

## **ANTH 260: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOCULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY AND LINGUISTICS SPRING 2017**

### **Lecture:**

Tuesday & Thursday, 9:30-10:20 a.m. / Jimenez (JMZ) 0220  
Dr. Christina Getrich

### **Discussion Sections:**

0101: Friday, 9:00 - 9:50 am / WDS 1127

0102: Friday, 10:00 - 10:50 am / WDS 1127

0103: Friday, 11:00 - 11:50 am / WDS 1127

*\*Led by Graduate TA Jess Breitfeller*

0104: Friday, 12 - 12:50 pm / WDS 1127

0105: Friday, 1:00 - 1:50 pm / WDS 1127

0106: Friday, 2:00 - 2:50 pm / WDS 1127

*\*Led by Graduate TA Sara Downard*

### **INSTRUCTOR AND TEACHING ASSISTANTS**

Instructor: Christina Getrich, Ph.D.

Office Hours: Thursday, 1-3 p.m. and by appointment

Office Location: Woods 0123A

Email: [cgetrich@umd.edu](mailto:cgetrich@umd.edu)

Phone: (301) 405-1424

Graduate TA: Jess Breitfeller

Office Hours: Tuesday, 1-3 p.m.

Office Location: Taliaferro B0105

Email: [jbreitfe@umd.edu](mailto:jbreitfe@umd.edu)

Graduate TA: Sara Downard

Office Hours: Thursday, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Office Location: Taliaferro Hall B0105

Email: [sdownard@umd.edu](mailto:sdownard@umd.edu)

Undergraduate TA: Maeline Yang (by appointment)

Email: [myang56@umd.edu](mailto:myang56@umd.edu)

### **COURSE OVERVIEW**

This course is an introduction to sociocultural anthropology. Students will learn core concepts, methods, and theories in sociocultural anthropology; examine different structures of power (economics, race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, kinship, marriage, class, and politics); and understand forces that shape diverse cultural practices and identities in the contemporary world. In addition to enhancing students' critical thinking skills, the course will challenge students to gain a relativistic view of themselves and their own culture(s) and develop an awareness and appreciation of different cultures in an increasingly interconnected world.

### **COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

1. Learn basic terms and concepts used in sociocultural anthropology.
2. Describe how anthropologists define culture and conduct ethnographic fieldwork.
3. Better understand the ways of life of different cultures throughout the world.
4. Develop an awareness of forces that shape inequality throughout the world.
5. Recognize, understand, and appreciate human diversity and cultural difference.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Your final grade for this course (**500 points**) will be based on the following:

- **Exams** [3 exams x 100 points (20% each) = **300 points (60%)**]  
There will be three exams that cover assigned readings, lectures, films, and discussion. Though the exams are **not** cumulative, later exams will build on concepts introduced earlier in the course. Exams will be a mix of key terms, true/false, multiple choice, and short essay questions. Exams will be taken **in class** and **no make-ups** will be given.
- **Participation** [10 scored discussion days x 15 points (3% each) = **150 points (30%)**]  
Regular attendance and active participation are the best ways to grasp course content. In addition to reading, you will be asked to prepare assignments in advance of your discussion sections. You will be scored for your attendance, preparation for, and participation in discussion sections on 10 occasions; these are labeled D1, D2, etc.
- **Freewrites** [5 freewrites x 10 points (2% each) = **50 points (10%)**]  
Students will spend 10 to 15 minutes in class responding to a prompt about the course readings for that day or week. Freewrites **will not be announced** ahead of time and **no make-ups** will be given. There will be 6 total; your lowest score will be dropped.
- **Extra Credit:** [up to **10 points**] Students can attend an anthropology-related event (announced in-class as they arise) and write a page-long critical reflection about it. Please complete your extra credit write-up within a week of the event and upload it to Canvas.

## GRADES

You can follow your progress throughout the course on Canvas. It is your responsibility to keep up with your progress and contact us if you feel your work has not been evaluated fairly. Grades in this course are earned, **not** negotiated. Do not write us at the end of the semester asking for last-minute changes to your grade. The grading scale for this course is:

99-100 = A+	87-89.9 = B+	77-79.9 = C+	67-69.9 = D+
93-98.9 = A	83-86.9 = B	74-76.9 = C	64-66.9 = D
90-92.9 = A -	80-82.9 = B-	70-73.9 = C-	64 or below = F

## COURSE-RELATED POLICIES

This course adheres to the Course Related Policies of the Office of Undergraduate Studies (<http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html>). You are expected to uphold the Codes of Academic Integrity and Conduct and take full responsibility for your academic work. Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty will **not** be tolerated and will be reported.

