

**UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
DIVISION OF HUMANITIES
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES
Anthropology program**

**AN212: CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY
FANUCHANAN 2024 SYLLABUS**

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Office Hours: MW 3:00-4:00 and T 9:00-1:00.

CLASS MEETINGS

AN212 - MW 9:30-10:50

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

This course involves the study of culture, the central concept of anthropology. Traditional and contemporary theories regarding the nature, structure and dynamics of culture are examined, as well as human social institutions: marriage and the family, kinship and descent, social organization, subsistence patterns, economic systems, political organization, social control, religion and magic and the arts.

RATIONALE FOR THE COURSE

Cultural anthropology is one of the four key subject areas of Anthropology, including archeology, biological anthropology, and linguistic anthropology and is fundamental to the anthropological enterprise.

** LEARNING OBJECTIVES FOR STUDENTS

Course SLOs	Program SLOs	University ILOs	Core Foundations SLO	Assessment Methods
With successful completion of the course, student will demonstrate introductory knowledge to:				
Understand the current issues and debates in Cultural Anthropology	SLO1. Understand the current issues and debates in the subfields of anthropology.	ILO4. Understanding and appreciation of culturally diverse people, ideas and values in a democratic context	CT1. Applying the concepts essential to examination and evaluation argumentative discourse. CT5. Identifying and avoiding common logical errors. OC1. Developing and presenting material around a central theme. OC2. Using organization and language to effectively present material to an audience. Written Communication (all apply) Information Literacy (all apply)	Assignment 1: definitions test Assignment 2: Ethnographic observation and analysis.
Utilize the concept of culture as a fundamental organizing concept of Cultural Anthropology	SLO2. Utilized the concept of cultures as a fundamental organizing concept of anthropology;	ILO4. Understanding and appreciation of culturally diverse people, ideas and values in a democratic context ILO6. An appreciation of the arts and sciences	CT1. Applying the concepts essential to examination and evaluation argumentative discourse. CT3. Synthesizing information on order to examine alternatives and arrive at reasoned conclusions. OC1. Developing and presenting material around a central theme. Written Communication (all apply) Information Literacy (all apply)	Assignment 2: Ethnographic observation and analysis and class participation, and in-class exercises
Articulate knowledge of the history and theories of Cultural Anthropology	SLO3. Articulate knowledge of the history and theories of anthropology;	ILO1. Mastery of critical thinking and problem solving ILO4. Understanding and appreciation of culturally diverse people, ideas and values in a democratic context	CT1. Applying the concepts essential to examination and evaluation argumentative discourse. CT5. Identifying and avoiding common logical errors. QR4. Evaluating quantitative information to draw appropriate conclusions.	Assignment 1: definitions test class participation, and in-class exercises
Collect Ethnographic data according to accepted professional anthropological practices; and analyze ethnographic data in both oral and written forms	SLO4. Collect anthropological data according to generally accepted professional anthropological practices; and	ILO2. Mastery of quantitative analysis ILO3. Effective oral and written communication	Written Communication (all apply) Information Literacy (all apply) Quantitative Reasoning (all apply)	Assignment 2: Ethnographic observation and analysis, class participation, and in-class exercises
Develop a critical and synthetic capacity to analyze cultura in use as a medium to generate, transmit, and maintain ideology or culture.	SLO5. Analyze anthropological data in both oral and written forms	ILO2. Mastery of quantitative analysis ILO3. Effective oral and written communication ILO5. Responsible use of knowledge, natural resources, and technology ILO7. An interest in personal development and lifelong learning	CT1. Applying the concepts essential to examination and evaluation argumentative discourse. CT5. Identifying and avoiding common logical errors. OC1. Developing and presenting material around a central theme. OC2. Using organization and language to effectively present material to an audience. QR4. Evaluating quantitative information to draw appropriate conclusions.	Assignment 2: Reading Test class participation, and in-class exercises

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

We **recommend** the following textbooks to follow the course.

Moore, Jerry D. *Visions of Culture: An Introduction to Anthropological Theories and Theorists*. London: AltaMira Press, 2009.

