Ant 302
Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
Fall 2015

Lecture Time/Place: MW: 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm / ART 1.102
Instructor: Omer Ozcan
omrozcan@gmail.com
Office: SAC 5.114
Office Hours: W 3:15 pm - 5:45 pm or by appointment

Teaching Assistants and Discussion Sections:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unique #</th>
<th>Classroom</th>
<th>Day/Time</th>
<th>T.A.</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
<th>Office Hours /Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30310</td>
<td>SAC 4.118</td>
<td>Mon 12:00-1:00 pm</td>
<td>Ernest Alba</td>
<td><a href="mailto:calba@utexas.edu">calba@utexas.edu</a></td>
<td>M 10:30am-12:00 pm SAC 5.114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30315</td>
<td>SAC 4.118</td>
<td>Wed 12:00-1:00 pm</td>
<td>Indu Prasad</td>
<td><a href="mailto:indulata@gmail.com">indulata@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>W 1:00-2:00pm SAC 5.114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30320</td>
<td>SAC 4.118</td>
<td>Mon 1:00-2:00 pm</td>
<td>Ernest Alba</td>
<td><a href="mailto:calba@utexas.edu">calba@utexas.edu</a></td>
<td>M 10:30am-12:00 pm SAC 5.114</td>
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<tr>
<td>30325</td>
<td>SAC 4.118</td>
<td>Wed 1:00-2:00 pm</td>
<td>Abdul Haque Chang</td>
<td><a href="mailto:haq.chang@gmail.com">haq.chang@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>W 3:15-4:45 pm SAC 5.114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30330</td>
<td>SAC 4.118</td>
<td>Fri 1:00-2:00 pm</td>
<td>Abdul Haque Chang</td>
<td><a href="mailto:haq.chang@gmail.com">haq.chang@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>W 3:15-4:45 pm SAC 5.114</td>
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<tr>
<td>30335</td>
<td>SAC 4.118</td>
<td>Wed 4:00-5:00 pm</td>
<td>Ece Saltan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ecesaltan@gmail.com">ecesaltan@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>W 12:00-2:00 pm SAC 5.114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30340</td>
<td>SAC 4.118</td>
<td>Mon 5:00-6:00 pm</td>
<td>Indu Prasad</td>
<td><a href="mailto:indulata@gmail.com">indulata@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>W 1:00-2:00pm SAC 5.114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30345</td>
<td>SAC 4.118</td>
<td>Thurs 5:00-6:00 pm</td>
<td>Ece Saltan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ecesaltan@gmail.com">ecesaltan@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>W 12:00-2:00 pm SAC 5.114</td>
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Course Description:

This is an introductory course designed to introduce students to the central concepts, theories, and debates in Cultural Anthropology. The main goal of this class is to assist students in seeing the world from an anthropological perspective. This means not only making the strange “familiar” but also making the familiar “strange” in an attempt to challenge the “naturalness” of our own beliefs and practices.

Throughout the course of this class we will explore a variety of issues concerning the social and cultural dimensions of human existence, including: language and communication, economy and politics, and inequality and system of hierarchy such as race, class and gender. Upon the completion of this class, student will gain a critical and enhanced understanding of both others’ and their own experiences as cultural beings.
Course Objectives:
After completing this course, students will be able to:

• Discuss the history/significance of Anthropology as a science and academic discipline
• Appreciate the complex diversity of human cultures
• Develop a critical perspective on intersecting forms of power and oppression both locally and globally
• Acquire skills for critical thought and expression of one’s ideas in academic prose

Required Course Readings:
All required textbooks are available at the University Co-op Bookstore. The required textbooks are:


Other articles and book chapters are available for download on Canvas. Films are available at the Fine Arts Library or on the worldwide web for streaming.

Course Requirements and Grading:
Students will succeed in this course by digesting a series of engaging anthropological texts and by attending the scheduled classes ready to participate in conversation and the play of culture. There will be one mid-term exam, one paper, and one final exam for this course. Exams may be made up with confirmed prior consent of the instructor if you have a documented medical or personal reason.