## ACCOMODATIONS

The University provides appropriate accommodations for students with a range of disabilities. [Disability Support Services \(DSS\)](#) (4-7682; [dissup@umd.edu](mailto:dissup@umd.edu)) facilitates reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals. Students must first have their disabilities documented by DSS. The office then prepares an *Accommodations Letter* stipulating needed accommodations. **You** are responsible for meeting and presenting this letter to us **by the end of the drop/add period** so that we can discuss your accommodations and sign the *Acknowledgement of Student Request* form.

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Classroom communications will all be managed through Canvas/ELMS, the online course management system ([www.elms.umd.edu](http://www.elms.umd.edu)). Make sure to turn on notifications for the course and check your email regularly. It is your responsibility to become familiar with the Canvas workspace (see [http://www.elms.umd.edu/student\\_quickguides](http://www.elms.umd.edu/student_quickguides)) and seek support as needed (<http://www.elms.umd.edu/page/student-landing-page>).

If you need to contact us, please email your TAs as a first step, and then Dr. Getrich as necessary. We will respond to your emails in a timely manner, though if you send them outside of working hours (after 5 p.m. weekdays or on the weekend), our response will not be immediate. Please come see us during office hours, too, as we really do like getting to know students.

Please arrive on time to lecture/discussion; coming late is disrespectful and disruptive. We strongly encourage you to take notes the “old-fashioned” way (i.e., with paper and a writing utensil), which studies have shown to be a better mode of learning ([www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-learning-secret-don-t-take-notes-with-a-laptop/](http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-learning-secret-don-t-take-notes-with-a-laptop/)). You may **only** use a laptop or tablet if you sit in the area designated on the first day of class and stay on task. Use of cell phones during class is prohibited; silence or turn them off and put them away. Use of earbuds is likewise prohibited. If we see them, we will ask you to put them away and possibly dismiss you from class. Using technology (laptops, tablets, or phones) inappropriately may also result in participation points being deducted.

## ABSENCES

You are expected to attend all class meetings. Consistent attendance offers you the most effective opportunity to gain command of course concepts and materials. You are still responsible for information and material covered during absences. Events that justify an excused absence include: religious observances, mandatory military obligations, illness (of you or an immediate family member), participation in university activities at the request of university authorities, and compelling circumstances beyond your control (e.g., a death in the family or a required court appearance).

In the event that you must miss a class, you must notify us in a timely manner prior to the absence or as soon afterwards as possible. You must also provide appropriate documentation of the absence. For medically necessitated absences, you may provide a self-signed excuse one time that does not coincide with a major due date and thereafter should provide documentation from a physician or the University Health Center. For all other types of absences, you must provide verifiable documentation (e.g., a religious calendar, a court summons, or a death announcement).

## REQUIRED READINGS

The primary textbook for the course is Kenneth Guest's *Cultural Anthropology: A Toolkit for a Global Age* (2014. New York: W.W. Norton and Company. ISBN-13: 978-0393929577). In addition, a number of book chapters and articles are posted as pdfs on the Canvas/ ELMS course site and organized by modules (labeled by week/day when the reading is due). You are responsible for downloading and reading these chapters and articles.

All readings are due by the day they are listed in the week-by-week detailed Course Schedule that follows. Guest chapters are marked as such and readings on Canvas are designated by a ©. It is your responsibility to read the syllabus carefully and come to class prepared. The Course Schedule is **tentative** and subject to change; it is your responsibility to keep up with any changes, which will be announced with plenty of advance notice.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

I. CORE CONCEPTS IN ANTHROPOLOGY		
WEEK 1	Thursday, 1/26 <i>Introduction</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review syllabus and course expectations</li> </ul>
	Friday, 1/27 <i>Discussion Section</i>	
2	Tuesday, 1/31 <i>What is Anthropology?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guest – Chapter 1 (pp. 5-18)</li> <li>© Miner – “Body Ritual Among the Nacirema”</li> </ul>
	Thursday, 2/2 <i>Globalization</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guest – Chapter 1 (pp. 19-31)</li> <li>© Bestor – “How Sushi Went Global”</li> </ul>
	Friday, 2/3 <i>Discussion Section</i>	D1
3	Tuesday, 2/7 <i>What Is Culture?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guest – Chapter 2</li> <li>© Ojeda – “Growing Up American”</li> </ul>
	Thursday, 2/9 <i>Language and Communication</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guest – Chapter 4</li> <li>© Schuessler – “Deciphering the Menu”</li> </ul>
	Friday, 2/10 <i>Discussion Section</i>	D2
4	Tuesday, 2/14 <i>Fieldwork and Ethnography</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guest – Chapter 3</li> </ul>
	Thursday, 2/16 <i>Changing Ethnography</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>© Chagnon – “Doing Fieldwork among the Yanomamo”</li> <li>© Holmes – “Introduction” from <i>Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies</i></li> </ul>
	Friday, 2/17 <i>Discussion Section</i>	D3
5	Tuesday, 2/21 <i>Adaptive Strategies &amp; Economic Anthro</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>© Guest – Chapter 12 (pp. 441-452)</li> <li>© Lee – “Eating Christmas in the Kalahari”</li> </ul>
	Thursday, 2/23 <i>Environmental Anthro</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>© Welsch and Vivanco – Chapter 8, Environmental Anthropology: Relating to the Natural World</li> </ul>
	Friday, 2/24	Review session for Exam 1
6	Tuesday, 2/28	<b>EXAM 1</b>

