



ANTH 101 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology Spring 2022

Instructor: Dr. Shabana Mir

Class schedule: Tuesday 3-5:30 pm

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Instructor Office (Bldg. Rm.) 113

Office Hours: Virtual, by appointment

This course is designed to introduce students to the methods, theories, and concepts of cultural anthropology. Cultural anthropology is a social science that provides a comprehensive understanding of human diversity. In this course we will focus on the basic concepts used by anthropologists in order to compare and contrast how living people with different cultural traditions conduct their everyday lives.



Q: What kind of relationship is there between Uyghur women and Chinese state soldiers? What effect does this have on a) dominant Han culture and b) Uyghur Muslim culture?

Learning Outcomes

Student will be able to:

1. Identify the work that anthropologists do.
2. Define basic anthropological concepts.
3. Describe anthropological theories to explain human behavior.
4. Discuss the way anthropology has been used to work on contemporary problems.
5. Describe the key method of cultural anthropology—ethnography.
6. Students will assess anthropological research conducted in Muslim settings.
7. Students will apply basic ethnographic skills in a research project.

Students will be able to identify, define, explain, and provide examples for central concepts of cultural anthropology in classroom discussions and written papers. Students will apply anthropological concepts to the



analysis of a setting via the close study of readings. This learning will be evaluated in classroom discussion and written assignments.

Texts

Spradley, J. and D. McCurdy. (2011), *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, 14th edition, Pearson. (There are multiple editions of this book. please acquire the 14th edition!)

Additional articles to be announced. Check Populi.

Grade

Component	What is this and what purpose does it serve in its culture?	
Participation	30	
10 Populi posts		100
Presentations	30	
Research project	40	
		200

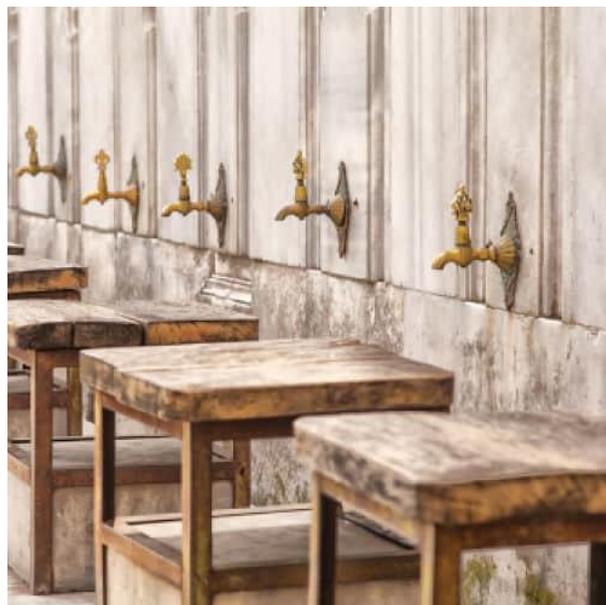
Class Participation: The participation grade reflects the importance of classroom learning in this class. Please be in class and prepared to engage from start to finish of class. Class participation means you must do the following three things: a) be attentive b) make *relevant, substantive* comments c) be prepared i.e. have thoroughly completed reading/written work *before* class starts.

Populi Posts: On 10 days this semester, you will post at Populi Discussions at least *one day before class*. On each of these days, respond to the question or prompt for the week. Use your own words to respond to the question or prompt in 200 words minimum. Don't use direct quotes. Refer to the ideas in the assigned reading for that week by providing in-text citations only. Brief and superficial posts get little or no credit. Late posts miss the entire point of the assignment, so they get NO credit.

Reflection Journal Your *last* Populi Post will comprise a reflection journal regarding your learning experience this semester. This reflection journal will be a document that you should add to throughout the semester to record the progress of your learning. In this journal, take note of:

- Areas you found interesting in the readings that you'd like to explore further
- What you learned that was surprising or strange
- Which sources did you learn most from?
- Which did you learn least from, and why was that?

Class Presentations: On two class days this semester, you will spend 10 minutes or more clearly explaining in your own words, with examples, an assigned concept, issue, or phenomenon from the reading with some additional research or critique. Points are deducted for being unprepared or for being a no-show on assigned dates. I will assign presentation topics at least 1 week in advance.



Research Project: The purpose of this Project is to give you some practical experience of ethnography. An ethnographer is a cultural anthropologist who does research on a cultural group. For this project, you will do a 1 hour observation of a cultural setting (examples: a mosque, a virtual group, a Facebook group) where you are not directly involved in the activities. You will submit your Fieldnotes: 3-page description of what you observed, heard, etc. during this time. You will also conduct a 50-minute interview with a person in the cultural group and write a 3-page analysis. Then based on these data gathering activities, you will write about the culture of the group.

Extra Credit: One Extra Credit assignment, worth up to 10 points, is offered but not required. The paper will be evaluated for quality. You may attend a public event or lecture, 1 hour or more, related to the topics in this course. You must write a minimum 2-page paper discussing the event, using terms and concepts introduced during the course. You must have it approved by me in advance.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance

I adhere to the University policy on attendance. If you miss day 1 of classes, it is your responsibility to read and understand the course. Attendance is compulsory in all courses, lectures, and required class meetings. If a student has accumulated unexcused absences that amount to more than 20% of the total number of class contact hours, he/she may be dropped from the course automatically with grade of 'W.' If such poor attendance occurs in more than 1 course, a student may be suspended from the College. See *Student Handbook*. You can't get a participation point if you're absent!

