### ANT 302 CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

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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:**
- Indulata Prasad (indulata@utexas.edu)
  Office hours: Friday 9 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. in SAC 5.114
- Ece Saltan (ecesaltan@gmail.com)
  Office hours: Monday 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 pm. in SAC 5.114

**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 three 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 Canvas (listed alphabetically by author's last name):
- 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
- Steven Gregory “Race, Identity, and the Body Politic” Chapter 5 in *The Devil behind the Mirror: Globalization and Politics in the Dominican Republic,* California, 2007, pp. 166-208
- Amin Maalouf “From The Crusades through Arab Eyes” in *What the Rest Think of the West, Since 600 AD,* selected and with commentary by Laura Nader, Berkeley: University of California press, 2015, pp. 10-27
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 **Monday, February 15th** and, the Final on **Wednesday, May 4th** 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!**
- Two Take-Home Exams to be handed in to the TAs during the lecture class on **Monday, March 21st** and **Monday, April 11th** (exactly 3-pages (double-spaced/12 point/Times Roman)) (assignment will be posted on Canvas the Friday before it is due).
The **two blue-book exams** and **two take-home exams** 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 The Perry-Castaneda Library, 101 E 21st St #2.330 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 Blue-Book Exams: 40%.
- 2 Take-Home Exams: 40%
- 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?**
- Wednesday, January 20th  Introduction and Orientation
  *No discussion sections on week 1!*

**Week 2: The Practice of Anthropology**
- Monday, January 25th  “From The Crusades through Arab Eyes, by Amin Maalouf, 1984” in *What the Rest Think of the West, Since*
600 AD, selected and with commentary by Laura Nader, Berkeley: University of California press, 2015, pp. 10-27


Week 3: The Complexity of the Ethnographic Field Site
- Monday, February 1st  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 4: British Social Anthropology (1)


Week 5: British Social Anthropology (2)
- Monday, February 15th  **1st in-class Exam!**


Week 6: Classical Social Thought (1)

Week 7: Classical Social Thought (2)

Week 8: Between British Social Anthropology and American Cultural Anthropology (1)
- Wednesday, March 9th In-Class Visit by a Staff Member of the Undergraduate Writing Center

Week 9: Spring Break

Week 10: Between British Social Anthropology and American Cultural Anthropology (2)

Hand in 1st Take-Home Exam! (Questions Posted on Canvas on Friday, March 18th)


Week 11: Religion, Magic, and Ritual

**Week 12: Gender, Sexuality, and the Body**


**Week 13: Race, Politics, and the Body**
- Monday, April 11th  **Hand in 2nd Take-Home Exam! (Questions Posted on Canvas on Friday, April 8th)**


**Week 14: Reading a Contemporary Ethnography (1)**


**Week 15: Reading a Contemporary Ethnography (2)**

**Week 16: Reading a Contemporary Ethnography (2)**
- Monday, May 2
  - General Review Session
- Wednesday, May 4
  - 2nd in-class 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: <mailto:bharkins@austin.utexas.edu>
Additional Information under: [http://www.utexas.edu/emergency/](http://www.utexas.edu/emergency/)