Class Lectures: Students are expected to attend class regularly. Lecture outlines will be post on the course website as ppt documents at the end of each week’s classes. As notes will be available, students are urged to follow the lectures carefully, make selective note taking and participate in class discussions rather than trying to write everything down.

Section Meetings: Attendance and active participation in sections are essential to your success in this class. Attendance will be taken on a daily basis in sections. Taken together, attendance and participation are worth 15% of your grade. Attendance is the beginning of participation, so be in your section on time and with assignments completed on the day they are to be discussed. Participation is not only making constructive comments but also listening respectfully and attentively. It is the responsibility of each member of this class to create an ongoing conversation that can challenge, stimulate, and accept each participant.

You must attend the section for which you are officially enrolled. The section you are assigned is listed on your registration materials by unique number, and is also available through the Canvas. You must attend the section for which you are officially enrolled. If you need to change sections for any reason, you must go through the University administrative system for changing courses.

Films: The written materials will be supplemented with a variety of ethnographic or popular films that will be shown in class. If you miss a film screening you’re required to see it outside the
class. All the films are available at the Fine Arts Library or at the department of Anthropology (SAC 4.102)

**Mid-term and Final Exam:** The midterm exam will be given on a regular class day, and the final exam will be given during the regular final exam period. The final exam will only cover the material studied after the midterm. Both tests will include multiple-choice questions, short essays and one relatively long essay. Questions will include material covered in the assigned readings, lectures, discussions, and films. Make-up exams will only be given in the event of a serious illness or emergency, for which OFFICIAL DOCUMENTATION is required. Students will need to bring their own BLUE BOOK to class on exam dates.

**Paper:** You will be assigned a 5-page paper, which must be typed, double spaced, and turned in the scheduled class date posted in your syllabus. The paper is worth 15% of your overall course grade. It will have several cumulative components, each of which will be graded separately, including a fieldwork component, a data gathering/research component, and an analysis component. The written paper are due on their due dates and will not be accepted after the published due date in the syllabus. The paper must be turned in IN PERSON to your TA—NO emailed assignments will be accepted!

**Grading:** Grades for each assignment will carry the following weight toward your final grade:

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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; Participation in Sections</td>
<td>15%</td>
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**Readings and Syllabus:** All readings will be available on the Course Documents section of Canvas. The syllabus is posted on Canvas and may be modified occasionally in accordance with the needs and interests of the class. Please check the posted syllabus each week. It is expected that students will download or *print out* their assigned readings, read them closely, and bring copies to both lecture and section.

**Plagiarism:** All work submitted must be written by you and for this course. Unacknowledged borrowing constitutes plagiarism, the most serious academic offense, and results in automatic failure for the entire course and possible suspension by the university.

**Office Hours:** This is the best-kept secret of academic life. It is a great way to learn more about the course, your teacher’s expectations, and university life in general. You are invited to see me with or without a specific question.

**Cultural Diversity Flag (CD):**
“The Cultural Diversity requirement increases your familiarity with the variety and richness of the American cultural experience. Courses carrying this flag ask you to explore the beliefs, practices, and histories of at least one cultural group that has experienced persistent
marginalization. Many of these courses also encourage you to reflect on your own cultural experiences.” From http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/flags/students/about/cultural-diversity

**Documented Disability Statement:**
Please let us know right at the beginning of the semester if you have a disability or medical condition that might affect your performance in the class. Contact 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](http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd) and inform the instructor and teaching assistant(s) as soon as possible so any necessary arrangements can be made. Without the proper forms from ODS, you will not be able to get extra time or special accommodations on exams. Any correspondence with the instructor will be kept confidential, but the nature of a discussion course puts significant amounts of attention on individual students.

**Religious Holy Days**
By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

**Undergraduate Writing Center**
Students seeking assistance with writing can contact the Undergraduate Writing Center which offers free, individualized, expert help with writing for any UT undergraduate, by appointment or on a drop-in basis. Here is their website: [http://uwc.utexas.edu/](http://uwc.utexas.edu/)

**Schedules of Lectures and Reading Assignments:**

**Week 1: Aug 26**
**Introduction:**

Introduction to the course, instructor, teaching assistants
No reading assigned.