II. UNMASKING STRUCTURES OF POWER		
WEEK 6	Thursday, 3/2 <i>Race and Racism</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guest – Chapter 6</li> <li>• © Hill – “Language, Race &amp; White Public Space”</li> </ul>
	Friday, 3/3 <i>Discussion Section</i>	D4
7	Tuesday, 3/7 <i>Ethnicity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guest – Chapter 7 (pp. 237-254)</li> <li>• © Tsuda – “No Place to Call Home”</li> </ul>
	Thursday, 3/9 <i>Nationalism</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guest – Chapter 7 (pp. 254-265)</li> <li>• © Whitehead and Ferguson, “Deceptive Stereotypes about ‘Tribal Warfare’”</li> </ul>
	Friday, 3/10 <i>Discussion Section</i>	D5
8	Tuesday, 3/14 <i>Gender</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guest – Chapter 8</li> <li>• © Nordberg – “Afghan Boys are Prized, So Girls Live the Part”</li> </ul>
	Thursday, 3/16 <i>Sexuality</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guest – Chapter 9</li> <li>• © Coggeshall – “‘Ladies’ Behind Bars”</li> </ul>
	Friday, 3/17 <i>Discussion Section</i>	D6
9	3/21, 3/23 & 3/24	<b>NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK</b>
10	Tuesday, 3/28 <i>Kinship</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guest – Chapter 10 (pp. 349-360; 377-389)</li> </ul>
	Thursday, 3/30 <i>Descent</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• © Small – “How Many Fathers are Best for a Child?”</li> </ul>
	Friday, 3/31 <i>Discussion Section</i>	D7
11	Tuesday, 4/4 <i>Marriage &amp; Family</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guest – Chapter 10 (pp. 360-377)</li> <li>• © Kristof – “Who Needs Love!”</li> <li>• © Goldstein – “When Brothers Share a Wife”</li> </ul>
	Thursday, 4/6 <i>Religion</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guest – Chapter 15</li> <li>• © Simmons – “Where Fat is a Mark of Beauty”</li> </ul>
	Friday, 4/7	Review session for Exam 2
12	Tuesday, 4/11	<b>EXAM 2</b>

<b>III. CHANGE IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD</b>		
WEEK 12	Thursday, 4/13 <i>Class and Inequality</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guest – Chapter 11</li> <li>• © Bourgois – “Poverty at Work”</li> </ul>
	Friday, 4/14 <i>Discussion Section</i>	D8
13	Tuesday, 4/18 <i>The Global Economy</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guest – Chapter 12 (pp. 452-487)</li> <li>• © Lappé &amp; Collins – “Why Can’t People Feed Themselves?”</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
	Thursday, 4/20 <i>Development</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guest – Chapter 12 (pp. 470-487)</li> <li>• © Bodley – “The Price of Progress”</li> </ul>
	Friday, 4/21	D9
14	Tuesday, 4/25 <i>Politics and Power</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guest – Chapter 14</li> <li>• © Shearing &amp; Stenning – “Say ‘Cheese’: The Disney Order that is Not So Mickey Mouse”</li> </ul>
	Thursday, 4/27 <i>Migration</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guest – Chapter 13</li> <li>• © Shandy – “Nuer Refugees in America”</li> </ul>
	Friday, 4/28 <i>Discussion Section</i>	D10
15	Tuesday, 5/2 <i>Health and Illness</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guest – Chapter 16</li> </ul>
	Thursday, 5/4 <i>Health in Global Context</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• © Farmer – “Culture, Poverty, and HIV Transmission: The Case of Rural Haiti.” Chapter 5 from <i>Infections &amp; Inequalities</i></li> <li>• © Scheper-Hughes – “Biopiracy and the Global Quest for Human Organs”</li> </ul>
	Friday, 5/5 <i>Discussion Section</i>	Review session for Exam 3
16	Tuesday, 5/9 <i>Art and Media</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guest – Chapter 17</li> <li>• © Cleaver – “The Zapatistas &amp; the Electronic Fabric of Struggle”</li> </ul>
	Thursday, 5/11 <i>Applying Anthro</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• © Kottak – Chapter 4, Applying Anthropology</li> </ul>
FINALS WEEK	Monday, 5/15 8-10 a.m.	<b>EXAM 3</b>