Objectives: This class has two objectives. The first is to present students with an overview of the idea of culture and a general survey of the anthropological perspective on the realms of human meaning. The second objective is to engage students in a more detailed glimpse of one broad cultural order: modern industrialism and capitalist society. This course progresses from a basic groundwork for cultural analysis to a more developed examination of the cultural forms that structure our daily lives. We will conclude this course by considering how the emergence of the postindustrial economy and the diffuse process of globalization are changing cultural identities.

Dynamics: The lectures and readings will present various aspects of cultural phenomenon, using examples drawn from around the globe and our everyday lives. You must read the required texts and attend class daily if you want to understand and benefit from the lectures and class discussions. Discussions will be geared towards clarifying texts and grappling with the insights and issues raised in lectures, readings, and films.

Grading and Course Requirements: Evaluations in this course will be based on two exams and one ethnographic project. The first exam will cover roughly the first eight weeks of the course, and the second one will cover the remainder; each will represent 30% of your grade. The ethnographic project will also account for 30% of your overall grade. Class participation (i.e. active involvement in discussions, attendance, etc.) will count for 10% of the final grade.

Attendance Policy: Attendance for lectures is expected and is mandatory for discussion sections. Students with three or more unexcused absences from discussions will have their final evaluation reduced by at least one letter grade.

Texts:
The Tapestry of Culture: An Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, by Rosman and Rubel. Culture Builders: A Historical Anthropology of Middle-Class life, by Frykman and Lofgren. Driving After Class: Anxious Times in an American Suburb, Rachel Heiman. Additional readings will be posted on Canvas.

Class Schedule:

Week 1
August 30: Introduction.

Week 2
Readings: Tapestry, Chapter 1. September 6: Culture
Week 3
Readings: Tapestry, Chapter 2.
September 11: Ethnography
September 13: Social Organization

Week 4
September 18: Ritual
September 20: Ritual

Week 5
Readings: Tapestry, Chapter 3 & 4.
September 25: Language & Culture
September 27: Learning Culture

Week 6
Readings: Tapestry, Chapter 5.
October 2: Symbols
October 4: Symbols

Week 7
Readings: Tapestry, Chapter 11.
October 9: Myth
October 11: Myth

Week 8
Readings: Tapestry, Chapter 6 & 10.
October 16: Kinship
October 18: Religion

Week 9 [ethnographic research topics due in disc. sections]
October 25: 1st EXAM
October 27: Economics; Readings: Tapestry, Chapter 8

Week 10
Readings: Tapestry, Chapter 9; Culture Builders, Chapters 1-2.
October 30: Power
November 1: Industrial Society

Week 11
Readings: Culture Builders, Chapters 3-6.
November 6: Industrial Society
November 8: Industrial Society

Week 12
November 13: Class Culture in the U.S.
November 15: Class Culture in the U.S.

**Week 13**
Readings: *Driving*, Chapters 5-6.
November 20: Class Culture in the U.S.

**Week 14**
November 27: Nations and Transnational Identity
November 29: Nations and Transnational Identity

**Week 15**
Readings: *Tapestry*, Chapter 12.
December 4: Artistic Dimensions

December 6: Concluding reflections.

**Last Class**
December 11: 2ND EXAM.
Ethnographic project: (7 pgs, due December 15th) Based on interviews and additional observations, you will write an ethnographic analysis of a cultural setting or dynamic in Austin. The goals are 1) to apply what you have learned about culture in this course; 2) to develop some facility with ethnographic observation and description. You will be presented with numerous examples of such projects over the course of the semester. As well, these projects will be the subject of extensive consideration in the weekly discussion sections. These projects will be your opportunity to try out this approach to social science research. Your project may be comparative, by trying to compare one or more settings, or you could singularly focus on just one location. Ethnographic research is assembled from an array of preliminary tasks, which will be covered and assessed in discussion sections over the last few weeks of the term. Such preliminary tasks include:

= Identify your cultural assumptions and orientations.
= Formulating a cultural question or frame of analysis.
= Practicing techniques of observation and interviewing.
= Identifying relevant units of analysis.
= Analyzing portions of interviews.

A detailed rubric for this assignment will be presented and discussed during a lecture session.

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 512-471-6259, http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/.

Penalties for violation of this Code can include failure of the course and University disciplinary action.