



## **Anthropology 102- Cultural Anthropology**

Los Angeles Pierce College Spring 2020 – All Online via Canvas  
Instructor: Jackson P Trager - Office hours: by request via Zoom  
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### **Course description**

One of the central tasks in Anthropology is to “make the familiar seem strange, and the strange seem familiar”. The aim of this class is to develop this conceptual anthropological lens, for each student to be able to see the complexities, beauty, science, and elements of human nature in the various human cultures across world regions. From Papua New Guinea and Taiwan to Van Nuys and Echo Park, culture can mean many things, and through the anthropological lens can mean even more.

This course is a general introduction to cultural anthropology. It can help you to understand what culture is, how it functions, and how it changes. Beyond a solid introduction to basic concepts in anthropology, you’ll be challenged to perceive, analyse, and theorize about the cultural diversity in our Los Angeles Neighbourhood. Each week will consist of 4-5 modules that will review the text and dive deeper into these concepts, consisting of roughly half lecture/presentations/videos/guest speakers and half group discussion.



### **Course Objectives**

**“If you don't know where you are going, you'll end up someplace else.” — Yogi Berra**

Course objectives upon successful completion of this course you will be able to:

1. Apply the key concepts of anthropology to better understand and evaluate social perceptions and practices in the world around them.
2. Explain the methods used by cultural anthropologists, including the ethnographic method, and evaluate the ethical issues anthropologists encounter.
3. Differentiate academic and popular notions of race and ethnicity as it is applied to diverse cultural groups and assess the implications of these social categorizations for modern social life.
4. Recognize and assess embedded ethnocentric views towards people of other cultures and propose culturally relativistic alternatives.
5. Describe the various social institutions at the core of culture and compare the various ways different societies structure their lives into meaningful cultural frameworks.
6. Criticize and explain the interconnectedness of the economic, political, and sociocultural forces of globalization amongst diverse cultural groups.

**Textbook: Cultural Anthropology: A toolkit for a global age. By Kenneth J. Guest, Norton. 2nd Edition. ISBN 978-0-393-26500-2 ( Ebook Recommended!)**

## Student Learning Outcomes

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) are faculty-defined expectations of knowledge and skills students can demonstrate as a result of learning acquired in a course. The SLOs for this course is that the student will be able to evaluate cultural behaviours from an anthropological perspective. The student should be equipped with an anthropological lens to add to their intellectual tool belt, equipped to study of human culture surrounding religion.

## GRADES

Grading will be based on 4 major components:

10% Reading Reflections (17 total, 10 graded) (50 pts total)

10% Group Discussions (17 total, 10 graded) (50 pts total)

20% Out of Class Assignment (100 pts)

60% Practical exams (3 x 20%)(100 pts each, 300 pts total)

**Reading Reflections:** For the first 5-10 minutes of every class module, each student will be asked to type at most a half page reflection on the relevant readings for that class. Reflection should include the thesis of the chapter, the main arguments, and any questions, concerns, or comments. **Most importantly, connect the text to your personal narrative.** How did aspects of the reading connect to your life story - family, background growing up, places you've lived, religion you've practiced, religions you've seen around you, questions you've asked as a kid, previous college courses, etc? This task will get your mind into cultural anthropology mode, encourage prompt attendance, and develop comfort in writing about complex issues. Reading reflections will count for 5 points (50 total) and will make up 10% of your overall grade. There are 17 chapters (listed below) with reading reflections, but only 10 will be graded. Basically, since everyone has rough mornings, you can miss or flub 7 reflections and still get the full credit of 50 points or you can complete all and finish with extra credit points.

**Group Discussions:** At the end of every module, students will respond to a group discussion prompt in 3-6 sentences **AND** reply to a classmates comment. Each discussion will count for 5 points (50 total) and will make up 10% of your overall grade. There are 17 discussions (listed below) , but only 10 will be graded. Basically, since everyone has rough afternoons, you can miss or flub a discussion and still get the full credit of 50 points or you can complete all and finish with extra credit points.

