

Fall 2015

# ANTH 2052

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Dr. Ana Croegaert  
Tu-Th 11:00 - 1:45, MH319  
Session A 8/20-10/1  
Office Hours: Wed 3-4:30 and by appt.  
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## Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (ANTH 2052)

### Course Description:

This course will introduce you to core concepts, debates, and methods in the field of Cultural Anthropology - one of the four “subfields” of the discipline of Anthropology. Among the many questions we will explore this semester are: What are the various ways in which human beings organize ourselves into families and romantic and sexual relationships? What sorts of political and economic systems do we create? How do we define emotions, and communicate our needs and desires? How do we produce our food and assign meaning to our consumption of it? Keep in mind that as much as this course is about other people, living in other places and often at other times, this course is also about YOU. Be prepared to have your assumptions challenged, and to learn how to view your own life through a Cultural Anthropological perspective!

**Learning Objectives:** By the end of the course, students will be expected to know and understand:

1. The basic principles of social science study and how these are integrated into an anthropological approach to the study of humanity.
2. How the core principles of anthropology are represented in our research methods and analyses, and in the practical applications of anthropological work.
3. A range of human possibilities for sociopolitical organization, economic activity, cultural characteristics, and identity formation.
4. An anthropological analysis of contemporary political formations and global economic interactions.
5. The concept of cultural relativity and the political and ethical issues that arise when humans study other humans in a context of inequality.

6. How the concept of culture is understood and used, as well as criticized, by anthropologists.

### **Course Format—Six Weeks**

The course is designed to help students think anthropologically, rather than to give them more information to memorize. The six-week session means this course will be fast-paced. The format of the class will be a combination of mini-lectures, class discussions and in-class group exercises, with LECTURES primarily on Tuesdays, followed by in-class discussion and exercises on Thursdays. I will be looking for students to deliver engaged, thoughtful reflections on course materials.

The syllabus is subject to change. Students are responsible for the amended material. Other readings may be added throughout the semester and will be posted on-line, or handed out in class.

### **Required Texts**

You must have copies of these readings. As an alternative to hard copies, you may read on a tablet device; however, phone screens are not sufficient for this course's reading.

*Threads: Gender, Labor, and Power in the Global Apparel Industry* Jane L. Collins (University of Chicago Press 2003) ISBN: 0-226-11372-8

*Fat: The Anthropology of an Obsession* Don Kulick and Anne Meleney (Penguin 2005) eds ISBN: 1-58542-386-6

*My Father's Wars: Migration, Memory, and the Violence of a Century* Alisse Waterston (Routledge Press 2014) ISBN: 978-0-203-79874-4

^additional required readings are on Moodle, or will be handed out in class. Students will also be responsible for regularly reviewing and responding to online fora, such as <http://www.culanth.org/>

### **Course Requirements**

The primary requirements for this course are three exams, an essay assignment, and your classroom participation. No make-up exams will be given: do not miss one! Written assignments are due at the beginning of class, on the assigned due date. Each day an assignment is late, it will be marked down a letter grade, starting with the first five minutes of class. Participation is evaluated by the frequency and quality of your contributions in the classroom. Because exam material will draw from lectures and discussions in addition to course readings and films, I strongly encourage you to take notes during class. Laptops and tablets are permitted only for 2052 note-taking. If you use your laptop for other purposes, the classroom will revert to a no-laptop space and everyone will lose the option to take notes on devices. Cell phones must be silenced and stowed during class. Use of a laptop for purposes outside of 2052 note-taking, or the use of a cell phone in class will result in a significant decrease in your grade.

Mutual Respect: Students must respect their own, the Instructor's, and their fellow students' investment in the course by refraining from distracting behaviors during class, such as arriving late, talking, using cell phones and using computers for any other purpose than note-taking (see above)

### **Evaluation**

Exams 3/25points ea	75 points
Participation / Homework	15 points
Essay	10 points

Attendance: due to the very intense and fast-pace of this course, no unexcused absence is permitted. If you have a medical or other emergency that prevents you from attending class, you should inform me prior to the class, or as soon after as is possible. **Please note the attendance policy: every two unexcused absences will result in a reduction of your grade by one whole grade (eg from A to B; B to C).**

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism will not be tolerated, will result in a failing grade, and will be reported to that Student Conduct Committee. Please ask me if you have any questions. For further details on academic integrity, see the UNO Judicial Code, available at <http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu/accountability.cfm>.

### **Schedule of Topics & Readings**

#### **August 21 Week One Culture: Anthropology: an Introduction to the Discipline**

8/20 Introductions, LECTURE

#### **August 25-27 Week Two Culture: Cultural Anthropology's Foundations: History of Culture Concept and Methods**

8/25 ^^Lassiter, Harrison LECTURE

8/27 ^^Spradley, Geertz

#### **September 1-3 Week Three Culture: Components of Culture**

9/1 Collins LECTURE

9/3 Collins EXAM 1

#### **September 9-11 Week Four Social and Material Life: Language, Health**

9/9 ^^TBD LECTURE ESSAY assignment handed out

9/11 Fat

#### **September 15-17 Week Five Social and Material Life: Economy**

9/15 Fat LECTURE

9/17 EXAM 2

**September 22-24 Week Six Social and Material Life: Kinship**

9/22 My Father's Wars LECTURE Essay Due

9/24 My Father's Wars

**September 29 - October 1 (Last Class) Week Seven: Wrapping Up**

9/29 My Father's Wars LECTURE

10/1 EXAM 3

**Students with Disabilities**

I will do my best to accommodate the needs of students with disabilities. If you have a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services to register and follow their procedures. They can be reached at 504-280-6222 or through their web site, <http://ods.uno.edu/>. You will need to discuss accommodations with me during the first week of classes.

**UNO' S Grade System**

A EXCELLENT: Indicates the highest level of achievement in the subject and an outstanding level of intellectual scholarly initiative.

B GOOD : Indicates a consistently good level of achievement, intelligent understanding and application of subject matter. Indicates a level of achievement and fulfillment of course requirements in a manner that exceeds the average requirements.

C SATISFACTORY: Indicates academic work of acceptable quality and an understanding of the subject matter.

D UNSATISFACTORY: Indicates work done was less than satisfactory. Minimum credit. Indicates the lowest passing grade, unsatisfactory work and only the minimum of understanding of the subject matter.

F FAILURE: Indicates a lack of even the minimum understanding and application.