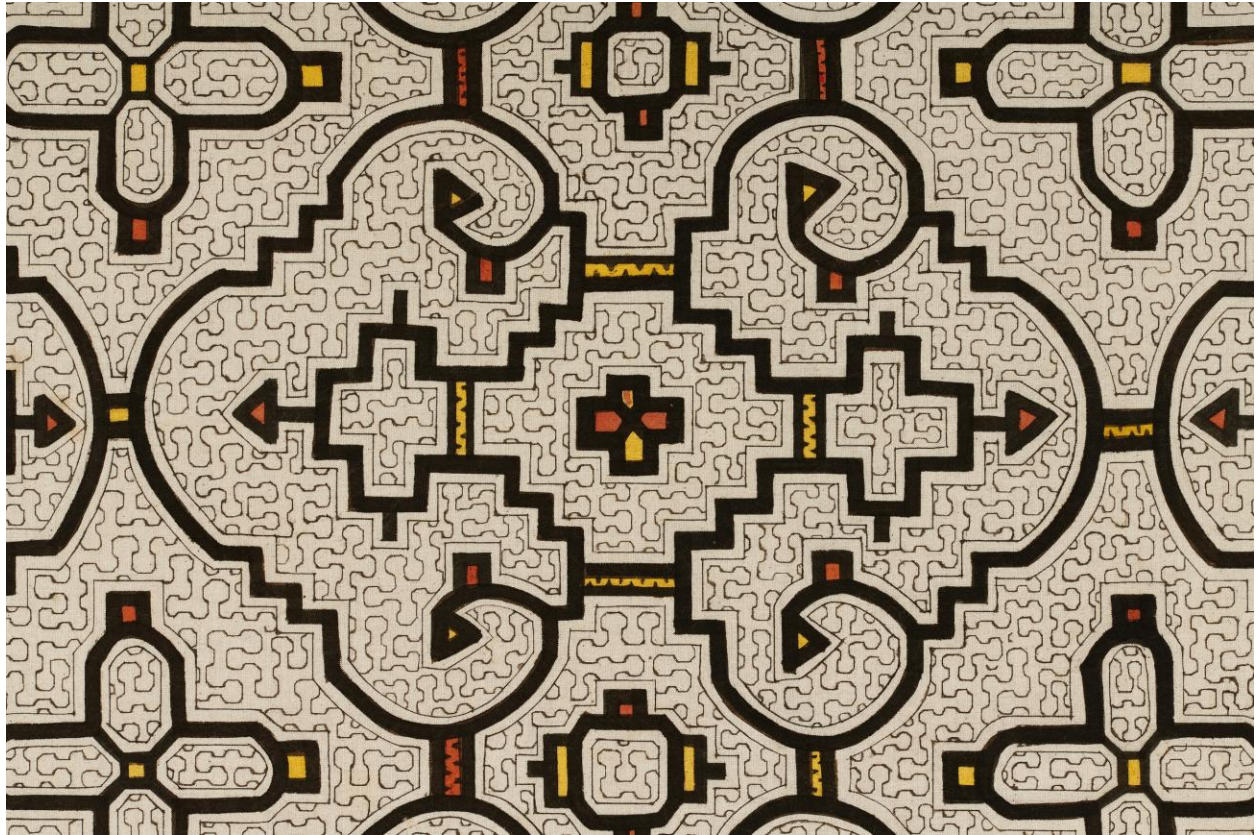


INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY ANTH 1140
SYLLABUS (Online 8-week session, Spring 2024/H1)

Instructor: Dr. Tressa Berman Contact: tberman@unm.edu
Office Hours: By appointment via Zoom. Please email me for appointment



Required Textbooks and Course Materials (available in bookstore and UNMV Reserve or can be purchased via an online vendor (e.g., “Used”). Some materials available as online links and PDFs to be posted to course.