**Get Out and Experience Assignment:** For this essay, students are normally assigned to take their studies outside—on the road and to the streets— exploring human culture as it exists in Los Angeles (pre corona). Pick a **documentary** on a cultural subgroup, cultural ritual, museum, religious event, or cultural heritage center that represents the unique cultural communities of Los Angeles. Write a short ethnographic essay, of 3-4 pages, that details your visit and summarizes some of your findings. If student is having trouble finding an event, please see the instructor for help. This paper is worth 100 points and makes up 20% of your grade. You can turn the paper in at any date before the end of week 5. A rubric will be provided on canvas.

**Exams:** There will be 3 exams. Tests will consist of multiple choice and short essay questions. Each exam will be preceded by a study guide review of the test material. Tests can be retaken during any class period and scores will be averaged. Each exam is worth 100 points/20% of your grade and 3 exams combined make up 60% of your overall grade.

**Dates: Exam 1: Week 2 Exam 2: Week 4 Exam 3: Week 5**

**Grading Scale:** Nothing tricky here. All points will be gathered and averaged out. There are **500** points total (excluding extra credit).

**RR Total:** 50 pts, **DQ Total:** 50 pts **Paper:** 100 pts, **Exam 1:** 100 pts, **Exam 2:** 100 pts, **Exam 3:** 100 pts

Grades are based on a 10% breakdown. There is no curving. **A**= 90 - 100 %, **B** = 80 - 89 %, **C** = 70 - 79 %, **D** = 60 - 69 %, **Fail** = 59 % - Below. By points: **A** = +450, **B** = 400-449, **C** = 350-399, **D** = 300- 349, **FAIL** = 299-Below

The schedule is tentative and is subject to change as the semester progresses.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Modules</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
<b>1</b> 06/15 - 06/21	1	Introduction: Outline of the course, syllabus, readings, class mechanics, grading, etc.	Read Syllabus
	2	Anthropology in a Global Age	Ch 1 + RR 1 + D1
	3	Culture	Ch 2 + RR 2 + D2
	4	Fieldwork and Ethnography	Ch 3 + RR 3 + D3
<b>2</b> 06/22- 6/28	5	Language	Ch 4 + RR 4 + D4
	6	<b>Exam 1</b>	Study
	7	Human Origins	Ch 5 + RR 5 + D5
	8	Race and Racism	Ch 6 + RR 6 + D6
<b>3</b> 06/29- 07/05	9	Ethnicity and Nationalism	Ch 7 + RR 7+ D7
	10	Gender	Ch 8 + RR 8 + D8
	11	Sexuality	Ch 9 + RR 9+ D9
	12	Kinship, Family, and Marriage	Ch 10 + RR 10 + D10
<b>4</b> 07/06- 07/13	13	<b>Exam 2</b>	Study
	14	Class and Inequality	Ch 11 + RR 11+ D11
	15	The Global Economy	Ch 12 + RR 12+ D12
	16	Migration	Ch 13 + RR 13+ D13
<b>5</b> 07/14- 07/19	17	Politics and Power	Ch 14 + RR 14 + D14
	18	Religion	Ch 15 + RR 15 + D15
	19	Health, Illness, and the Body	Ch 16 + RR 16 + D16
	20	Art and Media	Ch 17 + RR 17 + D17
	21	<b>Paper due!</b>	Study
	22	Final Exam	Final Exam

**EXTRA CREDIT:**

Not everyone can test well. And unexpected emergencies are part of life. In order to combat these confounding variables, multiple avenues of extra credit are provided. As listed above, there are 70 possible extra credit points available via completing reading reflections and group discussions. Additionally, students can earn 20 extra credit points by completing a second “Get Out and Experience” paper as described in the section above. Additionally, everyone starts out

with 1% Extra Credit to their grade! However, every time I get an email with a question that is answered in the syllabus, I will deduct .25% of this extra credit grade.

### **Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty**

The faculty and administration of LA Pierce College are committed to the belief that honesty and integrity are integral components of the academic process. The College expects students to be honest and ethical at all times in their pursuit of academic goals. Students who violate the code of academic conduct by which the College maintains its academic integrity will be dealt with in a manner reflecting the seriousness of these violations.

