

**COURSE DESCRIPTION ANTHROPOLOGY 2:
INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY**

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Student Disabilities: Students needing *accommodations* should contact the instructor ASAP. As required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), accommodations are provided to insure equal opportunity for students with verified disabilities. If you need assistance with an accommodation, please contact Disabled Student services, Room 810, 479-6379, or Learning Skills Program Room 1073, 479-6220.

Course Overview: Anthropology 2 is an introductory exploration into the science of human culture. At the heart of the course is the diversity of existing cultures around the world - including our own - and the structural and dynamic principles that link them, ultimately, with each other and with ourselves. Among the concepts of culture discussed are patterns of subsistence, economic, social, and political organization, religion, the arts, and culture change. The methods of anthropological research and major theoretical orientations will also be discussed.

Course Objectives: After completing the assignments, readings, and having attended the lectures, the student should be able to:

1. Understand and appreciate the concept of culture from the perspective of anthropologists.
2. Recognize underlying similarities as well as the wide range and variability of human cultures.
3. Recognize that there is a number of valid cultural solutions to living on earth.
4. Understand the relationship between culture and the individual.
5. Understand the factors involved in culture change.
6. Gain a broad cross-cultural background against which to view their own culture as well as contemporary world problems.
7. Know the meanings of the basic concepts and terms used by cultural anthropologists.

8. Understand some of the procedures used by anthropologists in studying cultures.

Course Materials: Required books include:

Monaghan, J., and P. Just 2000	<i>Social and Cultural Anthropology</i> Oxford University Press
Fadiman, Anne 1998	<i>The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down</i> Farrar Straus & Giroux
Chavez, Leo R. 1998	<i>Shadowed Lives.</i> Harcourt Brace.

Overview of Class Activities:

1. The class will meet on the scheduled evenings. Students are expected to make every effort to attend the class meetings on time, and will be responsible for obtaining lecture notes from other students should a lecture be missed. You are encouraged to participate in class discussions.

2. There will be one midterm and one final exam. These are scheduled below. They will consist of essay questions. The final will be comprehensive but will stress the material covered after the last midterm. **Note: No make-up exams will be given unless prior notification has been made or a valid excuse given for missing the regularly scheduled exam. Similarly, no incomplete grades will be given.**

3. **Writing Projects:** This class requires a minimum of 4,000 words of critical analytical written work for the semester. This requirement will be fulfilled in the following ways:

- short paper assignments
- essays in the midterm and final exams

Note: Always make copies of written assignments!

Grading Policy: Grades will be based on the distribution of points achieved by the student at the end of the semester: 100-90% of the total = A, 89-80%=B, etc.

The total number of points is 300, as follows:

Nacirema paper	25 points
Language paper	25 points
Economics paper	50 points
One midterm	100 points
One final	100 points
TOTAL	300 points

Note: Late papers will be discounted 10% per class day after the due date.

Attendance Policy: Attendance will be taken each class day. Students are expected to come to class on time unless unavoidably detained. Attendance and punctuality may be factored in your grade, which could be reduced by one letter grade for each four late arrivals or early departures and/or two unexcused absences and major disruptions. (e.g. If you are late 4 times, are disruptive 2 times and are absent twice, you could be dropped 3 whole letter grades).

Cell Phone Policy: Cell phones are to be turned **off** in the classroom.

Writing Assignments: All papers should be typed or word-processed, double-spaced, leaving enough of a margin for comments. *Note: Plagiarism is the conscious or inadvertent failure to identify the contributions of others. It occurs when someone borrows any part of another's work and submits it, uncredited, as his or her own work. A failure to credit others may result in one or more of the following: a student receiving a failing grade on the assignment, a failing grade for the course, or suspension from college enrollment. Students are expected to know how to credit sources, how to quote and paraphrase, and how to avoid plagiarizing the work of others. To learn about what plagiarism means and how to avoid it, please see the description at: <http://www.cabrillo.edu/~sholt/MITPlagiarism.pdf> or http://www.plagiarism.org/learning_center/what_is_plagiarism.html and review the links provided by the Cabrillo College Library at <http://libwww.cabrillo.edu/depts/libraryinstruction.html>.*

1.) **Nacirema**

Think of a routine in **your** everyday life that would seem extraordinary to someone from a different culture or subculture. Then, assume that you, yourself, are a stranger to your own culture and try to describe something simple like the way you fix your hair, listen to music, change a tire, take in the mail, or get ready for a date – as if you've never seen or done these things! List the specific behaviors of your routine, and write about what might be strange or extraordinary to someone who also is from another culture. It is a first exercise in anthropological observation and “distancing” and you will be graded on your creativity in making the familiar unfamiliar. 2-3 pages. **Due Monday, September 14.**

2.) **Language (Choice of option A or B)**

Option A – Body Language:

Purpose: Body language is an extensive and complex topic, but the purpose of this assignment is modest: to provide a brief introduction and heighten your awareness of the extent to which people communicate with their bodies. This exercise will make you a better student of ritual and of ethnographic representation in general.

Procedure: Either (1) record a communication event between two or more people that does not involve words, or (2) record the nonverbal portion of a communication event, which does involve words. In a separate section, clearly

marked off from the first, analyze the communication event including its social, cultural and emotional context. Also, make sure you describe your field methodology.

Avoid overconfidence in your analysis. Gesture is less specific than words and easily misinterpreted. A paper describing misunderstandings of body language would be an interesting way to do this assignment. 2-3 pages.

Option B – Sociolinguistics:

In this paper, you will identify and spend some participant-observation time in a distinct speech community of your choice. You will describe and analyze particular conversational characteristics, such as the use of a dialect, particular vocabulary and any/or other linguistic characteristic, as appropriate. The bulk of your paper should be a transcription of an actual “communication event”.

Questions to consider are:

- How is this speech community distinctive?
- How do your “consultants” categorize the spoken communication you record? (Ex. “small talk”, “girl talk”, “bullshitting”, etc.)
- How and why did you choose this particular community? What is your relationship to it? How many people were involved? What was the physical setting? **Due Monday, October 5.**

3.) **Economics:** Choose any product that is available to you as a consumer. It may be anything from a stereo system, a computer chip, a mail-order shirt, a spark plug. Try to find out everything you can about how the price you, the consumer, pay for this product is established. This should include how, where and by whom the product is made and/or assembled, what are the manufacturing costs (the costs of materials and labor), what, if any, middlemen are involved, what are other costs, such as marketing, packaging and distribution. Make every effort to contact the corporate headquarters (by writing, e-mail, telephone) of any corporation that manufactures or assembles products internationally and attempt to find out in particular where their assembly/manufacturing facilities are located, how many people are employed and what are their working conditions (wages, benefits, safety provisions, etc.). This paper should be a log of your attempts – note all email addresses, web addresses, names of contacts when available. Document everything. 3+ pages. **Due Monday, November 30.**

Dates to Remember:

August	31	Class begins
September	14	Nacirema paper due
October	5	Language paper due
October	19	Midterm
November	30	Economics paper due
December	14	FINAL 7-9:50 (8-9:20 class)

December 16

FINAL 7-9:50 (9:30-10:50 class)