Be on time. Stay for the duration of class.

Disability Students with disabilities who require accommodations should notify the instructor and Director of Student Services by filing for disability within the 1st week of the semester.

Emergency Evacuation In the case of an emergency that requires full building evacuation, students must follow the safety procedures outlined in the Student Handbook and the evacuation plan located in each classroom. If a faculty member is present, the students should follow the faculty's lead in exiting the building by using the nearest exit.

Acad What does the cartoon say about masculinity? port is administered. At that time, it is the student's responsibility to bring a progress report to the instructor, so that the instructor may relay a student's progress and discuss any issues related to attendance, missing assignments, etc. The progress report may also be discussed with the student advisor. This is an opportunity for the student to improve his/her grade.



Academic Dishonesty, Dismissal and Appeal AIC will not tolerate academic dishonesty. Students have an obligation to maintain a high degree of academic integrity and to behave honestly and fairly with other students, their property, members of the College community, College guests, and College property. Any violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action ranging from warning to expulsion from the College. Please consult the Student Handbook. It is your responsibility to educate yourself about what plagiarism entails. Plagiarism can

result in a failing grade for the paper and/or the course, academic suspension, or even expulsion from the College.

Plagiarism occurs when one: 1) Uses another's work without proper citation, 2) Takes another's work and passes it off as his/her own, 3) Takes exact wording without proper citations, 4) Paraphrases another's work without proper citations.

Collaboration policy: You are encouraged to study with other students in class and to work together on homework problems. You will learn more by complementing your individual study with peer discussions than you will by just studying by yourself. However, you must turn in your own work. If you copy someone else's work (someone in the class, someone outside the class, a book, article, website, etc.), it is plagiarism.

Grade discussions: I do not discuss grades on the day that an assignment is returned. When graded work is returned, the student must wait 24 hours before coming to talk with me about his grade. During that time period, I expect the student to read my comments and seek to understand the reasons why I assigned the grade that I did. If a student has questions that are not addressed by my written comments, she should schedule an appointment.



AIC Credit Hour Definition The amount of work accomplished by a student is expressed in semester hours. In general, one semester hour represents one hour of class. For every credit hour of direct instruction, the student is expected to spend a minimum of 2 additional hours outside of class time, e.g. class assignments, homework, projects, etc., in addition to study time.

Assignment Requirements **Assignment Format**

Use MS Word 2007, 12 point font (Times New Roman, Book Antiqua or similar), 1" margins, double-spaced. Use page numbers, and provide a word count. All assignments should start at the top of page 2. Use a cover page that provides the title, your name, course information, and date. Avoid repetition, vague statements, unsupported claims, informal comments, etc.

I only accept assignments at Populi. I do not accept attachments to e-mails or hard copies. If an assignment is misplaced because you did not upload it to Populi, I will not be responsible. This requirement ensures that we have a mutually verifiable record that your work was completed and submitted on time.) Students must download the graded assignment, and peruse the entire assignment and embedded feedback, especially concluding comments.

Work well before your deadlines, and please avoid writing a paper from scratch the night before it is due. Such papers are poorly conceived, badly written, and as difficult to read (for the instructor) as they were painful to write (for the student).

Resubmission: At times, when a paper fails to meet the *primary* guidelines and expectations for that assignment, I *may* return it to the student to resubmit. A resubmission will receive a deduction up to 15%. No student may have more than 1 re-submission.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Tentative. Changes will be announced

Anna -feb 2

Date	Topic	Reading
Jan 25	Welcome	Syllabus Home Front (Muhammad Kurd) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4YQszhJ3acs Nanook and representation https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cqiRia35QBQ Homeless in Chicago https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KNupL6D_G1E
Jan 25	Culture & Ethnography	Conformity, Part I: Ch 1 & Ch 2, (pp 1-22) Populi post 1: Respond to any one of the questions listed on p. 22. Given that culture is both tacit and explicit, what challenges would an anthropologist face in ethnography? What does she need to do to get an insider's view? Think about your research project
Feb 1	Ethnography of women who wear burqa	Guest professor: Dr. Anna Piela
Feb 8	Culture & Ethnography	Part I, Ch. 1 and Ch 3 Populi post 2 Niloofar Haeri, The private performance of salat prayers
Feb 15	Language & Communication	Part II, Ch. 5, 7, 8 Populi post 3
Feb 22	Ecology & Subsistence	Part III Populi post 4 (Research topic)
Mar 1	Economic Systems	Part 4 Populi post 5 (Research topic abstract) Optional: Kamran Asdar Ali, Karachi's poor women
Mar 7-11	Spring break	
Mar 15	Family	Part 5 Populi post 6 (Observations)
Mar 22	Law & Politics	Part 7 Populi post 7
Mar 29	Religion	Part 8 Populi post 8 https://t.co/NYkf5nJHEj
Apr 5	Islamic metaphysicals	Part 9 (Interview) Alireza Doostdar, excerpt, <i>The Iranian Metaphysicals</i> https://religiondispatches.org/occultism-and-new-age-take-off-in-iran-an-interview-with-alireza-doostdar/
Apr 12	Campus Islam	Mir, TBA Populi post 9
Apr 19	Islam and anthropology	Howe, <i>Suburban Islam</i>

		Draft of Research Project due
Apr 26	Humor and US Islam	Samah Chaudhry, TBA
May 3	Presentations	TBA Populi post 10: Reflection journal
=		Research Project due