

## **ANTH 1800 – Cultural Anthropology**

Susan C. Warner, Ph.D

Phone: 937-766-7632

Email: warners@cedarville.edu

### **Course Description**

You have come of age in a world where the human population is growing rapidly while our technological advances break down barriers of distance and language with equal vigor. Distances between peoples are shrinking at the same time that conflicts proliferate. Cultural Anthropology seeks to contribute to your perception of contemporary cultural diversity and the opportunities and the conflicts it raises.

### **Course Objectives**

The objectives of this class are to introduce students to the basic concepts of cultural anthropology and a broad sampling of the ways that these concepts can aid us in understanding the world today. More specifically, the primary objectives for this course are for you to:

- gain factual knowledge of the terms, concepts and methods used by anthropologists to describe the characteristics of cultures;
- become familiar with the fundamental principles and theories that guide the discipline of anthropology;
- take up, analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments and points of view from class readings and discussion;
- develop an interest in the field and confidence in your ability to formulate good questions and seek satisfying answers from anthropological literature; and
- apply the study of cultural anthropology to a biblical worldview by examining God's Word in light of sending the gospel message to the "uttermost ends of the earth."

### **Departmental Objectives**

The goal of the Department of Social Work, Criminal Justice, and Sociology is to develop ethical and capable professionals who can refine and integrate a Christian world and life view with their respective fields as they serve in a multicultural society and the global community.

- Students will evidence knowledge of the basic components of their respective academic disciplines.
- Students will participate in graduate study and/or practice as professionals in public and private professions.
- Students will demonstrate competence in the methods and tools of original quantitative and qualitative research and the ability to formulate and express the results.
- Students will exhibit critical analysis in evaluating historical and/or contemporary issues.
- Students will display the ability to integrate biblical truth with their academic disciplines through the investigation and study of society.

## Texts

*Cultural Anthropology: The Human Challenge* 12th edition by Haviland, Prins, Walrath, McBride. 2005. Thompson-Wadsworth. ISBN: 9780495095613

*Culture Sketches: Case Studies in Anthropology* by Holly Peters-Golden. 4th edition. 2006. McGraw-Hill. ISBN: 9780073405308

## Assignment Details

### Reading and Quizzes

Each week you are required to take chapter quizzes over the chapters covered for the Haviland book. These quizzes are taken online, are open-book, and are not timed. You can take each quiz up to three times, but the questions are randomized and may be different for each attempt. The highest of your attempts will be placed in the gradebook. These quizzes are worth 10 points each week.

To view reading assignments for a given week;

1. Log in to this course in WebCT.
2. Select "Online Classroom" from the menu on the left.
3. Select a Unit and then a Week from the top menu.
4. Look under "Activities" for the reading assignment(s).

## Group Discussion

### *Week One of Unit*

Each group will be assigned to a research topic: either

- **Chapter research:** each group member will choose an article to read and summarize -- you will notify your group early in the week about the article you have chosen so that you each choose different articles
- **Biblical Archeology:** you will discuss as a group what topics you should research and divide up the work
- **Anthropologist:** You will discuss as a group what you need to research and divide up the work. You will post your research summaries to the discussion posting for the week. Post under Week 1 for the Unit and choose Create Message to post your findings. These findings should be posted in the box provided. You may create your posting in Word but paste and copy it into the discussion posting rather than using an attachment. Each member will evaluate the other members' postings by clicking on Review this Post when you read the posting.

### *Week Two of Unit*

Your group leader will appoint someone in the group to compile the members' postings into a blog draft and post the draft under Week 2. Each member will read the draft and evaluate it by clicking on Review this Post after you read it. You can also make comments and suggestions for editing. The compiler will edit the final draft and post it to the Blog by Sunday at Midnight. Again, post the whole essay in the Blog section without using attachments.

### ***Week Three of Unit***

Each member of the course needs to study the blog postings as these will be used for study material for the exam at the end of Week 3.

To view group's assignments for a given week;

1. Log in to this course in WebCT.
2. Select "Online Classroom" from the menu on the left.
3. Select a Unit and then a Week from the top menu.
4. Look under "Activites" for the group assignment and follow the link.
5. Select your group from the list.

To access the group discussion areas;

1. Log in to this course in WebCT.
2. Select "Discussions" from the menu on the left.
3. Look for your group's area and select it to enter and post summaries or comments.

### **Cultural Sketches**

Each week you will read the assigned chapter in Culture Sketches: A Case Study in Anthropology. After reading the chapter, you will write an essay and submit it in the assignment area. This assignment must be submitted before the due date. There are no late assignments accepted. You are to write a summary of the chapter and then use the section at the end of each chapter entitled For Further Discussion to respond to for the rest of your essay.

To view a chapter assignment for a given week;

1. Log in to this course in WebCT.
2. Select "Online Classroom" from the menu on the left.
3. Select a Unit and then a Week from the top menu.
4. Look under "Activities" for the Cultural Sketches section to find that week's chapter.