Brown, Nina, Laura Tubelle de González, Thomas McIlwraith, BC Open Textbook Project, and BCcampus. *Perspectives: An Open Invitation to Cultural Anthropology*. Arlington: American Anthropological Association, 2017. (Free access at <http://perspectives.americananthro.org/>)

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

The method of instruction will follow a communicative and collaborative schema trying to develop inductive processes in the participants. Through lectures, assignments, videos, and discussions, the participants will be able to be protagonists of their learning process. The instructor, if needed, will provide readings and video guides. According to the necessities of the students, the course will be adjusted, always maintaining a high standard of quality in their contents. Parallel to the academic contents, the participants will work on learning strategies to achieve the final requirements. Active participation will be highly valued for the final grade. Do not hesitate to ask, give your opinion or show your doubts or different points of view. That will enrich the sessions.

COURSE SYNOPSIS

PART 1. THEORIES ON CULTURE

1. INTRODUCTION: WHAT IS CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY, AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

14, 19 and 21 August

- Wagner, Roy. *The Invention of Culture*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1981. Pp. 1-21.
- Ingold, Tim. *Anthropology: Why It Matters*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2018. Pp. 1-19.

Documentary: TBA

2. DOING FIELDWORK: METHODS IN CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

26 August

- Nelson, Katy, "Doing Fieldwork" *Perspectives*, Pp. 45-69.

3. THE ORIGINS OF ANTHROPOLOGY: THE FOUNDERS.

28 August 4 September

- Moore, Jerry D. *Visions of Culture*. Pp. 1-60

4. SOCIETY AND NATURE

9 September

- Moore, Jerry D. *Visions of Culture*. Pp. 117-174.

5. NEOEVOLUTIONISM OR APPLIED MARXISM

11-16 September

- Moore, Jerry D. *Visions of Culture*. Pp. 175-226

6. STRUCTURES AND SYMBOLIC ANTHROPOLOGY

18-23 September

- Moore, Jerry D. *Visions of Culture*. Pp. 227-287.

8. AGENCY, POWER, PRACTICE

25 September

- Moore, Jerry D. *Visions of Culture*. Pp. 289-384.

7. GENERATIVE ANTHROPOLOGY AND THE ONTOLOGICAL TURN

30 September - 2 October

- Alison, James, and Wolfgang Palaver. *The Palgrave Handbook of Mimetic Theory and Religion*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan US, 2017. Pp. 1-20.
- Viveiros de Castro, Eduardo. *The Relative Native: Essays on Indigenous Conceptual Worlds*. Chicago: Hau books, 2015. Pp. 3-38.

ASSIGNMENT 1. TEXT ON CONCEPTS

14-16 October

PART II. APPLYING CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

8. FIELD TRIP (TBA)

21-23 October

- TBA

9. ANTHROPOLOGY OF RELIGION

28 October

- García, Justin "Race and Ethnicity" in *Perspectives* Pp. 204-230.

10. PERFORMANCE

30 October

- Griffith, Lauren Miller and Jonathan S. Marion "Performance" in *Perspectives* Pp. 282-406.

11. MEDIA ANTHROPOLOGY

4 November

- Peake, Bryce "Media Anthropology: Meaning, Embodiment, Infrastructure, and Activism" in *Perspectives* Pp. 407-424.

12. HISTORICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

6 November

- Atienza, D. & D. Garcia-Ramos Gallego. "Pacific" Ethno-national Identities. Victims, persecutors and the Quest for Identity." *Contagion* 28 (2021): 171-200.

ASSIGNMENT 2. READING TEXT

8-13 November

PART III. STUDENTS REFLEXIONS.

12. SEEING AND THINKING LIKE AN ANTHROPOLOGIST

December

Lecture: December 1, 2021

- Cochrane, Logan “Seeing Like an Anthropologist: Anthropology in Practice” in *Perspectives* Pp. 444-455.

ASSIGNMENT 2. ETHNOGRAPHIC OBSERVATION AND ANALYSIS

November 27 to December 6

Due on December 11.

Students will conduct an ethnographic observation in a real-world setting, applying the anthropological concepts and methodologies learned throughout the course. The goal is to analyze and interpret cultural behaviors, rituals, or social interactions within a particular group or community.

