

University of Detroit Mercy
Sociology 210 – Cultural Anthropology
Course Syllabus
Winter Semester 2005

Instructor: Aloha Van Camp Ph.D.
Course Day/Times: Wednesday 6:40 p.m. – 9:10 p.m.
Room: Briggs Hall 10
Office: Briggs 216A
Office Hours: or by appointment
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Textbook: Anthropology: The Exploration of Human Diversity Conrad Kottak (10th Edition) available at the university bookstore.

Course Objectives: This course will present you with opportunities to learn about the breadth of applied and theoretical issues in the broad and interesting field of Cultural Anthropology. You will learn to consider and analyze cultural practices from different perspectives as well as develop an understanding of the basic concepts related to this study. Students should have the following outcomes:

- Ability to describe and interpret the relationship between culture and individual behavior
- Ability to sensitively explain the nature of cultures
- Ability to identify and apply the principles of cross-cultural communications
- Ability to think globally and engage cross-culturally for the purpose of mission

Week	Topic	Assignment
January 12:	Introduction and overview of the course Video: The Nature of Anthropology	Chapter 1 & 2
January 19:	Culture Video: Franz Boas: The Shackles of Tradition	Chapter 13
January 26:	Ethnicity	Chapter 14
February 2:	Biological Diversity and Race Evolution and Genetics Video: Understanding Race	Chapter 9

February 9:	Methods & Ethics in Cultural Anthropology Chapter 12 Video: Cross-Cultural Understanding	
February 16:	Language and Communication Ms. Goodall & the wild chimpanzees	Chapter 15
February 23:	Making a Living Video: Patterns of Sustenance: The Food Producers Review for mid-term	Chapter 8 & 10
March 2:	Mid-Term Exam	
March 9:	Winter/Spring Break	
March 16:	Families, Kinship and Descent Video: Twilight of the Dreamtime	Chapter 18
March 23	Marriage Video: Men & Women Differences	Chapter 19
March 30:	Gender Video: Masai Women	Chapter 20
April 6:	Religion Video: Religion & Culture	Chapter 21
April 13:	Cultural Exchange and Survival Anthropology Debates	Chapter 25
April 20:	Review of Final Examination Anthropology Debates	
April 27	Final Exam Week	

Requirements for Written Assignments:

All written work (except in-class examinations) must be submitted using APA format, especially related to in-text citations, references and gender free language. All work must be work-processed, double-spaced and in Times New Roman, 12-point font and may be sent to the instructor as an attachment via email.

Grading:

A = 100 - 95
A- = 94 - 91
B+ = 90 - 88
B = 87 - 84
B- = 83 - 81
C+ = 80 - 78
C = 77 - 74
C- = 73 - 71
D+ = 70 - 68
D = 67 - 64
F = 63 or below

Incomplete Grades: Students must negotiate terms for incomplete grades with me by Spring Break unless an emergency precludes this, then ASAP). We will work out a mutually beneficial contract for course completion. You will not get an "I" if you do not negotiate it with me.

Academic Honesty/Misconduct:

The instructor fully supports the University Standards on Academic Misconduct. You are responsible for following the guidelines in the Code of Student Conduct and or the Faculty Handbook in all academic work. This includes, but is not limited to the following course rules; no use of unauthorized information assistance, no plagiarizing, no falsification, fabrication or dishonesty in reporting research; and no alteration of grades or University forms. Students having questions about the proper citation of books, journals, newspapers, Internet, films, audio-tapes or other materials created by others should see me (or other campus experts) before turning in assignments. The instructor requires the American Psychological Association's Style Manual (6th Edition) for citations in our courses.

Course Accommodations:

The instructor fully supports the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and, in keeping with the spirit and intent of the law, will make reasonable and necessary accommodations for students having a qualifying disability. Therefore any student who is officially registered with the University with a qualifying disability, should inform the instructor by the 2nd week of the term to make necessary arrangements

Course Assignments:

Attendance and Participation*:	10 points
Mid-Term Examination	30 points
Final Examination	30 points
Cross-Cultural Paper (Option 1 or 2)	20 points
Anthropology Debate (must use powerpoint)	10 points

*Three absences may result in a student being asked to withdraw from the class.

OPTION #1--Cross-Cultural Interview and Paper

This paper is an experiential and research-based approach to understanding the influences of culture and ethnicity on human development. Please note the following to complete the assignment successfully:

- Select a person that you do not already know to interview.
- The person must be a non-U.S. citizen or a member of an ethnic group whose culture is quite different from your own.
- Report your interview in a 5-page paper, responding to questions such as “What have they been the most surprised about in my culture? How do they think they are most misunderstood by members of my culture? What makes them uneasy to be around me? Differences in child rearing patterns from my own culture? Differences in marriage patterns from my own culture? Religious differences from my own culture? What cultural pattern in the U.S. are they most distressed by? What are some significant “rites of passage” rituals and celebrations? Any history of discrimination in their country/culture?
- The paper should be a minimum of 5 pages and a maximum of 10 pages.
- Grammar, sentence structure and overall presentation will be part of the grade.
- The paper should include at least one book or journal article citation describing background on the culture.

OPTION #2 Screening and Discussion of Film --Hotel Rwanda

Hotel Rwanda is a recently released film depicting the genocide of nearly 1 million people in the African country of Rwanda. Students must review the film, provide a written overview of the film and an up-to-date summary of the genocide trials that are scheduled to take place during the first three months of 2005. Finally, the student must demonstrate an understanding of the film’s application to cultural anthropology.