**UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN**
Spring 2014 – Department of Anthropology

**ANT 302 CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY**

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<td>31465</td>
<td>TTH F</td>
<td>11:00 - 12:00, 8:00 - 9:00</td>
<td>CLA 0.112, SAC 4.118 Ece Saltan</td>
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<td>31475</td>
<td>TTH M</td>
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<td>CLA 0.112, SAC 4.118 Aniruddhan Vasudevan</td>
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<td>TTH M</td>
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<td>CLA 0.112, SAC 4.118 Aniruddhan Vasudevan</td>
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**Instructor:** Sofian Merabet (sofian.merabet@austin.utexas.edu)
Office hours: Tuesday 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
or by appointment in SAC 5.164

**Teaching Assistants:** Ece Saltan (ecesaltan@gmail.com)
Office hours: Friday 9:00 a.m – 11:00 a.m. (location: TBD)
Aniruddhan Vasudevan (aniruddhan@utexas.edu)
Office hours: Wednesday 2:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. (location: TBD)

**Course Description:**
This course is an introduction to the anthropological study of social and cultural phenomena. It aims at communicating basic thoughts, concepts, and theories that are part of the sub-discipline of cultural anthropology. Based on the required readings, students will be exposed to the ways in which these concepts and theories are applied to the study of contemporary groups of people. Next to discussing some of the important debates in current qualitative social science, we will critically examine four ethnographic studies of four different cultures to understand some of the differences and commonalities of human experience.

**Required Texts:**
Books (listed alphabetically by the author and ordered at the University Co-Op, www.universitycoop.com, 2246 Guadalupe St, Austin, (512) 476-7211):


Additional readings on Blackboard (listed alphabetically by the author):
- Laura Bohannan “Shakespeare in the Bush: An American anthropologist set out to study the Tiv of West Africa and was taught the true meaning of Hamlet” in *Natural History* 75: 1966, pp. 28–33

This course may be used to fulfill the social and behavioral sciences component of the university core curriculum and addresses the following core objectives established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board: communication skills, critical thinking skills, and social responsibility.

Course Requirements for Registered Students:

In combination with the TA-led discussion sections, the lecture class relies on the intellectual commitment and active participation of all students. In order for the lectures to be effective, all students must have the reading assignments completed and ready for in-depth discussion before each meeting.

The use of laptops, cell phones, and all other electronic devices is strictly prohibited!

Regular attendance is required, and so is active participation in the discussion section. Students are encouraged to ask questions and contribute to the discussion in both the section meetings as well as during the lectures. You must come to class having carefully read all materials and be prepared to discuss, question, and argue about issues raised in the readings. It will be beneficial for you to take excerpts/notes on any material that you find enlightening, controversial, or objectionable. You should also take notes in class on themes, key terms, and debates we discuss. These note-taking strategies will be crucial when you study for your exams.

In short:

- Attend all classes (lectures and discussion sections).
- Do all assigned readings (while taking excerpts/notes!) by the date indicated on the syllabus and participate actively in the discussion sections.
- Two written Blue-Book Exams on Thursday, February 6th and, the Final on Thursday, May 1st to be taken during the lecture class and covering a theoretical question based on the assigned readings. All students are responsible to bring their own blue book! THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS!
- One Take-Home Exam to be handed in to the TAs during the lecture class on Tuesday, March 18th [no more than 3-pages (double-spaced/12 point)] (assignment will be posted on blackboard around Spring Break).
- One Three-page paper based on a joint/group project that is based on observation and deals with a topic focusing on some aspect of social life on the UT Austin
campus to be handed in during the final lecture class on **Tuesday, April 8th**. The Project will be first discussed with and approved by the instructor and Teaching Assistants! Groups will be constituted by up to five individuals who are part of the same discussion section. While the final paper version of the group project (*one joint paper for each group*) is due *in Class*, Group Presentations will take place during Discussion Sections on Weeks 11 and 12.

- 10-minute presentations on the respective final ethnographic group project during discussion sections of weeks 11 and 12. They are intended to give general feedback (by TAs and fellow students) to be incorporated in the final version of the written paper.

The two exams and two writing assignments (take-home exam and final group project) are designed to develop critical reading, analytical, and writing skills. Evaluation criteria include: critical and integrative analysis of texts, clarity of thought, ability to synthesize readings and class discussions into your own argument, and ability to formulate a theoretical grounding for it. **A visit to the Undergraduate Writing Center in FAC 211 is highly encouraged.** For the in-class exams, **make sure your handwriting is legible!**

*The new Student Honor Code states: “As a student of The University of Texas at Austin, I shall abide by the core values of the University and uphold academic integrity.”*

**PLAGIARISM/CHEATING:**

Anyone plagiarizing cheating will first be given an “F” (Fail) and a report will be forwarded to the appropriate university authorities.

