" section for a list of locations on campus where you can access computers and the internet.

ETUDES HELP DESK

If you have any problems accessing the course website, please visit <http://etudes.org/gateway/etudes-student-help-lasc.html> and complete the help request form.



Help and Resources

RESOURCES FOR ONLINE COURSES

Online classes offer a different experience from face-to-face classes. The LASC website has a number of resources for first-time online students: http://www.lasc.edu/students/classes-areas-of-study/online_classes/about_online_classes.html

This class will be offered through the Etudes system. For a video tutorial on how to use this system, go to <http://www.screencast.com/t/MWtH2lgan> (the tutorial is in five segments).

If you have any problems accessing the course website, please visit <http://etudes.org/gateway/etudes-student-help-lasc.html> and complete the help request form.

BSS Labs: The Behavioral and Social Sciences (BSS) department computer lab is located in SSEC 213. You will be able to access the course site and complete online assignments there. In addition, you can meet with a study group or talk with other BSS students and faculty in SSEC 309.

Student Success Center: The Student Success Center is located in SSEC 110 and 110A and offers individual and group tutoring (both in person and online) as well as computer, internet, and printing access. For more information, go to: <http://cte.lasc.edu/content/student-success-center>

Smarthinking Online Tutoring: Smarthinking connects students with online tutors for a number of subjects. For this class, the online writing lab may be the most useful resource. You can submit a draft of any writing assignment and receive detailed feedback within 24 hours. To access this system, go to: <http://www.lasc.edu/smarthinking.html>.

Library: The main library is an excellent resource. You can find the assigned textbook for this class there as well as a number of older anthropology textbooks, ethnographies, and films. Many books are available in either print or electronic versions. In addition, the library offers computer access, copy machines, and librarians who can assist with catalog searches. You can find more information and the library catalog at: http://www.lasc.edu/students/library/about_library.html

DSPS

The disabled students programs and services (DSPS) ensure access to educational programs and resources for all students. Many services are available for qualifying students, including special counseling, note taking services, alternative testing, reading assistance, tutoring, and specialized equipment. Any student who feels she/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact DSPS in room SSB 117 to discuss your specific needs. For more information, go to: <http://www.lasc.edu/dsp/index.html>



Ask Your Instructor!

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions that are not answered by this syllabus. Email me or send me a message through the Etudes site. During the week (M-F), I will respond within 24 hours. You can also drop by my campus office during my office hours (Mon, 4-6; Wed, 3-5pm) or send me a private message (PM) through Etudes.

Behavioral and Social Science (BSS) department and administration

If you have any concerns or grievances about this class that are not addressed by the professor, please contact (in the following order), Dr. Tamura Howard, Chair of BSS; Ms. Stephanie Brasley, Dean of BSS; and Ms. Trudy J. Walton, Executive Vice President.

Course Schedule and Assignments

Changes to this schedule may be made as necessary.

TOPIC	WEEK OF:	READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS
Week 1: Introduction to the Course	Mon, 2/4	--Complete the syllabus quiz by Wed, 2/6, to avoid being dropped from the class --Complete posted discussions and weekly assignments
Week 2: Overview of Anthropology	Mon, 2/11	--Read CC: Chapter 1 (pgs. 1-21) --Read "Body Ritual among the Nacirema" --Complete posted discussions and weekly assignments
Week 3: Culture, Ethnocentrism, and Cultural Relativism	Mon, 2/18	--Read CC: Chapter 2 (pgs. 23-46) --Read "Circumcision, Pluralism, and the Dilemmas of Cultural Relativism" --Complete posted discussions and weekly assignments
Week 4: Doing Cultural Anthropology	Mon, 2/25	--Read CC: Chapter 3 (pgs. 47-72) --Read "Army Enlists Anthropology in War Zones" --Complete posted discussions and weekly assignments
Week 5: Language	Mon, 3/4	--Read CC: Chapter 4 (pgs. 73-82) --Read "Everyone Speaks Text Message" --Complete posted discussions and weekly assignments --Reflective Essay: Everyday Talk
Week 6: Marriage	Mon, 3/11	EXAM 1 on Monday, 3/11 --Read CC: Chapter 7 (pgs. 151-162) --Read "When Brothers Share a Wife" --Read "Arranging a Marriage in India" --Complete posted discussions and weekly assignments
Week 7: Family and Kinship	Mon, 3/18	--Read CC: Chapter 7 (pgs. 163-178) --Complete posted discussions and weekly assignments --Reflective Essay: Kinship Interview
Week 8: Sex and Gender	Mon, 3/25	--Read CC: Chapter 8 (pgs. 179-202) --Read "Gender Games" --Complete posted discussions and weekly assignments --Reflective Essay: Gender Roles

Last Day to Add
a Class

Feb. 16 (noon)

Last Day to Drop
WITHOUT a "W"

Feb. 18

Last Day to Drop
with a "W"

May 5

Course Schedule and Assignments, continued

Changes to this schedule may be made as necessary.

TOPIC	WEEK OF:	READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS
Week 9: Spring Break	Mon, 4/1	SPRING BREAK!
Week 10: Religion and Ritual	Mon, 4/8	--Read CC: Chapter 11 (pgs. 255-280) --Read "Baseball Magic" --Complete posted discussions and weekly assignments
Week 11: Making a Living	Mon, 4/15	-- EXAM 2 on Monday, 4/15 --Read CC: Chapter 5 (pgs. 99-124) --Read: "You Are What You Grow" --Complete posted discussions and weekly assignments
Week 12: Economics	Mon, 4/22	--Read CC: Chapter 6 (pgs. 125-150) --Read "Crack in Spanish Harlem: Culture and Economy in the Inner City" --Complete posted discussions and weekly assignments --Reflective Essay: Reciprocity
Week 13: Political Organization and Social Control	Mon, 4/29	--Read CC: Chapter 9 (pgs. 203-228) --Complete posted discussions and weekly assignments
Week 14: Social Stratification	Mon, 5/6	--Read CC: Chapter 10 (pgs. 229-254) --Read "Sick of Poverty" --Complete posted discussions and weekly assignments
Week 15: Globalization and Cultural Change	Mon, 5/13	--Read CC: Chapter 13 (pgs. 305-329) --Read "The Price of Progress" --Complete posted discussions and weekly assignments
Week 16: Applying Cultural Anthropology	Mon, 5/20	--Read CC: Chapter 14 (pgs. 331-354) --Complete posted discussions and weekly assignments
Week 17: Final Exam Period	Mon, 5/27	--Mini-ethnography research paper due by Monday, 5/27
Week 18: Final Exam Period	Mon, 6/3	-- EXAM 3 on Monday, 6/3