

ANTH 102: Cultural Anthropology  
Online  
(CRN 22466)

Professor: Dr. Sarah Taylor  
E-mail: sarah.r.taylor@wichita.edu  
Phone: 978-7194  
Office: Neff Hall 217

**Course Description:**

As Cultural Anthropologists we are committed to exploring the complex webs of social relations, beliefs, and behaviors through which humanity makes the world into a meaningful and coherent place. In pursuit of this knowledge anthropologists have long been known to travel to the most out-of-the-way places in search of cultural practices that open our eyes to every possible way of being human. We then bring this knowledge back to the classroom in an attempt to make the seemingly chaotic, the “strange,” the “exotic,” appear more familiar and understandable.

At the same time, cultural anthropology is capable of providing a fresh, sometimes unsettling, perspective on our own cultural positions, practices, assumptions, and beliefs. Through anthropology we strive to intellectually distance ourselves from our own familiar surroundings in order to expose the “strangeness” of our own habits. The theories and methodologies of anthropology allow us to explore and, at times, critique those aspects of our lives that we might have never before thought to question. In the process we learn about ourselves, others, and different possible ways to be in the world.

This course introduces the student to the methods and theories of cultural anthropology, one of four sub-disciplines in American Anthropology (the other three being archaeology, biological/physical anthropology, and linguistics). Key issues we will examine in this class from an anthropological perspective include culture, identity, family, race, gender, violence, language, nationality, globalization, and power. Our ultimate goal is to better appreciate the influence of cultural processes in the making of our lived realities.

***Learning Outcomes***

There are three class objectives; exams and papers will be related to them:

- a. Learn what anthropologists do and how to think like one;
- b. Learn why anthropology is relevant in today’s world; and
- c. Learn about the cultural ways of a variety of different groups of people.

**Required Texts:**

Omohundro, John (2008) *Thinking Like an Anthropologist: A Practical Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*. McGraw-Hill. ISBN: 978-007-319580-3.

Gomberg-Muñoz, Ruth (2012) *Labor and Legality: An Ethnography of a Mexican Immigrant Network*. Oxford University Press. ISBN: 978-0-19-973938-7

**Office Hours:**

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 11:00am to 1:00pm, and by appointment.

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Grading:		
Quizzes	30 points each x10	300 points
Exams	150 points each x 3	450 points
Check-in:	10 points each x 15	150 points
Active Assn:	20 points each x 5	100 points
<b>Total</b>		<b>1000 points</b>

Grade Scale:	
1000-930 = A	769-730 = C
929-900 = A-	729-700 = C-
899-870 = B+	699-670 = D+
869-830 = B	669-630 = D
829-800 = B-	629-600 = D-
799-770 = C+	599-0 = F

**Quizzes (300 points):**

Short reading and film quizzes will be given throughout the term. More than 10 quizzes will be given, however only the top 10 will be counted toward your grade. There is **NO OPPORTUNITY to make up a reading quiz.**

**Weekly “check-in” (150 points):**

Each student is a member of one team. You will work with this team throughout the semester. In order to earn full points for discussion, you must complete the following:

In every Panopto lecture I will ask you to consider a few questions and then to check-in with your group to share your thoughts on these. This requires a brief (~100 words) post on your team’s discussion board. You will check back in later in the week and reply to some of the posts from your team members. It is important to pay attention to the discussion board, because some of the questions for quizzes and exams may come from questions and comments that arise on the discussion boards. To receive full points for this, you must “check-in” 15 times (10 points each, 150 points total). Each complete “check-in” consists of an original post and at least one meaningful reply to one of your teammates.

**Active assignments (20 points each)**

All active assignments are listed in the syllabus as AA. These range from short written responses to a question or questions posed on discussion boards to working with a group on creating an icon to drawing your own family tree. I may ask you to identify a main concept, comment on how a film we watch illustrates a concept from the readings, ask you to use discussions to think about a current event or pose a question. Five active assignments are counted toward your grade, though more than five will be given. There is **NO OPPORTUNITY to make up an active assignment.** Please pay close attention to the instructions for AAs, as they vary depending on the assignment.

