

Syllabus: Anthropology 234 American Life and Culture

Winter 2015

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Office Hours	Online, by appointment, or Tuesdays at 8:30 am – 10:00 am by phone, email or in office.

WELCOME TO AMERICAN LIFE AND CULTURE

This course provides a view of American culture from the broad lens of anthropology. Students will be exposed to theoretical approaches and concepts that will enhance their understanding of American culture from a number of perspectives. We will begin by looking at what exactly is American culture? It is generally quite difficult to critically examine that which is closest to us, but in this class that is exactly what we intend to do. In other words, our goal is to attempt to view American culture from an etic (or outsider's perspective) to gain insight into aspects of life we may take for granted as insiders or participants within that culture. We will explore intersections of American society like family, gender, and ethnicity, and this will enhance our understanding of the interactions and norms that structure our social world. In particular we will examine how these variables are constructed within the realm of American popular culture (e.g. movies, television and sports) and how this is relevant to our everyday lives.

Course Objectives and Outcomes

Anthropology 180 is a 5-credit course that introduces you to the discipline of anthropology as a way to provide insights into American culture. You are exposed to the basic underlying principles, theories, and methods of anthropology through lecture slides, textbook readings, articles, discussions, and visual materials. The following are the outcomes of this course

- Acquire an understanding of a variety of cultural anthropological methods (e.g. semi-structured interviews, participant observation)
- Acquire an understanding of key principles such as ethnocentrism, comparative methods and holism\
- Analyze current theoretical/anthropological views of social variables (such as ethnicity, language and gender)

- Recognize how social variables are constructed, represented and influenced in American popular culture
- Appreciate insights about American culture from a foreign perspective of the US

Books and Materials Required

TWO REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

1. DeVita, Philip R., editor, 2002. Distant Mirrors. America as a Foreign Culture. Wadsworth Thomson Learning.
2. Boulanger, Claire L., editor, 2008. Reflecting on America. Anthropological Views of U.S. Culture. Pearson Publishing.
3. Additional articles will be assigned throughout the quarter and posted online,

Course Requirements: NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED. As this is an online course there is plenty of time to complete assignments. Plan ahead.

The Syllabus:

You are required to review this entire syllabus and the Procedures and Guidelines of the Social Science Division. Enrollment in the course constitutes an agreement to abide by the policies set forth in these items. You will be required to complete the Course Agreement/Syllabus Quiz as soon as possible.

Participation

You are expected to log on to Canvas at least **four different days per week**, more would be favorable. This can be for lectures, discussions, activities or other postings, or to check for announcements or emails. It is important that you check frequently as new information or directions may be posted at any time. As the instructors I can see what course elements you are looking at and how long you are looking at them. These points are an all or nothing case per week. If you log in four times during a week you will get the points, if not, you will not get the points. These points will not appear in the grade book until the end of the quarter.

Fieldwork Activities (4)

A hallmark of Anthropology is fieldwork. There are a total of 6 fieldwork activities for this course and one fieldwork reflection. These fieldwork activities are designed to reinforce key concepts from the course, enhance your knowledge of course material, and provide you with a hands-on learning experience

Discussions (4) (Not including the Week 1 Introduction)

A major part of the learning in this class comes from the exchange of ideas with other students. There are four discussions total about topics relevant to the course (Note: the introductory discussion is graded as credit/ no credit). The discussion topic will be provided to you and there will usually be a reading to tie in the discussion to the week's material.

There are 3 steps to the discussion: (Please review the document regarding Online Discussions for more detailed information)

1. When there is an article that is the focus of the discussion, read it first and think about the material.
2. Each student is to post an initial commentary (i.e., your informed analysis about the article in response to the question provided). This step must occur BEFORE Friday at 12:00 pm. Each initial commentary should be well written, proofread for grammatical and spelling errors, and substantive in content. About 400-600 words is an estimate of what is expected for an initial commentary. If you use any source at all, you must cite it. NO Wikipedia. Period.
3. Each student will comment on the initial posting of 2 other students. This step of the discussion will begin at 12:01 pm on Fridays. Points will not be given if you comment on others' posts before 12:01 pm on Friday. All comments must be posted before the following Monday at 11:59 pm. Each response posting should be about 150 words. Responses such as "I agree" or "Terrific job" do not count for credit. If you use any source at all, you must cite it. NO Wikipedia. Period. All postings should be **thoughtful, informed, respectful, substantive, and constructive**. Remember you are not critiquing someone else, you can agree or disagree respectfully, but it is not your job to tear down someone else's views. If you miss a discussion, you cannot make it up. There are NO exceptions. The discussion is closed at the end of each assigned online week on Monday night 11:59 pm.

I am looking for College level work. If you need help with this please contact me or consult the writing center.

Quizzes (3) and Final Exam

A major part of your course grade will be derived from three quizzes and a comprehensive final. The Final Exam will be cumulative, meaning that it covers everything since the start of the quarter. Questions are derived from assigned readings, lectures, videos, exercises, discussions, and any other instructional material presented in class. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated (see below). Conduct during tests will comply with the College policy for academic honesty.

IMPORTANT CLASS POLICIES

If you are enrolled in this class you are agreeing to adhere to all components of this syllabus and in particular:

1. NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED!

2. Students are required to have a back-up plan in the event they experience technological difficulties. (Get work done prior to deadlines, have a friend or family member or library you could turn to in case your computer crashes etc.)