I. Violations of academic honesty and integrity occur when a student participates in any act in which he/she uses deception or fraud while per

forming an academic activity. Violations include, but are not limited to, the following: Using study aids such as calculators, tape recorders or notes, when not authorized by the instructor. Cheating on examinations, assignments or experiments (allowing another student to copy one's answers or copying the answers of other students; exchanging information by any means, including verbal exchanges, sign language, hand signals, secret codes, passed notes, creation of a distraction for the purpose of cheating; changing answers on a previously scored test, assignment or experiment; inventing information and/or data.) Allowing another student to assume one's identity in order to fulfill an assignment or take a test. Submitting for a grade the words, ideas, and/or written work (including laboratory notes and drawings) of another person without giving due credit to that person. This includes purchased papers or papers written by other students. Falsifying or attempting to falsify attendance records and/or grade rosters. Conspiring with other students to commit any of the above behaviors.

II. Consequences for any offense against academic honesty and integrity may include: An "F" or a "0" on the examination or assignment. You may be suspended from the class and other sanctions and/or penalties authorized by the Board of Trustees for violations of the District Code of Conduct. A record of the student's violation placed in the student's disciplinary file. Students are required to be honest and complete their own work at all times (homework, class work, quizzes, tests, etc.). Additional information about plagiarism can be found at [www.plagiarism.org](http://www.plagiarism.org) or through various websites on the Internet.

### **Attendance Policy:**

We will respect Los Angeles Pierce College's attendance policy:

"Only students who have been admitted to the College and are in approved active status may attend classes. Students are expected to be in class on time and to remain for the entire class period. Medical appointments, work, job interviews, childcare responsibilities, etc. should be arranged so as not to occur during class time. Please do not make requests for exceptions. Any student who has unexcused absences equaling one week's worth of class time prior to census date may be excluded. Students may drop the class online, before the last day to drop. Students should never rely on the instructor to exclude them." (General Catalog, p. 21)

Additionally, be sure to follow the course schedule for reading and class assignments; Students are individually responsible for any information and announcements that are missed due to absence or tardiness. Please ask another student for notes.

Dropping the class: It is your responsibility to drop the class if you discontinue coming to class; however, you may be dropped by the instructor if you are not attending class. NOTE: if you have **three or more** unexcused absences, you will be **dropped from the class**.

The exams will consist of practical lab exams. Questions will be derived from readings, lecture and discussions. Note: There will be no makeup exams without extraordinary circumstances.

Online Classroom conduct: At all times, the online environment must be one of respect for conflicting viewpoints and opinions. I encourage active debate and exploration of complex issues. In order to do this, we all must work to make our classroom community a supportive and inclusive one.

Dropping the class: It is your responsibility to drop the class if you discontinue coming to class; however, you may be dropped by the instructor if you are not attending class.

### **Foster Youth:**

We are making a special effort to support current and former foster youths at Pierce College. If you are a current or former foster youth you may qualify for other support services to help you achieve your educational goals. Please contact our Guardian Scholars Program at (818) 710-3323 or send us an email at [guardianscholars@piercecollege.edu](mailto:guardianscholars@piercecollege.edu) so you can get the support you are eligible for.

### **Religious holidays:**

There are a variety of “religious holidays” occurring during the semester. While these are neither Federal- or State-sanctioned holidays, they ARE days of religious observance that may impact some students in the class. If you plan to miss a class period, an assignment due date or an exam because you will be practicing your religion on a particular day, you need to notify your instructor of this fact by the end of the second week of the semester. Official notification will take the form of a note, written and signed by the student, which specifies the anticipated date(-s) of absence. A student who provides this information by the deadline will be able to reschedule missed exams or work, and their absence will not adversely affect their attendance record. Failure to provide proper notification by the end of the second week will negate the student’s option to reschedule or receive credit for missed activities.

### **Campus Safety:**

In Case of Emergency: When on campus, call 818 710-4311 for immediate response from the Campus Sheriff. Do not call 911, as this will result in a substantial delay. Please program the Emergency Sheriff’s number into your cell phone contacts.

### **Special Services:**

Students with disabilities, whether physical, learning, or psychological, who believe that they may need accommodations in this class, are encouraged to contact the office of Special Services as soon as possible to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. Authorization, based on verification of disability, is required before any accommodation can be made. 818.719.6430 Student Services Bldg, 1st floor