**Exams (150 points each):**

There will be **three equally weighted exams** during the term. Each exam will consist of 50 multiple choice questions created from the previous chapters and short essay responses. The exam questions encourage you to think critically about what you have read and to bring together bodies of knowledge, theories, and concepts from different sections of the book, class lectures, and supplemental materials. Each exam is worth 150 points, for a total of 450 points. The exams are not cumulative: each one only covers the chapters preceding it from the last exam. All three exams will be online. **It is expected that no make-up exams will have to be given.** However, if there should arise some unusual circumstance which requires you to miss an exam, you are required to let me know of the situation as soon as possible, and to provide a written and verifiable excuse. **All make up exams will be in essay form.** Missing the deadline for submitting the exam is akin to missing the class in which the exam takes place, and is not a valid excuse. **Late exams will not be graded.**

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## Academic Integrity

Students are responsible for knowing and following the Student Code of Conduct [http://webs.wichita.edu/inaudit/ch8\\_05.htm](http://webs.wichita.edu/inaudit/ch8_05.htm) and the Student Academic Honesty policy [http://webs.wichita.edu/inaudit/ch2\\_17.htm](http://webs.wichita.edu/inaudit/ch2_17.htm). If you keep up with the reading, pay attention and take notes during lectures, and study before the exams, there is no reason you should not succeed in this class. In other words, there is no reason to cheat. This class is designed for students to work on their own and to follow a code of ethics that holds you, the student, personally accountable. If I observe any collusion between students, **both parties fail the assignment!** Similarly, plagiarism is unacceptable and will be taken seriously. All assignments will be submitted using Blackboard's SAFE Assign plagiarism checking system. Instances of cheating and plagiarism are immediately reported to the Dean of Judicial Affairs. Please take the class seriously, do your work honestly, and we will all enjoy a rewarding semester.

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## Class policies and etiquette:

- Handouts for each PowerPoint presentation are on Blackboard. These are meant to supplement your notes. They cannot make up for engaging with the Panopto lectures. Some films are available online, while others can be found in the library. All information covered in the texts, all PDFs of readings on BB, and material from films and lectures are fair game for the exams. I encourage you to contact other students via the discussion forum in BB to ask questions on any material you miss. Based on the amount of information that comes from Panopto lecture and discussion, one cannot successfully complete this class without reviewing all posted materials.
- I will respond to all emails and Blackboard messages as quickly as possible, however it may take **up to 24 hours**. Any message received after 5:00pm will not be read until the following day. Similarly, I generally avoid responding to emails on Saturdays and Sundays. If you need immediate assistance, you can contact me during office hours. At this time, I will be available on Blackboard Chat, via email, or via phone, and I will respond to your question right away. You are also expected to check your email regularly, as I will send all important announcements to your WSU email address via Blackboard. Missed emails because you are not in the habit of checking your WSU mail are not a valid excuse for late or missing assignment.
- While dissent from the prevailing notions presented in the readings and online discussions is accepted (and even encouraged!), it must be expressed in a manner respectful to the authors we are reading and to other members of the class.
- All assignments and exams will be submitted via Blackboard. We will take some time to go over our course page, but it will be largely up to you to learn how to navigate it. There are numerous resources to help. The first place to start is ALWAYS the help desk. 978-HELP. As a student in this course, you are responsible for your own learning. Below, you will find a quick guide to how to ask for help with course materials and other technical problems. Just as it is my responsibility to provide the materials, information, and feedback to teach you, it is your responsibility to access the information, process the feedback, and be aware of what this course requires.

- While this course is 100% online, I still expect your writing to meet general standards for spelling, grammar, and style. Abbreviations and other norms that are acceptable in many of today’s digital communications are NOT acceptable in your assignments, essays, and other work that you will submit for this course. These and other “Word Crimes” will be factored into your grade. (<http://vevo.ly/yRwiKB>)
- Lastly, your success in this class is my main objective for the semester. Should you experience unexpected academic, personal, or work related issues that affect your participation in the class please contact me right away. I will not always be able to accommodate you; however the earlier you discuss the situation with me the more likely it is that I will be able to assist.

<i>If your problem is related to...</i>	<i>Then...</i>
Understanding course content, requirements, or due dates	Post in “Ask a Question” forum for any questions about assignments, due dates, or materials for the course. Alternatively, you may raise the question in class. If something is unclear to you, there are probably other students with the same question.
Personal matters	Contact me. Please note that the ONLY personal problems or inquiries that are not appropriate to post publicly are to be sent to me, such as disability accommodations or extenuating personal situations that will affect your ability to succeed in the course (death in family, serious illness, etc.). All non-personal questions about the course should be posted in the “Ask a Question” Forum. Please do not email me with questions that can easily be answered by the syllabus.
Connecting to the internet, such as problems with logging into your ISP (Internet Service Provider), connecting to websites, launching web browser software	Contact your ISP
Connecting to the WSU Blackboard website, accessing your course(s), submission of assignments or file attachments in course  Please note...if you get an error message you need to take a "screen shot" and you MUST contact the help desk.	The Help Desk Call them 24/7 at (316) 978-HELP  Screen Shot: For Mac Users hold Command + Shift + 3 For Windows Users either use the PrtScn/SysRq or Alt + PrtScrn/SysRq
You are unexpectedly logged out of Blackboard during an exam	Return to Blackboard immediately, directly via <a href="http://blackboard.wichita.edu">http://blackboard.wichita.edu</a> to resume the exam. It is advisable to ALWAYS log in via this website in order to avoid being automatically logged out every 20 minutes when you access Blackboard through MyWSU.



