CULTURES OF THE WORLD

ANTH 1140, Section 502, Spring 2026
Valencia Arts & Science 133, 2 – 4:30 p.m.

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor
Andrew Carey, Ph.D.
acarey1@unm.edu

Office Hours:
Before or after class, or email me with questions or to set up an appointment

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Textbooks

1. Anthropology: Appreciating Human Diversity (Kottak*)*

2. Three additional articles

Assigned Readings: In addition to the assigned textbooks readings for each week, you will also be assigned supplemental readings that present specific case studies from a variety of diverse cultures throughout the world. The supplemental readings are available in .PDF format on the **Learn** page for this course, which you can access under the **My Learn button** on your **My UNM** page. You are required to download the readings as assigned in the course schedule on your own time. Both the textbook readings **AND** the supplemental readings are required readings for this course.

Changes in Course Schedule and/or Content: Any changes made in the course schedule and/or course content will be announced in class. In addition, all students will be notified of any changes via email.

COURSE CONTENT

Course Description and Objectives

This is an introductory course that provides an overview of cultural anthropology as a subfield within the broader discipline of anthropology and as a research approach within the social sciences more generally. The course presents core concepts and methods of cultural anthropology that are used to understand the ways humans organize and experience their lives through distinctive cultural practices. More specifically, this course explores social and cultural differences, and similarities through a variety of topics such as: language and communication, economics, ways of making a living, marriage and family, social stratification, political organization, supernatural beliefs, sex and gender, and globalization. Each topic is explored via lectures, readings, films and discussions that focus on specific case studies that present a broad range of perspectives from various cultural groups.

Student Learning Objectives

By completing this course, you will:

SLO #1. Understand what socio-cultural anthropology is and how it is situated within the discipline of anthropology, as well as among the social sciences more generally.

Assessment: Exam questions will involve case studies and examples, and students will identify which field of anthropology the case studies belong to and why. (Corresponds to Core Area 4, Competency #2)

SLO #2. Become familiar with the methods and theories utilized in cultural anthropology.

Assessment: In an essay, students will analyze a cultural trait from different theoretical perspectives and describe the results. (Corresponds to Core Area 4, Competency #1)

SLO #3. Have a broader understanding of how cultural anthropology examines core social and cultural topics described in the course and how the topics can be used for cross-cultural analysis.

Assessment: Students will complete a research project on an occupational or recreational group of their choice and write a five page paper analyzing the language of the group in question. (Corresponds to Core Area 4, Competency #4)

SLO #4. Access resources and case studies that will offer new and/or varied perspectives on various social and cultural issues and world views that can facilitate increased inter- and intra-cultural understanding and appreciation.

Assessment: Over the course of the semester, students will read case studies of customs in different cultures and describe how that culture's customs work for those people compared to how their families customs work for them. (Corresponds to Core Area 4, Competency #3)

SLO #5. Gain a sense of how cultural anthropology can be applied to help resolve current social and cultural issues in various cultures throughout the world. In other words, you will be able to answer the question: "But what can you *do* with a degree in anthropology?"

Assessment: Students will write an essay describing the effects of Globalism in other cultures in the world and identifying how knowledge of anthropology might alleviate some of the worst effects. (Corresponds to Core Area 4, Competency #2)

COURSE EVALUATION

Exams (2)	100 points each	**200 points**
Quizzes (7)	20 points each	**140 points**
Article response	33 points each (+1)	**100 points**
Participation	100 points	**100 points**
		540 Total Points for the Course

Letter Grades:

486-540 points.....…A
432-485 ……B
378-431 ……C
324-377 …..…..D
0-323 ……F

Exams: There will be 2 exams administered during the course. Each exam will cover material presented in the lectures, textbooks and assigned readings. Each exam will consist of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions. The two exams will count for 36% of your final grade.

Make-up Exams: You are expected to take the exams for this course when they are administered. I will allow you to make up an exam *only* in the case of a medical or family emergency for which you must **inform me in advance** of missing the exam. If you become extremely ill or encounter an emergency during the period of the exam, it is your responsibility to contact me within 24 hours to schedule a make-up exam. You will also be required to provide a form of written verification (e.g., doctor's note, police report, hospital discharge form, etc.) in order to receive permission to take a make-up exam.