To submit a summary;

1. Log in to this course in WebCT.
2. Select "Assignments" from the menu on the left.
3. Look for the corresponding assignment and click its title.
4. Enter your summary in the "Submission" area or attach a file from you computer. Files should be saved in Word (.doc or .docx), Rich Text Format (.rtf), or PDF (.pdf) format in order to be graded by your professor.
5. Click "Submit" to turn in your summary to be graded.

## Exams

Exams occur every other week and are open from Thur. at 8am till Sun. at midnight. You choose the time during which you want to take the exam. These are timed, 90 minute essay exams. They are also open-book so feel free to have your books and resources at hand.

Here are some hints on taking these exams:

- The purpose of the essay question is for you to show me what you have learned in the module. Therefore, the more you point out material from the module, the better your grade will be. You don't have to use proper citation, but you do have to tell me where the information is coming from, such as, In the website on childcare, we read that 40% of all children who spend more than 30 hours per week in structured childcare will have test scores significantly lower than children who are not in childcare. Or, The authors of our textbook point out three major causes of... Also, you will need to use material from any readings that apply to the question. You are free to include your personal opinion, but what I am looking for is that you know and are able to articulate what you learned in the module.
- I would suggest that you study for these exams as you study for any exam. Mark places in your texts with sticky tabs so that you can reference them quickly. Make a list and summary of important websites that we accessed in the module. Print out the outlines of the text, if available online. You don't want to spend your time looking up answers because the purpose of the question is that you will already be familiar with the material.
- Always check the comments I make on your exams. I will respond to each and every question with comments about what you left out or what you did right. It is my expectation that you are reading these comments and making the necessary adjustments the next time. So if you don't read the comments and make the same mistakes, the points lost are even more costly. You view my comments by clicking on the tests, then on the box that says View Scores. You will then need to click on the "number 1" under the heading Attempts. This will take you to a page that allows you to see my comments.

## Capstone Project

You will each work on and submit a final capstone project of your choice at the end of the course. You will be submitting sections of this paper at the end of each unit. You will first need to choose a topic. The topic can either be a current culture other than the one of your own or it can be a culture from the Bible. At the end of each unit, you must submit a draft of a portion of your project following the schedule below:

- Unit 1: Overview of your topic and research statement
- Unit 2: Section on subsistence & family
- Unit 3: Section on the economic and political systems of your culture
- Unit 4: Section on the religion of your culture

The instructor will offer evaluation of each section and suggestions for revision of the final project.

Choose from the following topics:

## 1. *Cultural Anthropology and the Bible Capstone Project*

This assignment involves applying what you have learned in the course about anthropology to the Scriptures. You will now need to pick a particular Biblical period or character and write a paper that uses the concepts of anthropology to understand your topic. You will need to research this topic, using the resources you have available online in Cedarville Library or any other resources such as your public library or various websites. You can access the CU database online. Go to the link for the library, click on "Databases & Articles," then on "By Subject," then "Bible." You will then see several electronic resources such as the Biblical Archeology Society Online. This even includes full-text articles. Here is a list of other websites you could consult:

- <http://www.christiananswers.net/archaeology/>
- <http://www.godandscience.org/apologetics/archeology.html>
- <http://www.bible-history.com/>
- <http://www.bib-arch.org/bswbAbOnResource.html>
- <http://www.mustardseed.net/html/places.html>

Feel free to explore more resources. Most of you have access to a public library and they will have many places for you to research your topic. You need to include at least 6 sources. Please be certain to cite properly any resources you use to write your paper. This paper needs to be at least 8 pages, double-spaced, and no longer than 12 pages, double-spaced.

## 2. *Current Culture Capstone Project*

You will research another culture in the world, applying principles and concepts studied in the course as a means of analyzing that particular culture. Written papers will include a consideration of the subsistence, family, religious, educational, economic and political institutions, though not limited to these topics. The paper is to be 8-12 pages in length and draw upon no less than six sources (Internet sources must reference the expert/researcher/document that authorizes the information cited).

Instead of a written paper, you may submit a Power Point presentation which includes maps and pictures of the culture you are presenting as well as information. These Power point presentations will then be available to the rest of the class if they so desire to view them. You will still need to cover the five areas listed above.

To submit your Capstone Project;

1. Log in to this course in WebCT.
2. Select "Assignments" from the menu on the left.
3. Look for the Capston Assignment and click its title.
4. Attach a file or set of files (in .zip format) from you computer. Text files should be saved in Word (.doc or .docx), Rich Text Format (.rtf), or PDF (.pdf) format in order to be graded by your professor. Powerpoints should be saved as .ppt files. Videos or other media should be placed in a simple Web Page, and placed in a .zip file. Assistance with media can be found in the Media

Plex located in the lower level of the Centennial Library at Cedarville University, or by contacting your professor.

5. Click "Submit" to turn in your project to be graded.

## Resources

If you have a disability covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act for which academic accommodations might need to be provided in this course, please contact the office of the Coordinator of Disability Services, Mrs. Marilyn Meyer, Ext. 3843, meyer@m@cedarville.edu as soon as possible so reasonable and appropriate accommodations can be determined and arranged.

***More details including a semester calendar and general advice for succeeding in this course are available in the online classroom.***