3. Be aware of the rhythm of this class: IF YOU CANNOT ADJUST YOUR SCHEDULE TO THE RHYTHM OF THE CLASS, YOU WILL HAVE A DIFFICULT TIME SUCCEEDING IN THIS COURSE. The on-line class has a very different rhythm from on-campus classes, and each on-line course is different from other on-line courses. In this class, the first day of the 'on-line week' begins on a Tuesday morning at 8:00 AM and runs until a Monday night at 11:59 PM when all work for that week must be completed.

4. Students must maintain respect for their professor and fellow classmates at ALL times.

GRADING

Participation	100 pts
Discussion	4 x 25 pts = 100 pts
Activities	4 x 25 pts = 100 pts
Quizzes	3 x 100 pts = 300 pts
Final Exam	150 pts

Grade	Point Value	Grade	Point Value	Grade	Point Value	Grade	Point Value
A = 100 – 93%	750 – 697	B = 86 – 83%	651 – 622	C = 76 – 73%	576 – 547	D = 65% 60%	494 - 450
A- = 92 – 90%	696 – 675	B- = 82 – 80%	621 – 600	C- = 72 – 70%	546 – 525	F = <59%	449 and below
B+ = 89 – 87%	674 – 652	C+ = 79 – 77%	599 – 577	D+ = 69 – 66%	524 – 495		

A Note About Course Content

Since anthropologists examine just about every aspect of the social world, we talk about provocative material. Please be advised that we will likely explore controversial topics, they will always be framed within an academic context. Please be respectful in your comments and questions but also keep an open mind. When we find ourselves in a space outside of our comfort zone, it provides a great

example of our own cultural constructs and is a powerful opportunity for learning. If you have any questions or concerns about content or climate send me an email.

Classroom Learning Atmosphere:

General Class Conduct

It is important to make sure that the online classroom environment is as conducive to scholarship as possible. You are encouraged to participate in discussions of the theories and concepts that will be presented to the class, as long as they pertain to class material. You are required to be respectful of your fellow classmates and your professor. Remember this course is conducted through online communication and sometimes we do not have the benefit of tone or body language to help us understand meaning. Thus, please assume the best of one another, but be very cautious and thoughtful of how your own words might be interpreted by others.

Please contact your professor via email IMMEDIATELY if there is a problem or inappropriate comment.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Cheating or plagiarism is legitimate grounds for failing the course. Cheating behavior on tests includes, but is not limited to: keeping texts open for closed book exams, asking another student or individual for answers, keeping other browser windows open, assisting another student with cheating and anything else deemed dishonest.

Written Work:

Preventing Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty occurring when students use information or material from outside sources and do not properly cite those sources. This is grounds for disciplinary action. It is your responsibility to understand plagiarism and its consequences.

Plagiarism occurs if:

- a. You do not cite quotations and/or attribute borrowed ideas.
- b. You fail to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks.
- c. You do not write summaries and paraphrases in his/her own words and/or doesn't document his/her source.
- d. You turn in work created by another person.
- e. You submit or use your own prior work for a current or past course, or work from one current course in another course without express permission from your instructors. This may also be considered academic dishonesty.
- f. **Consequences:** If it is determined that you have plagiarized or engaged in other forms of academic dishonesty, you will likely fail the assignment and possibly the course, despite points earned through other work. Acts of academic dishonesty are reviewed for disciplinary action.

For all of your written work: Submit proofread work only. If you need help with your writing, please make use of the following student support services at the Academic Success/Tutoring Center or Writing Lab.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The Disability Resource Center serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact us as soon as possible. If you are a student with a documented autism spectrum disorder, there is a program of support available to you. If you are a person who requires assistance in case of an emergency situation, such as a fire, earthquake, etc, please meet with your individual instructors to develop a safety plan within the first week of the quarter. The DRC office is located in B 132 or you can call our reception desk at

425.564.2498. Deaf students can reach us by video phone at 425-440-2025 or by TTY at 425-564-4110. Please visit our website for application information into our program and other helpful links at www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc ([Links to an external site.](#))

PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION Winter 2015

- http://bellevuecollege.edu/socsci/student_policies.asp ([Links to an external site.](#))

- Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing: Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Dean of Student Services.

- Incomplete: If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete ("I"). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an "F").

- F Grade: Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F."

- Final Examination Schedule: The Social Science Division will adhere to the final examination schedule as stated in the BC Schedule. Final examinations will be held at the end of each quarter at fixed times. Instructors will not give examinations in advance of the regular schedule. A student who is absent from any examination held at any time during the quarter may forfeit the right to make up the examination. If, for illness or some other circumstance beyond the student's control, the student is unable to be

present at any scheduled examination and has contacted the instructor on a timely basis, the student may be permitted to take such examination at a time designated by the instructor.

- **Withdrawal From Class:** College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the seventh week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.
- **Hardship Withdrawal:** Instructors may assign the grade of “HW” (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.
- **Students Who Require Disability Accommodations:** Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to meet with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) office located in D125 inside the library (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who require accommodation in class should review the DRC accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.
- **Distribution of Grades:** Grades will not be posted in the Social Science Division or in faculty offices, and secretaries will not give out grades. Students should access their grades through the BC Web site.
- **Return of Papers and Tests:** Paper and/or Scantron score sheet returns will be arranged in the following ways ONLY: by mail, if student supplies the instructor with stamped, self-addressed envelope (with appropriate postage); or by the instructor designating a time and place whereby the student may retrieve his/her papers. Unclaimed papers and/or Scantron score sheets must be kept by the instructor for a minimum of sixty (60) instructional days following the end of the quarter.
- [1] If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (D110), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.