

# **American Life and Culture Online Class Syllabus**

ANTH 180 / CES 180

Online Class Winter 2012

Either ANTH 180 or CES 180 may be taken for credit, not both.

**Instructor: Manouchehr Shiva, Ph.D.**

Instructor's Email: [mshiva@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:mshiva@bellevuecollege.edu)

**Course Description** This course provides an introduction to a cultural understanding of contemporary American society. We discuss major theoretical and conceptual principles and perspectives of present-day cultural anthropology and cultural studies, and the way they could be applied to study the life-ways of various American communities. We explore how the perspectives and methods offered by anthropology, so useful for understanding others, can assist us understand the United States.

This is an inter-active or a seminar-like class. Class participation, questioning, and critical thinking are highly encouraged.

You will take an active part in your learning process. You are asked to participate in the class discussions prepared, work on research projects, share and actively participate in the class's learning process, and critically reflect on what you read and discuss.

**Readings** All readings and audio-visual material are online and free. See each unit's What to Do document to see the list of material to be covered for that unit.

**Grading** -- Total of 1000 points

**Class Discussion Participation and Feedbacks:** 25 points for each unit - total of 250 points - 25% of total grade.

**Quizzes:** -- 5 quizzes (one quiz per two units) - 50 points each - Total of 250 points - 25% of total grade

**Final Exam:** 250 points -- 25% of total grade. **Final Project Report:** 250 points -- 25% of total grade.

## **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND MEANS OF ASSESSMENT**

**Class Discussion Participation and Feedbacks include:**

1. Posting a detailed, comprehensive and well cited answers to discussion questions on the discussion board for each unit, and additional well-thought messages (or feedbacks) in reply to other students' answers.
2. Clearly contributing information to further understanding of the concepts involved in the readings.
3. Derive information only from the assigned or other academic sources and properly cite source (author and title) and page.
4. Exhibit a correct and comprehensive understanding of the issues (given that later messages can revise earlier ones).
5. Be courteous and "scientific" in attitude and communication.

The purpose of discussions and feedbacks is to develop a deeper and more complete understanding of specific key concepts and issues in subjects studied. By fully participating in the discussions, you will also

be prepared for the questions in the exams.

**Research Project**—The focus of the research project is an outline of a study of an American social or cultural phenomenon, event, institution or process from an anthropological perspective.

**Students choose the focus of their research project by the second unit of the quarter.**

**Project topics** have to do with subjects and information from our readings, class discussions, and your own research and interest.

**Research Project Report**— Minimum four pages (double-spaced), excluding your bibliography. The report is a re-writing of your postings about your research topic during the quarter, based on the feedbacks you have received and your own further research.

## **UNITS**

**Unit 1 Culture**—Understanding the Other and the Self —Culture and Cultural Anthropological Perspectives—Cultural Studies —Anthropological Fieldwork and Research Methods—Comparative Approach—Cultural Relativism and Ethnocentrism—Holistic Approach —Culture and Power —Culture and History—Culture and Globalization, —Culture and Gender—Culture and Generation —Culture and Class, —Culture and Ethnicity/Nationalism

**Unit 2 Ritual, Power, History and Myth**

Culture and Ritual?Ritual and Ritualization?Ritual and Construction of Class, Gender, Generation, Ethnic and National Identities?Ritual and Power?History, Myth, and Ritual

### **Unit 3 Religion**

Religion in America ?Anthropological Perspective in Studying Religious Beliefs and Practices ?Public and Private Dimensions of Religion in American Lives?Religions and American Politics

### **Unit 4 Political Economy and Socio-Economic Stratification**

Political Economy and Class in the U.S.?Production, Distribution, and Consumption Patterns in the U.S.?Culture and Class?The Meaningful and the Material?Constructions of Class in America?

### **Unit 5 Socialization / Enculturation**

?Enculturation and Socialization ?Aspects of American Childhood and Adolescence?Anthropology of American Education?Anthropology of American Higher Education?Socialization/Enculturation and Sub-cultures?Media and Enculturation/Socialization?

### **Unit 6 Language, Society, Worldview and Culture**

Language, Gender, Class, and Ethnicity in America?Language and Power?Language and Worldview?Language, Culture and Subcultures?American Media and Language?American English and Globalization

## **Unit 7 Gender, Generation and Family in the U.S.**

Gender in America ? Youth and American Culture ? Representations of the Youth in the Media ? The Elderly in America ? American Family Patterns

## **Unit 8 Race, Ethnicity and Nationalism**

Race and Racism in America ? Constructing Ethnicity in America ? Nation and Nationalism in America ? Trans-Nationalism in America ?

