

AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ANTH 2351: Cultural Anthropology
Instructor: Fred L. McGhee, Ph.D.
Email: fmcghee@austincc.edu,
flm@earthlink.net
Phone: (512) 275-6027
Class Dates: 24 August- 13 December 2009
Class Time: 0745-0900 (7:45 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.)
Class location: NRG 4146

1. Course Description (ACC 2008-2009 catalog, p. 181): “This course introduces the student to a holistic study of culture. The major elements of human social behavior, material culture, and cultural diversity are studied as adaptations to social and environmental change—past and present.”
2. We will do all of the things mentioned in the course description and more. The primary goal of the course is to not only grasp what "culture" is, but also to critically engage the manner in which the concept developed. Another goal of the course is to deliberately de-emphasize anthropology as an exotic and arcane discipline that studies dark-skinned peoples in far-flung places. We will see anthropology's mainstream relevance and examine examples of the manner in which applied anthropologists are working in nearly all walks of life in non-academic settings. We will use the Kottak and Podolefsky texts to not only briefly examine "other" cultures but to also look in the mirror to critically engage and examine what our conceptions of other cultures says about us. The course will not shy away from central and enduring topics discussed in anthropology over the years but often left out of introductory courses: race & racism, colonialism, gender, class, identity and identity politics, consciousness & resistance, and subaltern politics, among others.
3. Learning Objectives. What you should get out of this class is:
 - A. A firm grasp of what anthropology is and isn't.
 - B. An introduction to anthropological theory.
 - C. Basic methodology; i.e. an understanding of the manner in which anthropological concepts and techniques are utilized in an applied setting.
 - D. A de-romanticized and postcolonial appreciation for the history of anthropology and of cultural relativism.

Teaching Methods: I will lecture through week eight after which students will be broken into groups and required to present the remaining chapters to the rest of the class and to lead discussion (with my assistance as necessary). The class presentation consists of the teaching of one or two chapters to the rest of the class. You can pick which chapter you wish to present; otherwise I will assign you a chapter. You are encouraged to use handouts, overheads, PowerPoint presentations, etc. If we fall behind due to time constraints, your class handouts and chapter summary will become your class presentation, so be sure to do as comprehensive a job as possible.

1. Texts (both are in the bookstore; they are also available online at student textbook sites such as bookswap.com).
 - A. Conrad Phillip Kottak *Cultural Anthropology*, 13th Edition. ISBN: 978-0-07-340534-6
 - B. Podolefsky, Brown, Lacy, *Applying Cultural Anthropology*, 8th Edition. ISBN: 978-0-07-340533-9
1. Class Policies:
 - A. Please be on time and be prepared.
 - B. No sleeping in class. If you are tired, stand in the back of the classroom.
 - C. Respect other people's opinions.
 - D. If you will not be able to attend a class, notify me in advance, where possible. Do not skip class and expect me to later jump through hoops for you. It is your responsibility to stay current with the material.
 - E. If you have a special need or accommodation (learning disability, sight or hearing impairment, etc.), please notify me in advance. Do not wait until the last minute; by then it will be too late.
 - F. Please let me know if you are falling behind or if the material is too difficult for you. I am happy to help but can only do so if you let me know how you are doing.
 - G. If you haven't done so, please read and understand the ACC Student Handbook, particularly the sections on plagiarism and scholastic dishonesty.
 - H. Please consider this syllabus temporary as it may change.
 - I. There will be no re-tests

7. Getting in touch with me: the best way to reach me is via email. You can also telephone me at the number listed above. Office hours are by appointment, T, Th 0920-1030.

8. Grading. Grades will be based on class participation, class presentations, three quizzes, and a final exam. All quizzes and exams will be a hybrid between multiple choice, true/false, matching, and essay questions. Breakdown is as follows:

Attendance and Participation: 10%
 Presentation(s): 20%
 Quizzes: 40%
 Final Exam: 30%

Course Calendar

Week	Dates	Course Instruction	Reading(s)
1	25, 27 August	Course Introduction and Overview	Kottak pp. 1-25
2	1, 3 September	Culture	Kottak, pp. 27-51
3	8, 10 September	Method and Theory	Kottak, pp. 53-80
3	15, 17 September	Applied Anthropology	Kottak, pp. 83-104
4	22, 24 September	Applied Anthropology	Podolefsky pp. 13-20, 126-132
5	29 September, 1 October	Applied Anthropology	Podolefsky, pp. 189-194 Quiz #1
6	6, 8 October	Language and Communication	Kottak, pp. 107-129
7	13, 15 October	Ethnicity and Race	Kottak pp. 131-160
8	20, 22 October	Political Systems	Kottak, pp. 191-218
9	27 October	Review	Quiz #2
9	29 October	Gender	Kottak pp. 221-245
10	3, 5 November	Marriage	Kottak, pp. 269-292
11	10 November	Religion	Kottak pp. 295-319
11	12 November	Review	Quiz #3
12	17, 19 November	Colonialism	Kottak, pp. 351-375
13	24 November (no class on 26 November—Thanksgiving)	Global Issues Today	Kottak, pp. 377-401
14	1 December	Global Issues Today (cont'd)	Kottak, pp. 377-401
14	3 December	Review and Final Exam Prep	As required
15	8 December	Final Exam	All texts

Tips:

1. The Kottak book contains excellent chapter summaries as well as a “Test Yourself” section at the end of chapter. I recommend that you pay close attention to the material located there.
2. Your attendance and participation is very important. This is not the sort of class you can consistently blow off and expect to pass. I do not give “I” grades. If you wish to withdraw with a “W” it is up to you to do that within the time frames specified by ACC.
3. I prefer to conduct class business electronically as much as possible (for instance I encourage you to email me your papers). If you prefer the old fashioned way please let me know in advance.
4. Have fun. I strive to maintain a collegial and open class atmosphere that encourages thoughtful reflection and discussion. I hope that you will be challenged and encouraged by this class and encourage you to furnish me with feedback during the class as well as at the end.