1. *Core Concepts in Cultural Anthropology* (Lavenda and Schultz) [Book; PDF]
2. *Essentials of Cultural Anthropology: toolkit for a global age* (K. Guest) [Book]
3. *Culture Sketches* (H. Peters-Golden) [PDF to be posted]
4. *Perspectives: An Open Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*, Eds, Brown, McIlwraith, Tubulle de Gonzalez (Open Source link to be provided, online)
5. Additional articles, films and case studies to be posted online in Course, as assigned. NOTE: Instructor reserves the right to modify assignments as needed

Course Content:

This course introduces students to core concepts in anthropological theory and method in order to better understand and engage with inter-cultural dialogue in our global world. We will look at the historical roots of ethnographic approaches in the context of their times, to contemporary investigations of how world systems affect local culture and these intertwined relations. Specifically, we will explore social and cultural differences and similarities through various lenses—kinship and social organization, political economy, religion and ceremony, sex and gender, social inequality, art, media and material culture—through focused case studies of diverse cultural groups.

Course Learning Objectives (CLO):

CLO1. To comprehend the development of cultural anthropology in the context of its times, i.e., the history of anthropological theories or “core concepts” of the field

CLO2. To learn the difference between a "theory" and a "method" -- and how they inform one another in anthropological fieldwork. How can we apply what we learn?

CLO3. To critically analyze the inter-connectedness of world systems in order to recognize human causes and conditions to global challenges of today (e.g., resource extraction and waste, causes of climate change and mitigating interventions, cultural nationalism and political power)

Class Schedule and Modules/Topics:

MODULE 1/TOPIC 1: CORE CONCEPTS IN CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

[Week 1. The “Culture Concept”](#)

Introduction to Theory and Methods of Cultural Anthropology

Readings: Chapters 1 and 2, (Lavenda and Schultz)

Weekly Discussion Questions posted to Discussion forum

Assignment: Introduce yourself to the class. What you hope to learn from the course, and what about “cultural anthropology” attracts you to the subject? Answer question on readings (To be posted)

Week 2. Applying Ethnographic Methods to the Study of Culture

Readings: Chapters 12 and Appendix (Lavenda and Schultz)

Supplemental reading: Perspectives: An Open Source Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (Link uploaded)

Assignment: Weekly Discussion Question to be assigned

MODULE 2/TOPIC 2: CASE STUDIES AND ETHNOGRAPHIC METHODS

Week 3. Case Studies as Ethnography

Reading: *Essentials of Cultural Anthropology* (Guest): Ch. 3, pp. 76-87

Assignment: This will be a one-page assignment to apply a “core concept” to a case study. Essay guidelines will be posted at the opening of Module 2.

Week 4. Case Studies continued

Assignment: A second “core concept” will be assigned.

Week 5. Cultural Diversity in Contemporary Societies: Decolonizing Methodologies

Supplemental Readings as assigned (*Perspectives; Decolonizing Methodologies*)

MidTerm Exam - DUE AT CLOSE OF MODULE 2

MODULE 3/TOPIC 3: GLOBAL SYSTEMS, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Week 6: Social construction of gender: social inequality

Chapter 10, *Perspectives* (Brown et. al.)

Chapter 6, Lavenda & Schultz

Excerpt: *Mapping Feminist Anthropology*

Week 7: 10/2—10/8: Intersectionality, Environmental Racism and Environmental Justice

Ch. 9 Race and Racism (Brown et. al.)

Culture and Sustainability (Brown et. al.) pp. 357- 36

Chapter 5: *Essentials of Cultural Anthropology*, and pp. 169-172 (Guest)

Cultural Survival article (TBA)

Assignment:* Guidelines and questions will be posted in the Assignment section of the course.

MODULE 4/TOPIC 4: SYMBOLIC ANTHROPOLOGY, ARTS & MEDIA

[Week 8: \(Final Week of Class\):](#)

Chapters 3 and 4: Language, Religion and Worldview, pp. 30-37; 50-56 (Lavenda & Schultz)

Guest: Chapter on Art & Media (Pages to be assigned)

“Bad Aboriginal Art,” (Michaels), Ch. 5 in Berman (on reserve and to be posted)

- ***FINAL EXAM DUE at close of Module 4**