**NOTE:** Your sections will not meet this first week.

**Week 2: Aug 31, Sep 2**
**Introduction to Culture and Anthropology:**

Readings: Spradley J. and D.M.C (from here on referred to as S&McC): “Culture and Ethnography”, pages 1-5.
Robins, Chapter 1: “How can people begin to understand beliefs and behaviors that are different from their own?” pages 1-15.

**Week 3: Sep 7, Sep 9**
**Culture and Ethnography:**
September 7: Labor Day
Robins: Chapter 1 pages 15-36.

Week 4: Sep 14, Sep 16
Language and Construction of Reality:

Readings: “Whorf Revisited: You Are What You Speak”. (CANVAS)
Robins: Chapter 4: “How Does Language Affect the Meanings People Assign to Experience”, pages 134-142.
Film: American Tongues, by L. Alvarez and A. Kolker

Week 5: Sep 21, 23
Economic & Political Systems:

Week 6: Sep 28, 30
Rethinking the Notions of Progress and Development:

Robbins, Chapter 2: “The Meaning of Progress and Development”, pgs. 52-63
Film: Cannibal Tours, by Dennis O’Rourke

Week 7: Oct 5, 7
Understanding Culture; Review:

Oct, 12 Midterm Review in Class
Oct, 14 In Class Midterm: You will need a blue book.

Week 8: Oct 12, 14
Capitalism and Commodity Production:

Readings: Jeffrey Mantz: Blood Diamonds of the Digital Age: Coltan and the Eastern Congo
(available at: http://www.globality-gmu.net/archives/322, and on Canvas)
Pual Farmer: On Suffering and Structural Violence (on Canvas)
Commodity Chain Assignment handed out
Week 9: Oct 19, 21  
Class & Ideology:

MacLeod, Ain’t No Makin’ It, pages 3-11, 25-60.

Week 10: Oct, 26, 28  
Anthropological Approach to Race:

MacLeod, Ain’t No Makin’ It, pages 61-112.  
Film: Race: The Power of an Illusion, PBS Documentary. (Fine Arts Lib, DVD 4263)

Week 11: Nov 2, 4  
Race & Racism:

Readings: Hill, Everyday Language of White Racism. (Canvas Document)  
Lipsitz, G. How Racism Takes Place (Canvas Document)  
MacLeod, Ain’t No Making It, pages 112-151.

Week 12: Nov 9, 11  
Sex & Gender:

Readings: Nanda, S. & R.L.W Culture Counts. pages 180-200 (Canvas)  
MacLeod, Ain’t No Makin’ It, pages 155-194.  
Film: Killing Us Softly 3, by Jeanne Kilbourne. (Fine Arts Lib, VIDCASS 10044)

Week 13: Nov 16, 18  
Gender, Power & Inequality:

Readings: Crenshaw, K. “Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color.” (Canvas)  
MacLeod, Ain’t No Makin’ It, pages 196-239.  
Film: Tough Guise, by Sut Jally. (Fine Arts Lib, DVD 4822)

November 23: Writing Assignment due in Class

Week 14: Nov 23, 25  
Globalization:

“Cocaine and the Economic Deterioration of Bolivia”, pages 156-167. (CANVAS)  
“The Kayapo Resistance”, pages 385-403. (CANVAS)  
MacLeod, Ain’t No Makin’ It, pages 239-270.  
Film: Life and Debt, by Jamaica Kincaid (Fine Arts Lib.,VIDCASS 10197)
Week 15: Nov 30, Dec 2
Careers in Anthropology, Wrap up, Course evaluations:

Readings: S&McC “Public Interest Ethnography: Women’s Prisons and Health Care in California’ pages, 361-372
S&McC “Using Anthropology” pages 373-384
“Advice for Anthropology Undergraduates” pages 382-390. (CANVAS)