

ANTH 303: World Cultures

Tuesday 7:05pm to 9:45pm
Geology 101 (CRN 20055)

Professor: Dr. Sarah Taylor
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Course Description:

Catalog description: Comparative case studies of the cultures of existing societies of varying types, including non-literate peoples, Third World nations, and modern industrialized countries. This course is intended to introduce students to the cultural diversity that exists in our world. We will learn about cultures from a variety of geographical locations and with a variety of systems of social structure. We will examine the culture concept through the in depth study of several book length ethnographies, in order to better understand the integration of culture and the holistic approach to understanding human societies.

Learning Outcomes

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

- a. Identify cultures from different geographic regions;
- b. Understand the holistic approach to the study of culture; and
- c. Draw comparisons between your own culture and other cultures around the world.

Required Texts:

Shostack, Marjorie. *Nisa: The Life and Words of a !Kung Woman*. ISBN 978-0674004320

Jarvenpa, Robert. *Northern Passage: Ethnography and Apprenticeship Among the Subartic Dene*. ISBN 978-0881339901

Du, Shanshan. *Chopsticks Only Work in Pairs*. ISBN 978-0231119573

Warnock Fernea, Elizabeth. *Guests of the Sheik*. ISBN 978-0385014854

Scheffel, David. *Svinia in Black and White: Slovak Roma and their Neighbours*. ISBN 978-1551116075

Office Hours:

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

Grading:

Quizzes	100 points x 5	500 points
Paper/Presentation		300 points
Participation		200 points
Total		1000 points

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

1. Participation (200 points):

Your participation grade is broken down into three sections: attendance, discussion questions, and cultural comparisons. This class will consist of both lecture and discussions. Generally, I will spend the beginning of class lecturing on the week's topic to give us an introduction and overview. The latter part of class will be spent discussing the readings. The class as a whole is expected to participate in this discussion. The assigned readings should be completed before class each week so that you can come to the discussion prepared. If it seems that the group is having difficulty engaging a particular topic I will give a pop quiz at my discretion. Should you miss a class, you will be responsible for the material covered. Please note that you do not begin the class with 200 participation points...you must earn them.

Attendance (50 points)

Attendance is mandatory, and a sign-in sheet will circulate at the beginning of each class. If students leave class early without notifying me, a second sign in sheet will be passed around and only those students in attendance at the end of the lecture will receive credit for attending. You may miss one class without repercussions. After that, you will lose 5 points of your attendance grade for each class that you miss. This means that after missing 3 classes (1 without repercussions, and two at five points each) you will receive a maximum of 40 attendance and participation points. Your eleventh absence will result in a 0/50 for the attendance portion of your grade. Forgetting to sign in is equivalent to an absence.

Discussion Questions (100 points)

Each student will come to class each week with one meaningful question about the assigned readings. These must be posted to the week's discussion board on our course Blackboard by 7:00pm on the day of class. Each question is worth 10 points. There are more than 10 opportunities to post questions. I will count your 10 best scores toward your grade.

Cultural Comparisons (50 points)

You will be asked to make a cultural comparison for each ethnography we read. First, think of a cultural practice/custom/characteristic in the book that strikes you as odd, strange, or just downright wrong. Don't worry, there will likely be something! Think through this custom and try to draw a comparison between it and something from your own culture. What do you do that may be strange to one of the individuals you meet in the ethnographies? Each cultural comparison is due on the last day that we discuss each book. These will be posted to Blackboard.

2. Quizzes (500 points):

Each quiz is worth 100 points, and will cover one section of the course. There will be no cumulative exam. Quizzes can include multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and essay questions. Be prepared to answer questions based on all assigned readings, lectures, discussions, films, and handouts. **THERE WILL BE ABSOLUTELY NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES WITHOUT PRIOR CONSENT OF THE INSTRUCTOR.** Approved make-ups will be formatted differently from the original quiz, and will be all essay and short answer questions.

3. Ethnographic Research Paper and Presentation:

Team Presentations (100 points):

All students will form teams early in the semester. Each team will be assigned a geographic region. Students will work together toward the end of the semester to create a presentation

about the culture(s) represented in their region. All team members receive the same grade for the presentation.

Final Paper (200 points):

Each student will be required to write a short paper on a particular culture group within the region assigned to their team. The paper should be between 7-8 pages in length, double-spaced, with no larger than a 12 point font and half inch margins. Your paper should include sections on the geographic region where the group lives, the ecology of the region and subsistence strategy practiced by the group, the religious beliefs, and practices of the group, and the marriage practices and family structure of the group. The more work you complete ahead of time, the easier the team presentation will be. We will discuss in detail how to research this paper early in the semester.



Academic Integrity

Students are responsible for knowing and following the Student Code of Conduct http://webs.wichita.edu/inaudit/ch8_05.htm and the Student Academic Honesty policy 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.

Class policies and etiquette:

- Handouts for each PowerPoint presentation will be posted on Blackboard. These are meant to supplement your notes. They cannot make up for being in class. 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 presented in class 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.

- 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. 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.

- Based on the amount of information that comes from class lecture and discussion, one cannot successfully complete this class without regular attendance. I will keep track of your attendance on BB. You will lose points for chronic unexcused absences.

- This class will emphasize discussion, participation, and sharing of different perspectives. While dissent from the prevailing notions presented in the readings and class 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.
- No electronic devices are necessary for successful participation in class discussion. Please do not text, type, talk, etc...during the class unless it pertains to the week's topic and is something you would like to discuss with the class as a whole.
- This class runs from 7:05pm to 9:45pm. This means that I am entitled to use the entire class time to present information; it is therefore unacceptable for students to interrupt the lecture and discussion by shuffling papers, packing book bags, and other similarly disruptive activities associated with the end of class.
- All assignments 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
- 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.



Course Schedule:

Week 1: January 20

T Introductions and group assignments

Week 2: January 27

T Nisa: Introduction thru Chapter 4 (through p 126)

Week 3: February 3

T Nisa: Chapter 5 thru Chapter 10 (page 127 to page 236)

Week 4: February 10

T Nisa: Chapter 11 to the end (page 237 to 372, including Epilogue)
 QUIZ #1: 10:00PM 2/10 to 11:59pm 2/16

Week 5: February 17

T Northern Passage: Part I (through page 76)
 Submit final paper topic

Week 6: February 24

T Northern Passage: Part II (77 through 194)
 QUIZ #2: 10:00PM 2/24 to 11:59pm 3/2

Week 7: March 3

T Chopsticks: Introduction and Part I (pages 1 through 76)

Week 8: March 10

T Chopsticks: Parts II and III (pages 77 through 192)
QUIZ #3: 10:00PM 3/10 to 11:59pm 3/16

Week 9: March 17

SPRING BREAK!

Week 10: March 24

T NO CLASS Discuss final papers and group presentations

Week 11: March 31

T Guests: Part I (pages 1 through 104)

Week 12: April 7

T Guests: Part II and III (pages 105 through 250)

Week 13: April 14

T Guests: Part IV – VI (pages 251 through 330)
QUIZ #4: 10:00PM 4/7 to 11:59pm 4/13

Week 14: April 21

T Svinia in Black and White: Introduction and Chapter 1 (through page 46)

Week 15: April 28

T Svinia in Black and White: Chapter 2 (page 47 through 138)

Week 16: May 5

T Svinia in Black and White: Chapter 3 (page 139 through 226)
QUIZ #5: 10:00PM 4/28 to 11:59pm 5/4

Week 17: May 12 (7:40pm to 9:30pm)

T Final Presentations