## Understanding the Course Schedule

All assignments, readings, quizzes, etc...are due by the end of the week in which they are listed. For the purpose of the class, the week begins at 12:00am on Monday and ends at 11:59pm on Sunday. Anything listed in a week will be open and available to you for the duration of the week.

**Panoptos** = There will be a Panopto lecture in almost every week's content folder. Watch this after completing the rest of the week's material, as I will reference the readings and films during the lectures.

**TLO** = *Thinking Like an Anthropologist*, by John Omohundro. This is the main text for the course. Each time you see TLO, the assigned chapter will follow.

**L&L** = *Labor and Legality*, by Ruth Gomberg-Muñoz. We will read this ethnography in the latter half of the course.

**PDF** = All additional readings (not found in *Thinking Like and Anthropologist* or *Labor and Legality* will be listed in the syllabus as PDF and will be located in the week's content folder.

**AA** = 7 Active Assignments are listed, and your top 5 scores will count toward your grade.

**Film** = All films will be available to you via the university library, an mp4 file, or a YouTube link.

**Quiz** = 13 quizzes are given during the semester. Your best 10 scores will count toward your grade. All quizzes open on Monday morning and close at 11:59pm the following Sunday.

**EXAM** = 3 exams are listed in the syllabus. They will be open from Monday morning to Sunday night of the week in which they are listed. The exception is Exam 3, which will be due the Friday of finals week.

## Course Schedule:

### *Week 1: January 20-25*

- ✓ Panopto: Naciremaland
- ✓ TLO: Chapter 1: What is Culture? The Conceptual Question
- ✓ PDF: Miner "Body Ritual Among the Nacirema" (1968)
- ✓ PDF: Boulanger "Usans: The Real People Confront Globalization"
- ✓ AA #1: Breaking the Norm
- ✓ Quiz #1

### *Week 2: January 26-February 1*

- ✓ Panopto: Doing Anthropology
- ✓ TLO: Chapter 2: How Do I Learn About Culture? The Naturalistic Question
- ✓ PDF: *Taking Sides*, Issue 2, "Was Margaret Mead's fieldwork on Samoan adolescents fundamentally flawed?"
- ✓ Quiz #2

**Week 3: February 2-8**

- ✓ Panopto: Tourism, Heritage, and Anthropology
- ✓ TLO: Chapter 3: What is the Context for This Practice or Idea? The Holistic Question
- ✓ PDF: Chambers “Can the Anthropology of Tourism Make Us Better Travelers?”
- ✓ PDF: Lee, “Eating Christmas in the Kalahari”
- ✓ Film: *Gracias a los Gringos*
- ✓ Quiz #3

**Week 4: February 9-15**

- ✓ Panopto: Magic, Witchcraft, and Religion
- ✓ TLO: Chapter 4: Do Other Societies Do Something Like This? The Comparative Question
- ✓ AA #2: Compare and Contrast
- ✓ Quiz #4

**Week 5: February 16-22**

- ✓ Panopto: Sex and Gender
- ✓ PDF: Fleuhr-Lobban, “Cultural Relativism and Universal Human Rights”
- ✓ PDF: Skinner, “Female Circumcision in Africa”
- ✓ EXAM #1

**Week 6: February 23-March 1**

- ✓ Panopto: Heritage Brands
- ✓ TLO: Chapter 5: What Was This Idea or Practice Like in the Past? The Temporal Question
- ✓ PDF: Wilk, “Consuming America”
- ✓ AA #3: Branding Culture
- ✓ Quiz #5

**Week 7: March 2-8**

- ✓ Panopto: Subsistence Patterns
- ✓ TLO: Chapter 6: How are Human Biology, Culture, and Environment Interacting? The Bio-cultural Question
- ✓ Film: *Guns, Germs, and Steel*
- ✓ Quiz #6

**Week 8: March 9-15**

- ✓ Panopto: Kinship
- ✓ TLO: Chapter 7: What Are the Groups and Relationships? The Social-structural Question
- ✓ PDF: di Leonardo, “The Female World of Cards and Holidays”
- ✓ Film: *Strange Relations*
- ✓ AA #4: Family Tree
- ✓ Quiz #7

**Week 9: March 16-22**

SPRING BREAK!

