

Sul Ross State University
SYLLABUS
ANTH 1301:001
Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
Spring 2015

Instructor: Samuel Cason

Office location: Ferguson Hall, Room 114F (Center for Big Bend Studies)

Office hours: T, Th 3:30-4:45

Phone: 432-837-8823

Email: scason@sulross.edu

Required Texts: 2008 Haviland, Prins, Walrath, and McBride, *Cultural Anthropology, the Human Challenge* (12th edition). The instructor will provide supplemental readings where appropriate.

Course Description: This course will provide an overview of Cultural Anthropology, a subdiscipline of Anthropology. We will begin with a discussion of anthropology and the various subdisciplines (Cultural, Linguistics, Physical, and Archaeology). Progressively, we will discuss the concept of the term culture, then consider how aspects of the human experience are examined by anthropological investigations.

Goals and Objectives—Students will acquire background knowledge in the following areas:

- the four subdisciplines of Anthropology
- history of Anthropology and the development of anthropological theories
- the complex and often conflicting underpinnings of the term *culture*
- an exploration of the numerous realms of human behavior and culture
- biocultural connection: the relationship between biology, learned/taught ideas (culture) and the wide range of diverse human behaviors
- the importance of critical thinking and the application of the scientific method in social science
- an appreciation of human diversity across the globe and in our own communities, and subsequently, a critique of different explanations for cultural diversity
- appreciation of the *nature vs. nurture* debate in anthropological theory

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Grading: Students' final grades will be based on seven components, consisting of two equally weighted exams spread over the semester, one research project with a class presentation, two film projects, outlines of weekly readings, and class participation.

Component	Percent of Final Grade
Exam 1	22
Exam 2	22
Small Project 1	4
Small Project 2	4
Research Project	20
Weekly Outlines	20
Participation	8
	100

The two exams will address material from roughly each half of the class, and each is worth 22% of the final grade. A research project (20% of the final grade) will necessitate students to explore different realms of human behavior. A brief (10-15 minute) in-class presentation of the research will also be required. Required readings will be supplied for each week, and students will be expected to prepare short (roughly 1 page) outlines of the material (20% of final grade). For class participation (8% of final grade) students will be expected to contribute brief discussion in class based on their outlines (e.g., main points, critique, questions). Two smaller projects will additional grade points (4% each).

Attendance policy: Three absences will be allowed, and students will be required to obtain notes and/or an outline of topics from fellow students and the instructor. Students' final grade will be deducted ½ a letter grade for each absence beyond the allowance. However, if you find yourself with an emergency where you need more than three days, you need to consult with you instructor to work something out. Punctuality will be required, and excessive late arrivals or premature departures will result in a reduction in the student's final grade.