## **Unit 9 Power, Politics and The State**

Culture of American Politics ? Power and Politics ? Concepts in Political Anthropology ? The State ? Class, Power and the State ? Power and Ideology ? Political Rituals

## **Unit 10 Case Studies**

Based on the interest of the instructor and the students a few topics are chosen to study and apply cultural anthropological and cultural studies approaches.

Examples: ? American Media and American Life ? Sports in America ? Violence in America ? American Politics Abroad

The following is from other BCC Anthropology syllabi. The subjects discussed also apply to our class.

## **“EQUIPMENT AND SKILLS REQUIREMENTS**

Taking an online course requires basic computer literacy and a little more. You must be proficient in navigating the World Wide Web (the Web) and may have to be able to download and install plug-ins. An online course often requires accessing the Web on a regular basis. You need a reliable ISP that seldom responds to your call with a busy signal. You need to be able to write English on a word processor, save documents and organize the resulting files, copy documents into your clipboard and paste them into another application, and attach documents to e-mail and retrieve them.

## **COURSE ASSUMPTIONS**

All humans learn and all humans teach. Humans learn and teach in communities, and communities embody more knowledge than any one individual possesses. These characteristics have been fundamental first to human biological evolution, and then to the origin and evolution of cultures. Formal education takes place in a special community -- the learning community. The more cohesive the learning community and the more focused it is on shared goals, the more intense is the learning experience.

In the best of learning communities, both "instructor" and "students" are learners. The instructor takes responsibility for the overall goals and direction of the course, the materials, pacing, lessons, and assessment. But students must take responsibility for their own learning. They must bring questions to the table, and act critically upon the materials of the course. Learning cannot be passive; it's hard work. Certainly it's useful and rewarding, but like long distance running, it hurts a lot while you are doing it and feels great when you stop.

Online courses are in many ways more focused and intensive learning communities than those encountered in the classroom ("on the

ground"). You will be reading a lot and writing a lot, and communicating intensively with your fellow class members.

It's assumed that we are all there to learn some anthropology, to develop and exercise critical thinking skills, and to stretch ourselves creatively in the exploration of ideas. But above all we are all there to discover ways the tools of anthropology can illuminate our daily lives and current problems of the human condition in the U.S.

#### Finals Schedule

Daily or T/Th or T/Th/F ONLY:	Exam Day	Exam Time
7:30	T, 3/20	7:30-9:20
7:50 or 8:30	Th, 3/22	7:30-9:20
9:30	T, 3/20	9:30-11:20
10:10 or 10:30	Th, 3/22	9:30-11:20
11:30	T, 3/20	11:30 -1:20
12:30	Th, 3/22	11:30 -1:20
1:30	T, 3/20	1:30-3:20
2:30 or 3:00	Th, 3/22	1:30-3:20
3:30	T, 3/20	3:30-5:20
4:30	Th, 3/22	3:30-5:20

M/W or M/W/F Only:	Exam Day	Ex
7:30, 7:50 or 8:30	W, 3/21	7:30
9:30, 10:10 or 10:30	W, 3/21	9:30
11:30 or 12:30	W, 3/21	11:30
1:30 or 2:30	W, 3/21	1:30
3:00, 3:30 or 4:30	W, 3/21	3:00

## **SNOW DAYS or other non-schedule class cancelations**

*The possibility is always there that class will be cancelled unexpectedly. In the case that class is cancelled, I will post information on MyBC. This will include lecture material, assignments and handouts. It is your responsibility to check this in a timely manner before the next class session. Material provided in this way will be covered as a review in class but may not be lectured on in detail.*

## **WHAT COURSES IN ANTHROPOLOGY ARE OFFERED AT BC?**

There is a general introductory class (Survey of Anthropology) which highlights all four sub-disciplines of anthropology. BC offers in-depth courses in Anthropology which I encourage you to take: archaeology (Great Discoveries in Archaeology; Archaeology; Ancient North America; Incas & Their Ancestors; Aztecs, Mayas, & Their Ancestors), biological anthropology (Biological Anthropology; Bioanthropology with Lab; Cross-cultural Medicine; Forensic Anthropology), cultural anthropology (Food, Drink, & Culture; American Life & Culture; Cultural Anthropology; Sex, Gender, & Culture; Environment & Culture; REEL Culture; Religion & Culture) and linguistics (Language, Culture, & Society). Check BC's Course Catalogue for a full description of each course. We will also be offering several special topics courses spanning the discipline. Topics may include Primatology, Experimental Archaeology, Anthropology of Immigration and Scandinavian Culture. There are no prerequisites for any of these courses and they fulfill degree requirements. Different formats (on campus, on-line, hybrid) are offered. Stop by and visit the Social Science Advisor, Deanne Eschbach, in Room D110, for free professional planning and advising, or contact Anthropology Prof. Tony Tessandori ([tony.tessandori@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:tony.tessandori@bellevuecollege.edu)) to learn more about majoring in anthropology.