**Week 10: March 23-29**

- ✓ Panopto: Interpretation
- ✓ TLO: Chapter 8: What Does That Mean? The Interpretive Question
- ✓ Film: *!Nia: The story of a !kung woman*
- ✓ L&L: Chapter 1 “Meet the Lions”
- ✓ Quiz #8

**Week 11: March 30-April 5**

- ✓ Panopto: Points on a Landscape
- ✓ TLO: Chapter 9: What is My Perspective? The Reflexive Question
- ✓ PDF: Ehrenreich “Nickel and Dimed”
- ✓ L&L: Chapter 2 “Why is There Undocumented Migration?”
- ✓ EXAM #2

**Week 12: April 6-12**

- ✓ Panopto: Ethics and Anthropology
- ✓ TLO: Chapter 10: Am I Judging This? The Relativistic Question
- ✓ PDF: Bourgois, “Welcome to an East Harlem Shooting Gallery”
- ✓ L&L: Chapter 3 “Jumping and Adjusting to Life Under the Radar”
- ✓ AA#5: What would YOU do?
- ✓ Quiz #9

**Week 13: April 13-19**

- ✓ Panopto: Art and Interpretation
- ✓ TLO: Chapter 11: What Do the People Say? The Dialogic Question
- ✓ L&L: Chapter 4 “Friends, Networks, and Households”
- ✓ AA #6: Iconography
- ✓ Quiz #10

**Week 14: April 20-26**

- ✓ Panopto: Anthropology and Globalization
- ✓ L&L: Chapter 5 “Working Hard”
- ✓ Films: *Island of Flowers* and *Black Gold*
- ✓ Quiz #11

**Week 15: April 27-May 3**

- ✓ Panopto: Transnational Anthropology
- ✓ L&L: Chapter 6 “Identity, Dignity, and Esteem”
- ✓ PDF: Guest, “All You Can Eat Buffets and Chicken with Broccoli to Go”
- ✓ Film: *American Tongues*
- ✓ Quiz #12

**Week 16: May 4-10**

- ✓ Panopto: Are my hands clean?
- ✓ L&L: Chapter 7 “Illegals and Criminals”
- ✓ Film: *Maquilopolis*
- ✓ Film: *Planet Money T-Shirt*
- ✓ AA #7: Made in America
- ✓ Quiz #13

**Week 17: May 11-15**

**EXAM #3 DUE 11:59pm May 15 (Friday)**

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## University Policies

### *Inclusive Excellence*

Wichita State University is committed to achieving “Inclusive Excellence” and institutional strength through curricula, co-curricula, and other practices, which promote and encourage the intermingling of its students, faculty, and staff from different backgrounds, in a challenging intellectual and multicultural climate that is marked by respect and appreciation for the spectrum of human diversity. The University is also committed to an “all-inclusive” diversity and does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity/expression, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status, disability, religion, national origin, or military status.

### *Disabilities*

If you have a physical, psychiatric/emotional, or learning disability that may impact on your ability to carry out assigned course work, I encourage you to contact the Office of Disability Services (DS). The office is located in Grace Wilkie Annex, room 150, (316) 978-3309 (voice/tty). DS will review your concerns and determine, with you, what academic accommodations are necessary and appropriate for you. All information and documentation of your disability is confidential and will not be released by DS without your written permission.

### *Counseling & Testing*

The WSU Counseling & Testing Center provides professional counseling services to students, faculty and staff; administers tests and offers test preparation workshops; and presents programs on topics promoting personal and professional growth. Services are low cost and confidential. They are located in room 320 of Grace Wilkie Hall, and their phone number is (316) 978-3440. The Counseling & Testing Center is open on all days that the University is officially open. If you have a mental health emergency during the times that the Counseling & Testing Center is not open, please call COMCARE Crisis Services at (316) 660-7500.

### *Copyright Notice*

Course materials prepared by the instructor, together with the content of all lectures presented by the instructor, are the property of the instructor. Video and audio recording of lectures and review sessions without the consent of the instructor is prohibited. Unless explicit permission is obtained from the instructor, recordings of lectures may not be modified and must not be transferred or transmitted to any other person, whether or not that individual is enrolled in the course.

## Wichita State University's General Education Program

### *What is the mission of general education?*

The mission of general education is to provide a well-rounded education that enables you to live the fullest most meaningful life possible, regardless of your particular career preparation.

### *What is the overall goal?*

The goal of general education is to enable you to live a rich, meaningful life by developing: an informed appreciation of the arts, humanities, and natural and social sciences; an ability to intelligently follow and participate in current events; and a sensitive and tutored appreciation of diverse cultures and ways of living.

### *What are the expected outcomes?*

Embedded throughout general education and furthered in the major are the skills that enable graduates to contribute productively to society and the on-going culture. Therefore, upon graduation the faculty expects you to:

- Have acquired knowledge in the arts, humanities, and natural and social sciences
- Think critically and independently
- Write and speak effectively
- Employ analytical reasoning and problem solving techniques

### *Definition of a Credit Hour*

3 credit hour class: Success in this 3 credit hour course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction and preparation/studying or course related activities for a total of 135 hours.