Writing Assignment: Each student will read three articles over the course of the semester, and for each article, they will write a two page paper describing how that culture's customs work for those people compared to how their families customs work for them.

Class participation: You are expected to attend class and discuss the material of the week, particularly the supplementary readings. You will get three absences without penalty, but each additional absence will knock points off your participation grade. Likewise, you must take part in class discussion.

Credit-hour statement: This is a three-credit-hour course. Class meets for one 150-minute sessions of direct instruction for 8 weeks during the fall 2026 semester. Please plan for a minimum of six hours of out-of-class work (or homework, study, assignment completion, and class preparation) each week.

Extra Credit: You can earn a maximum of 20 extra credit points that count toward your final point total for the semester. Extra credit points will be added to your total points earned at the end of the semester to determine your final grade. In order to receive extra credit, you must complete an extra credit assignment as described in the Extra Credit Options handout that is available on the course Learn website. You can choose from a list of several extra credit assignment options that detail what is required for each assignment. Each extra credit assignment is worth 10 points. Extra credit assignments will be accepted up to the last regular class period on Dec. 5, 2018. You can receive **no more** than a maximum of 20 extra credit points for the course. Refer to the Extra Credit Options handout for more details.

Grading: You can email or arrange to meet with me at UNM's main campus (if you live nearby) to find out how you are doing in the course at any time throughout the semester. If you are receiving the NM Lottery Scholarship, please check with me by mid-term to monitor your grade so that you are not at risk of losing the scholarship at the end of the semester. Your final grade will consist of your 3 exam scores, 3 article scores, your project score, and your participation scores plus any extra credit points.

COURSE POLICY

Withdrawal: In accordance with University of New Mexico policy, you can withdraw from this course at any time before Oct. 17, 2020. After that date, you may still withdraw from the course with permission from the dean. No withdrawal will be accepted after the last day of instruction of the semester, prior to final exam week. **Note: Faculty and instructors are NOT responsible for dropping students who do not attend. It is the student's responsibility to monitor their own progress in the course and to submit a withdrawal request only if necessary.**

Incomplete: Only under special circumstances will a grade of Incomplete (I) be granted to a student in this course. If you will not be able to complete the final course requirements, you must meet with me as soon as possible to make arrangements. You must also provide written documentation that verifies why you will not be able to complete the course requirements on time. An Incomplete grade must be completed within one year of the last day of class or it is automatically converted to a final grade of F. An Incomplete will not be given to any student because they have fallen behind in the course materials and/or they want to repeat the course for a better grade.

Accommodation of Learning Disabilities/Special Needs: UNM is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for students with documented disabilities. As your instructor, it is my objective to facilitate an inclusive classroom setting, in which students have full access and opportunity to participate. To engage in a confidential conversation about the process for requesting reasonable accommodations for this class and/or program, please contact Accessibility Resource Center at arcsrvs@unm.edu or 505-277-3506.

UAP 2720 and 2740. Our classroom and university should foster mutual respect, kindness, and support. If you have concerns about discrimination, harassment, or violence, please seek support and report incidents. Find confidential services at LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center, the Women's Resource Center, and the Arcoiris Center. UNM prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex (including gender, sex stereotyping, gender expression, and gender identity). All instructors are "responsible employees" who must communicate reports of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and sexual violence to Compliance, Ethics and Equal Opportunity. For more information, please see UAP 2720 and UAP 2740.

Respectful Conduct Expectations: I am committed to building with you a positive classroom environment in which everyone can learn. I reserve the right to intervene and enforce standards of respectful behavior when classroom conduct is inconsistent with University expectations [and/or classroom community agreements]. Interventions and enforcement may include but are not limited to required meetings to discuss classroom expectations, written notification of expectations, and/or removal from a class meeting. Removal from a class meeting will result in an unexcused absence. [Insert number] or more unexcused absences may result in permanent removal and a drop from the course (see attendance policy). The University of New Mexico ensures freedom of academic inquiry, free expression and open debate, and a respectful campus through adherence to the following policies: D75: Classroom Conduct, Student Code of Conduct, University Policy 2240 – Respectful Campus, University Policy 2210 – Campus Violence.

