



Anth180/CES 180 American Life and Culture Syllabus

5063/5641 Spring 2014

Instructor: Dr. Julie Smith

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Office location: D200

Office Hours: By appointment online

Course Information

Course Outcomes

After completing this course, students should be able to:

- Identify the various components of the culture concept and how this concept applies to Americans.
- Analyze contemporary anthropological views on ethnicity and nationalism, economic power and politics, and social characteristics (e.g., family, gender, etc.), as these views pertain to American culture and history.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the complex history of multicultural America, with an emphasis on immigration and inequality.
- Appreciate insights about American culture from a foreign perspective of the USA.
- Situate American culture and society in the context of a globalized world and with respect to major global issues.

Outcomes will be met with discussions, quizzes, exams and a final project

Discussions: Students will be given three discussion points each week, similar to short essay answers or definitions for key terms. These are usually 2 questions from the readings and 1 question that covers aspects of American history and which each student will research online. The key terms should be defined by online dictionaries, making sure you look for a social science or anthropological definition--remember words have many meanings. If you are not sure how to conduct research online please visit the Library Media Center online and look at their resources.

By Friday of each week students will need to post their 3 or 4 (some weeks will have 3 and some will have 4) points in the Discussion area. Then by the end of the week, Sunday, they will need to post 4 (in total) responses to other student's discussions.

Discussion is very important in an online course and it is an excellent tool for students to help each other and show what they have understood from the readings. There is also a space in discussion for any questions you may have about the weekly readings.

Students will be expected to be courteous to each other at all times.

Discussion is not graded for content but for participation so please contribute since it raises your overall grade.

Quizzes: There will be three quizzes in Weeks 2, 5, and 7, based on the weekly readings and discussions. The quizzes will consist of key term definitions from class and two short essay questions taken from weekly discussions.

The Final Exam will be a combination of discussion questions from the entire course.

Presentation: Due the end of the last week of class this is a required 3 to 5 page paper in which you will conduct a mini-fieldwork project. I will send out some ideas in the 3rd week.

Grading		
Discussions	30 points each 9 out of	270 total points
Quizzes	3 at 100 Points each	300 total points
Presentation		200 points
Final Exam		230 total points
Total points		1000

Late work will not receive full points, especially with discussions. If you are having problems please email me at the time you have problems--and not afterwards.

GRADE CALCULATIONS IN THIS CLASS Course Grade	Decimal	Percentage Scale	Corresponding Point Value
A	4.0	92-100%	920-1000 points
A-	3.7	90-91%	900-919 points
B+	3.3	88-89%	880-899 points
B	3.0	82-87%	820-879 points
B-	2.7	80-81%	800-819 points
C+	2.3	78-79%	780-799 points
C	2.0	72-77%	720-779 points
C-	1.7	70-71%	700-719 points
D+	1.3	68-69%	680-699 points
D	1.0	50%-67%	500-679 points
F	0	<50%	0-499 points

The link to the College Grading Policy is located on page 10 of the Course Catalog and also on the web at: http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/3/3000_grading.asp.

Books and Materials Required

Boulanger, Claire L., editor, 2008. *Reflecting on America. Anthropological Views of U.S. Culture*. Pearson Publishing.

DeVita, Philip R., editor, 2002. *Distant Mirrors. America as a Foreign Culture*. Wadsworth Thomson Learning.

The text books are on reserve in the Library Media Center so you can read or take notes. You can also rent these books online for a minimal payment, buy them used or at the BC Bookstore.

Classroom Learning Atmosphere

Instructor's Expectation

We will observe the following guidelines for discussion.

Online discussions and emails must be written in a way that does not offend or upset the recipient. Please use courtesy at all times in this course.

1. We are not here to persuade others to our point of view; rather to

examine the merits of each position, based on evidence.

2. We can respect the person even if we don't share his/her opinions.

3. We will question the evidence or the claim; not the person.

4. We will remain open to corrective feedback as to our views and/or the impact of our communication style.

Affirmation of Inclusion

Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination. We value our different backgrounds at Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

<http://bellevuecollege.edu/about/goals/inclusion.asp>

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN THE WEIRD ANTHROPOLOGY CLUB

Anthropologists can and do study just about anything. In our classes, you will learn about some of the usual topics...Join the club and find out about the other stuff. The mission of **WAC** is to explore topics that other groups do not cover. You can expect to investigate topics from Bigfoot to indigenous hunting techniques and everything else in between. We also continually contribute to a Heifer International Fund. Please contact Anthropology Professor Tony Tessandori, club advisor, if you are interested in joining other budding anthropologists in their pursuit of understanding humanity. (tony.tessandori@bellevuecollege.edu)

ALSO see our Facebook page [Society of Student Anthropologists at BC](#).

Anthropology Paper Usage Policy

In an attempt to conserve resources the Anthropology Department has implemented a paper use reduction policy. We will use MyBC to post materials required for class (i.e. readings, activities, the complete syllabus...). When necessary we will make copies for class, but this will be when posting is not an option. You are not expected to print all materials. When we think it would be beneficial to print materials we will inform you of this, but will not require it. We know that it is not always convenient and understand that we all must make changes to attain a sustainable life style.

EXPLORE THE LMC! The Library Media Center is at your fingertips! I *strongly* encourage you to visit the LMC at least this quarter, but you can also access it via the web. Talk to a Reference Librarian at the Library (D-126), by calling (425) 564-6161, or by email: reference@bellevuecollege.edu.

- **Main Library Media Center:** <http://bellevuecollege.edu/lmc/>
- **For the LMC online catalog:** <http://bellevuecollege.edu/lmc/catalogs.html>
- **For article databases:** <http://bellevuecollege.edu/lmc/periodicals.html>

For all of your written work: Submit proofread work **only**. Work not proofread will be returned *once* for a rewrite, expected to be handed in within 48 hours. If you need help with your writing, please make use of the following student support services:

- Academic Success Center: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/academicsuccess/>
- Academic Tutoring Center: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/tutoring/>
- TRiO Student Support Services: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/TRiO/>

Writing Lab @ BCC: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/writinglab/>

The MyBC website for this class: got to www.bellevuecollege.edu.

Click on MyBC link at the top of the page. Sign in and click on Class website link.

There you will find course documents – which is where you will find the needed materials for this class.

Who is teaching this course?

My degree is in the sub-field of Cultural Anthropology. After having lived between two cultures, the United States and Italy, for most of my life I have been fascinated by how culture(s) shape how we view and think about the world. After growing up in the South Sound in Washington state I lived for many years in Florence, Italy. I have Italian citizenship and I speak fluent Italian. When I returned to the United States, I discovered the discipline of Anthropology— the best one for my interests. I graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in Anthropology and then continued my studies at the Graduate Faculty for the New School for Social Research in New York City. I majored in Anthropology and minored in History which informed my dissertation research on migration and immigration in Milan Italy.

I received a Wenner- Gren doctoral dissertation grant and spent a year in Milan in a public housing tenant organization where I studied past attitudes to Southern Italian migrants after WWII and the attitudes toward new immigrants from Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, and Latin America. I started teaching at Bellevue College in 2005 and I continue doing applied anthropology with an affordable housing organization in Seattle that provides housing to seniors and low income individuals. My research interests are the History of Anthropology, nation-state development (both in Europe and the Americas), race and ethnicity, and labor history in the United States.