

## ANSO 103: Introduction to Anthropology

Section 1: TR 11:00-12:15 / Section 2: TR 2:00-3:15

Professor Teresa E. P. Delfín

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Office Hours: Clough 105, Tuesday/Thursday 1:00-2:00 and by appointment

Any area where our course material is discussed is considered a **SAFE ZONE**.

Difference, curiosity, and disagreement shall be treated with respect.

“The purpose of anthropology is to make the world safe for human differences.”

- Ruth Benedict

This course will begin with an overview of the foundational themes in cultural anthropology and will go on to devote considerable attention to anthropology’s changing definitions of culture as a way to trace the evolution of the discipline itself. Some of the questions that will guide our study will be: What do anthropologists do and why? What sorts of questions do anthropologists ask? What methods are used? How do *I* fit into anthropology?

We will then move on to closer examinations of three areas within cultural anthropology:

1. Culture
2. Kinship
3. Medical Anthropology

Just as cultural anthropologists must integrate themselves socially in the environments they research, you will be expected to be an active and engaged participant in this course. You will be expected to learn the names of your peers, participate in class discussions, make presentations, and collaborate with one another.

### Required Texts:

Paul Bohannan: *We, The Alien (We)*

Ruth Benedict: *Patterns of Culture (PC)*

Janet Carsten: *After Kinship (AK)*

Brigitte Jordan: *Birth in Four Cultures (BFC)*

### Grade Breakdown:

Participation	20%
Essay Questions	30%
In-Class Presentation	20%
Quizzes	15%
Response/Facilitation	15%

### Course Schedule At a Glance:

1	1/8	1/10 Overview
2	1/15 <i>We</i> Ch. 1, 2	1/17 <i>We</i> Ch. 10
3	1/21 MLK Jr. Day	1/23 <i>We</i> Ch. 3
4	1/29 <i>We</i> Ch. 11	1/31 <i>We</i> Ch. 12
5	2/5 <i>PC</i> Preface, Intro, Ch. 1	2/7 <i>PC</i> Ch. 2
6	2/12 <i>PC</i> Ch. 3	2/14 <i>PC</i> Ch. 4
7	2/19 <i>PC</i> Ch. 5	2/21 <i>PC</i> Ch. 6
8	2/26 <i>PC</i> Ch. 7	2/28 <i>PC</i> Ch. 8
Spring Break: 3/1-3/9		
9	3/11 <i>We</i> Ch. 4	3/13 <i>We</i> Ch. 5
10	3/18 <i>AK</i> Ch. 1	3/20 Easter Recess
11	3/25 <i>AK</i> Ch. 3	3/27 <i>AK</i> Ch. 4
12	4/1 <i>AK</i> Ch. 6	4/3 <i>AK</i> Ch. 7 & 8
13	4/8 <i>BFC</i> Ch. 1	4/10 <i>BFC</i> Ch. 2
14	4/15 <i>BFC</i> Ch. 3	4/17 <i>BFC</i> Ch. 5
15	4/22 <i>BFC</i> Ch. 6	4/24 <i>BFC</i> Ch. 8

The **Society for Medical Anthropology** meets in **Memphis** this year, from **March 25-29**.

I will be taking a few interested students. Please let me know if you would like to attend.

## **Assignments:**

Your coursework will consist of reading all assigned texts, answering essay questions on Moodle, participating in class discussions, giving an in-class presentation, and being responsible for responding to your peer's presentation and facilitating the subsequent discussion. Breakdown of each of these assignments is as follows:

### Presentation

You will be asked to make a presentation (10-20 minutes) once during the semester, on the theme of that day's reading. This should not be merely a summary of the reading.

A successful presentation should consist of:

- A brief overview of the themes discussed in the chapter
- Why this is important to anthropology
- Ideas supported by at least one supplementary scholarly source
- Controversies (if any) surrounding this work
- How these ideas might be applied in a different context
- Pertinent historical, biographical, or geographic information
- Vocabulary, if relevant
- Your own take on the material you are presenting

Before your presentation, please see me in office hours to discuss your approach and source(s).

### Response/Facilitation

Once during the semester you will be the *designated respondent* to your peer's presentation. You will be expected to be thoroughly familiar with the assigned reading for that class meeting and should follow up the presentation with a question for the presenter or with a comment intended to open up the rest of the discussion. You will also be responsible for keeping the discussion flowing, encouraging people to participate, and tactfully redirecting the discussion should it get off topic, too heated, or dull.

### Essay Questions

You'll be asked to respond to 1 essay question on Moodle before each class meeting. Late responses will not be accepted. Please respond in complete sentences. One-paragraph is sufficient. The question will serve as the starting point for our discussion of that day's reading. You may bring any notes necessary to help you in the discussion, but will not turn in hard copies of your paragraphs. I will grade your online submissions.

You may skip the essay questions for two sets of readings during the semester with no negative impact on your grade, or may complete all of them for extra credit. If you choose to skip the questions, think about saving these exemptions in case you get sick, must be absent, or become overwhelmed with other coursework.

### Participation

Regular Attendance: You are allowed 2 absences during the semester, and are responsible for material covered in class and for turning assignments in on time regardless of your attendance. (Athletes, please come see me to come up with a different policy for you.) You will be expected to arrive in class on time. Tardiness is disruptive to the entire class, and thus adversely affects participation. Every 3 times you arrive late will be counted as the equivalence of one absence.

**Sign-ups:**

		Presenter	Discussant/Facilitator
1/15	<i>We</i> 1: “Anthro, Culture, Soc.,” 2: “Learning Culture”*		
1/17	<i>We</i> 10: “Symbols: Language and Art”		
1/23	<i>We</i> 3: “Men and Women, Sex and Babies”		
1/29	<i>We</i> 11: “Meaning: Creativity and Performance”		
1/31	<i>We</i> 12: Creed: Religion and Ideology		
2/5	<i>PC</i> Preface, Intro, 1: “The Science of Custom”		
2/7	<i>PC</i> 2: “The Diversity of Cultures”		
2/12	<i>PC</i> 3: “The Integration of Culture”		
2/14	<i>PC</i> 4: “The Pueblos of New Mexico”		
2/19	<i>PC</i> 5: “Dobu”		
2/21	<i>PC</i> 6: “The Northwest Coast of America”		
2/26	<i>PC</i> 7: “The Nature of Society”		
2/28	<i>PC</i> 8: “The Individual and the Pattern of Culture”		
3/11	<i>We</i> 4: “Marriage and Family”		
3/13	<i>We</i> 5: “Kinship and Community”		
3/18	<i>AK</i> 1: “Introduction: After Kinship?”		
3/25	<i>AK</i> 3: “Gender, Bodies, and Kinship”		
3/27	<i>AK</i> 4: “The Person”		
4/1	<i>AK</i> 6: “Families into Nation: The Power of Metaphor”		
4/3	<i>AK</i> 7: “Assisted Reproduction,” 8: “Conclusion”		
4/8	<i>BFC</i> 1: “Crosscultural Comp. of Childbirth Practices”		
4/10	<i>BFC</i> 2: “Buscando La Forma” / Midwife Visit		
4/15	<i>BFC</i> 3: “Crosscultural Comp. of Birthing Systems”		
4/17	<i>BFC</i> 5: “Birthing Systems and Change”		
4/22	<i>BFC</i> 6: “American Hospital Birth”		
4/24	<i>BFC</i> 8: “Cosmopolitical Obstetrics”		

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\* No secondary source required for this presentation