## **Tentative Spring Schedule**

		On Campus	Online
<b>ANTH&amp; 100</b>	<b>Survey of Anthropology</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>ANTH 180</b>	<b>American Life and Culture</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>ANTH 106</b>	<b>Great Discoveries in Archaeology</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>ANTH&amp; 204</b>	<b>Archaeology*</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>ANTH&amp; 205</b>	<b>Biological Anthropology+</b>		<b>X</b>
<b>ANTH&amp; 206</b>	<b>Cultural Anthropology*</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>ANTH 208</b>	<b>Language, Culture and ,Society*</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>ANTH&amp; 215</b>	<b>Biological Anthropology w Lab+</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>ANTH&amp; 234</b>	<b>Religion &amp; Culture</b>		<b>X</b>
<b>ANTH&amp; 236</b>	<b>Forensic Anthropology</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>

( \* denotes required courses for the Academic Concentration in Anthropology)  
(+ denotes a choice between two courses for the Academic Concentration in Anthropology)

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN THE *SOCIETY of STUDENT ANTHROPOLOGISTS at BELLEVUE COLLEGE?***

Anthropologists can and do study just about anything. In this class, you will learn about some of the usual topics...Join the club and find out about the other stuff. The SOCIETY of STUDENT ANTHROPOLOGISTS at BELLEVUE COLLEGE mission 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](mailto:tony.tessandori@bellevuecollege.edu)) ALSO see our Facebook page [Society of Student Anthropologists at BC](#).

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN EARNING A CONCENTRATION IN ANTHROPOLOGY, ALONG WITH YOUR DEGREE?**

In addition to earning an AAS degree, you can take 20 or 21 credits of required courses to earn a concentration in Anthropology. These four courses provide the basic foundation of Anthropology and represent the 4-field approach of American Anthropology. All of them are be offered on campus and on-line.

ANTH& 204 – Archaeology (5 credits of Social Science)

ANTH 208 – Language, Culture, & Society (5 credits of Humanities or Social Science)

ANTH& 206 – Cultural Anthropology (5 credits of Social Science)

ANTH& 215 – Bioanthropology with Lab (6 credit of Lab Science) **or** ANTH& 205 – Biological Anthropology (5 credit of natural science)

**Message from the chair**

The Anthropology Department consists of a group of dedicated educators. We all want our students to learn and grow as they progress through their educations. We all are passionate about our fields of study and believe that what we have to say is important. We all feel that it is important that you come to class and take part in the learning process. We also know that life happens outside of our classrooms and missing class is sometime unavoidable. In order for all of us to work together an open dialog between students and instructors is key. Most often an understanding can be reached when outside situation arise. If at any time during the quarter you find that you are having concerns with the way a situation is being handled there are some steps to be followed. First you should talk direct to the instructor ask for clarification or further explanation. If you feel you are not getting the results you require, contact me (Anthony Tessandori, Department Chair) at [tony.tessandori@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:tony.tessandori@bellevuecollege.edu). I will do what I can to help resolve any issues. If I am unable to help alleviate your concerns, you should contact the Interim Dean of Social Science (Virginia Bridwell) at

[Virginia.bridwell@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:Virginia.bridwell@bellevuecollege.edu)

I look forward to the coming quarter and I hope to speak to each of you about the possibilities anthropology has to offer.

Have a great quarter

Tony Tessandori

### **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.

**Students With Disabilities:** If you have medical information to share with me in the event of an emergency, please contact me via email or come to see me during office hours. Emergency preparedness is important! If you need course modifications, adaptations, or accommodations because of a disability, I can refer you to our Disability Resource Center (DRC). If you prefer, you may contact them directly by going to B132 or by calling 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110. Information is also available on their website at <http://bellevuecollege.edu/drc/>

**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](mailto: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 Center: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/academicsuccess/> Success
- 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](http://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.

**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 professors. 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.