Instructions:

1. Selection of a Field Site:

- Each student (or group of students) must select a site for observation (COULD BE SANTA MARIA CAMALIN PROCESSION). This could be a local community, a public event, a cultural center, a religious ceremony, or any other setting where people interact in meaningful ways.
- Encourage students to choose a setting that is culturally or personally significant to them.

2. Observation Period:

- Students should spend a minimum of 3-5 hours observing their chosen site. This time can be spread over multiple sessions if needed.
- They should focus on specific aspects of the site, such as social interactions, use of space, rituals, or cultural practices.

3. Field Notes:

- Students must take detailed field notes during their observations. These notes should include descriptions of the setting, the people involved, activities observed, and any relevant conversations or behaviors.
- Encourage students to be as objective and descriptive as possible, avoiding premature analysis during the observation phase.

4. Data Analysis:

- After completing their observations, students should analyze their field notes. They should identify patterns, cultural norms, social roles, or any other relevant themes.
- Students should connect their findings to anthropological theories and concepts discussed in class.

5. Final Report:

- The final report should be 5-7 pages long (double-spaced) and include the following sections:
 - **Introduction:** Briefly describe the site and the rationale for choosing it.
 - **Methodology:** Explain the observational methods used and the duration of observation.
 - **Findings:** Present the key observations and patterns identified.
 - **Analysis:** Interpret the findings using anthropological concepts. Discuss the cultural significance of the observed behaviors.
 - **Conclusion:** Reflect on the experience of conducting ethnographic research and any challenges faced.
 - **Appendix:** Include a copy of the field notes.

Grading Criteria:

- **Depth of Observation:** Quality and detail of the field notes.
- **Analytical Insight:** Ability to connect observations to anthropological concepts.
- **Clarity and Structure:** Organization and clarity of the final report.
- **Engagement:** Active participation in the observation process and reflection on the experience.

***Dates and topics are approximate and will vary according to the student's interests**

ATTENDANCE

Attendance to online lectures is required to pass this course. If, without any explanation, a student misses classes for three weeks consecutively, the lecturer may assume they have withdrawn from the course. Please email your lecturer if you are absent due to illness or other reasons. You will find me sympathetic to communication.

GRADE ALLOCATION

ASSIGNMENT 1: TEST ON CONCEPTS	30%
ASSIGNMENT 2: ETHNOGRAPHIC OBSERVATION AND ANALYSIS	50%
ATTENDANCE, CLASS PARTICIPATION, AND EXERCISES.	20%

The final grade awarded appears as a letter:

A+	98-100	Outstanding
A	93-97	
A-	90-92	
B+	89-87	Good
B	83-86	
B-	80-82	
C+	77-79	Adequate
C	70-76	
D	60-69	Deficient
F	<60	Failure

PLAGIARISM

The UOG Student Handbook prohibits plagiarism. I personally will not tolerate it. In this class, evidence of plagiarism in any assignment will result in an F grade for the whole course, and possibly a hearing at the Student Discipline Committee. Review handout on how to avoid plagiarism.

ADA Accommodation Services

The University is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our community free of all forms of discrimination and harassment in all programs, activities, and employment practices as required by Title VII and Title IX and other applicable statutes and policies. If you experience harassment or discrimination, report it immediately to the Director of EEO/ADA & TITLE IX Office, at 671-735-2244, 671-735-2971, TOD 671-735-2243 or eeo-ada@triton.uog.edu. For immediate assistance in an emergency call 911.

For individuals covered under the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act), if you are a student with a disability requiring academic accommodation(s), please contact the Student Counseling and Advising Service Accommodations Office to discuss your confidential request. Please provide an accommodation letter from the Disability Support Services/Student Counseling and Advising Service Accommodation counselor. To register for academic accommodations, please contact or visit the Student Center, Rotunda office #6, disabilitysu000rt@triton.uog.edu, or telephone/(TDD) 671-735-2460.

For applicants or employees with a disability requiring employment or workplace accommodation(s), please contact the Director of EEO/ADA & TITLE IX Office to discuss your specific needs. Please provide documentation concerning your disability and the need for employment or workplace accommodation. Our office is located at the Iya Hami Hall, Dorm 2, right side entrance, first floor, Room 104, and our contact numbers are indicated above.

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