Thriving and finding support: Students are especially successful at UNM when they take advantage of support and get involved in campus and academic life. The Student Life tab on the student and instructor MyUNM login page provides direct links to well-being resources, including financial capability, mental health, food, jobs, and resource centers. The Student Life tab on MyUNM will help you identify academic resources like peer tutoring and opportunities like study abroad. You can contact academic advisors and resource advisors for information and guidance via Student Hub on MyUNM. I look forward to providing you with information about academic opportunities related to our class and to helping you find support resources.

Responsible Learning and Academic Honesty: Cheating and plagiarism (academic dishonesty) are often driven by lack of time, desperation, or lack of knowledge about how to identify a source. Communicate with me and ask for help, even at the last minute, rather than risking your academic career by committing academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty involves claiming that work created by another source is your own original work. It is a Student Code of Conduct violation that can lead to a disciplinary procedure. When you use a resource in work submitted for this class, document how you used it and distinguish clearly between your original work and the material taken from the resource.

No Generative AI Use: This course is meant to help you develop and demonstrate key knowledge and skills without the support of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools for submitted work. Using generative AI to complete submitted coursework in this course will interfere with the advantages in learning and understanding that this course offers you. You are expected to complete submitted work without any generative AI assistance. Prohibited generative AI use includes tools such as ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, Copilot, Grammarly's generative AI features, AI image generators, AI video or audio generators, AI code generators, AI paraphrasing tools, AI presentation generators, AI design tools, and similar technologies. The purpose of this course policy is educational, not punitive. The assignments in this course are aligned with specific learning processes and outcomes that support your future learning and expertise. Submitting AI-generated or AI-assisted in this course is inconsistent with course expectations and may violate UNM's academic integrity standards and Student Code of Conduct. If AI use is suspected, I will use submitted coursework, assignment directions, conversations with you about your work and process, and this syllabus to determine whether academic misconduct occurred. If you are unsure if a tool or use is allowed, please ask before submitting the assignment.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1
Oct. 12 – 18

What is Anthropology?
Assigned Readings: Anthropology: *Chapter 1*

The Concept of Culture and Why Cultural Anthropologists Study It
Readings: Anthropology: *Chapter2*

WEEK 2
Oct. 19 – 25

Theories and Methods Used in Cultural Anthropology
Readings: Anthropology: *Chapter 13*

Language and Communication
Readings: Anthropology: *Chapter 14*

*****Article Report #1 Due Oct. 25**

WEEK 3
Oct. 26 – Nov. 1

Ethnicity and Race
Readings: Anthropology: *Chapter 15*

Subsistence: Making a Living
Readings: Anthropology: *Chapter 16*

WEEK 4
Nov. 2 – 8

Political Systems
Readings: Anthropology: *Chapter 17*

Gender and Sexuality
Readings: Anthropology: *Chapter 18*

*****EXAM #1**

WEEK 5
Nov. 9 – 15

Kinship and Descent
Readings: Anthropology: *Chapter 19*

Marriage
Readings: Anthropology: *Chapter 20*

*****Article Report #2 Due Nov. 15**

WEEK 6
Nov. 16 - 22

Religion
Readings: Anthropology: *Chapter 21*

Symbolism and the Arts
Readings: Anthropology: *Chapter 22*

WEEK 7
Nov. 23 - 29

HEALTH AND ILLNESS
Readings: no required reading

World Systems and Colonialism
Readings: Anthropology: Chapter 23

*****Article Report #3 Due May 2**

WEEK 8
Nov 30 – Dec. 6

Applying Anthropology
Reading: Applied Anthropology: *Chapter 3*

The Role of Anthropology
Reading: Applied Anthropology: Chapter 24

Finals Week
DEC. 8 1:30–3:30 FINAL EXAM.