**Notice regarding academic dishonesty (e.g. Plagiarism)**

- Honor Code or statement of ethics.
  - **University of Texas Honor Code**: Each member of the university is expected to uphold The University of Texas Honor Code through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

*According to the Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary, to "plagiarize" means*

- to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own.
- to use (another's production) without crediting the source.
- to commit literary theft.
- to present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source.
In other words, plagiarism is an act of fraud. It involves both stealing someone else's work and lying about it afterward.

All of the following are considered plagiarism:

- turning in someone else's work as your own.
- copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit.
- failing to put a quotation in quotation marks.
- giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation.
- changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit.
- copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not (see our section on "fair use" rules).

Most cases of plagiarism can be avoided, however, by citing sources. Simply acknowledging that certain material has been borrowed, and providing your readers with the information necessary to find that source, is usually enough to prevent plagiarism.

- Web site for more information:
  - http://www.lib.utexas.edu/services/instruction/learningmodules/plagiarism

Grading Procedure:

- 2 Exams: 40%.
- 1 Take-Home: 20%.
- Final Group Project: 20%.
- Regular attendance/participation: 20%.

Grading Distribution (Letter Grade: Points):

A: 100-95   A-: 94-90   B+: 89-87   B: 86-83   B-: 82-80   C+: 79-77   C: 76-73

Documented Disability Statement:

- Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone) or http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd. Students need to inform the instructor and the teaching assistant(s) about their disability right at the beginning of the semester.
Please note that the instructor reserves the right to make changes in the syllabus when necessary to meet learning objectives.

Reading Schedule: (this schedule is tentative and subject to possible revision)

Week 1: What is Anthropology?
- Tuesday, January 14th Introduction and Orientation

No discussion sections on Week 1!

Week 2: The Practice of Anthropology
- Tuesday, January 21st Laura Bohannan “Shakespeare in the Bush: An American anthropologist set out to study the Tiv of West Africa and was taught the true meaning of Hamlet” in Natural History 75: 1966, pp. 28–33

Week 3: Classical Ethnography (1)
- Tuesday, January 28th I to VI in Mead, Margaret (1928) Coming of Age in Samoa: A Psychological Study of Primitive Youth for Western Civilization, pp. 3-60.
- Thursday, January 30th VII to X in Mead, Margaret (1928) Coming of Age in Samoa: A Psychological Study of Primitive Youth for Western Civilization, pp. 61-109.
Week 4: Classical Ethnography (2)
- Tuesday, February 4th  XI to XIV in Mead, Margaret (1928) *Coming of Age in Samoa: A Psychological Study of Primitive Youth for Western Civilization*, pp. 110-170.

- Thursday, February 6th  **1st in-class Exam!**

Week 5: Classical Social Thought (1)


Week 6: Classical Social Thought (2)


Week 7: African-American Folklore (1)


Week 8: African-American Folklore (2)

- Thursday, March 6th  **Introduction into College Writing UWC Lecture**
Week 9: SPRING BREAK: No Classes!

Week 10: Religion, Magic, and Ritual
- Tuesday, March 18th  
  **Hand in Take-Home Exam! (Questions Posted on Blackboard)**

- Thursday, March 20th  

Week 11: Gender, Sexuality, and the Body
- Tuesday, March 25th  

- Thursday, March 27th  

Week 12: Race, Politics, and the Body in the Caribbean and Texas Borderland Studies (1)
- Tuesday, April 1st  

- Thursday, April 3rd  
  Chapters I and II in Paredes, Américo (1958) “*With His Pistol in His Hand*”: *A Border Ballad and its Hero*, pp. 7-54.

Week 13: Texas Borderland Studies (2)
- Tuesday, April 8th  
  Chapters III and IV in Paredes, Américo (1958) “*With His Pistol in His Hand*”: *A Border Ballad and its Hero*, pp. 55-125.
  **Final paper version of the group project due in Class!**
Group Presentations in Discussion Sections on Weeks 11 and 12.

- Thursday, April 10th

Week 14: Texas Borderland Studies (3) and Middle Eastern Ethnography (1)
- Tuesday, April 15th

- Thursday, April 17th

Week 15: Middle Eastern Ethnography (2)
- Tuesday, April 22nd

- Thursday, April 24th

Week 16: Middle Eastern Ethnography (3)
- Tuesday, April 29th

- Thursday, May 1st
  2nd in-class/Final Exam!

No discussion sections on Week 16!

Emergency Evacuation Policy:

Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside.

Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.
Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class.

In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors.

Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.

Behavior Concerns Advice Line/BCAL: 232-5050

Gerald Robert Harkins Ed.D  
Associate Vice President Campus Safety and Security  
The University of Texas at Austin  
P.O. Box 7546  
Austin, TX 78713-7546  
Phone: 512-471-5767  
Fax: 512-471-5999  
E-mail: bharkins@austin.utexas.edu

Additional Information under: http://www.utexas.edu/emergency/