



Department of Sociology & Social Work

SOC201 Cultural Anthropology

3.0 Units

2017 Fall

Meeting days: Tuesday/Thursday		Instructor title and name: Leanne Williams	
Meeting times: 9:30-10:45 AM			
Meeting location: Rohr Hall #108		E-mail: lwillia2@pointloma.edu	
Final Exam: Tuesday, 12/12/2017 – 7:30am to 10:00am in RH108		Office location and hours: Rohr Hall #110, 11:00am-noon, T/TR, or by appointment	

PLNU Mission

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

Department Mission

“As followers of Christ, our mission is to nurture servant scholars who critically and empirically evaluate social systems, cultural patterns and basic human needs to constructively engage as agents of hope with individuals, families and communities.”

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Sociology 201 is an introduction to Cultural Anthropology and its practical application. Contemporary international migration, travel and communications bring us into direct contact with peoples of many regions with a tremendous variety of values and ways of life. In this course you will be introduced to many of the basic concepts and findings of Cultural Anthropology. You will achieve an understanding of the cultural diversity with which we are increasingly confronted and the common threads that tie us all together with an emphasis on the comparative study of contemporary cultures. During this course you will learn skills to understand and appreciate the wide array of cultural differences that have developed throughout the world and gain new insights into the patterns and dynamics of your own traditions.

As a student of Cultural Anthropology you will acquire an awareness and knowledge of social and cultural diversity, a comparative perspective on societies and a deeper understanding of diverse social, political and economic systems. The subject of anthropology is no longer limited to the arcane and exotic. Today, medical anthropologists work in hospitals designing patient-care programs for culturally diverse populations and in research institutes tracking disease and risk vectors around the world. The American Bar Association employs anthropologists in its legal research division. Marketing firms hire anthropological consultants to understand US consumption patterns and to test public receptivity to new products. Anthropologists also put their knowledge of cultural diversity to work in museums, publishing houses, development agencies, volunteer organizations, teaching and the social services. Still others pursue graduate degree programs in anthropology and other related disciplines.

This course is one of the components of the general education program at PLNU, under the category ***seeking cultural perspectives***. By including this course in a common educational experience for undergraduates, the faculty supports a survey of human endeavor from an historical, cultural, linguistic and philosophical perspective, including developing critical appreciation of human expression.

COURSE GOALS:

This course has three primary goals. The first is to expose you to the breadth and depth of human socio-cultural variation. The second is for you to develop an introductory understanding of the significance and causes of cultural variation. The third goal is for you to develop practical skills (ideas and behaviors) to engage an increasing trans-cultural world with greater cross-cultural intelligence/competence. This exposure will come from assigned readings, online discussions and exercises, films and your own research.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

1. Identify and critically evaluate the ideas and behaviors of at least three cultural groups outside of the student's own experience.
2. Identify and critically analyze at least three cultural patterns that most influence our own lives
3. Contrast three social theories about why and how cultural diversity exists.
4. Utilize and evaluate the strengths/weaknesses of more than one ethnographic research skill (e.g. participant observation, event analysis and interviewing)

5. Identify and discuss from cross-cultural perspectives at least three critical issues pertaining to key contemporary social conditions and related impacts on historically specific populations and diverse communities
6. Demonstrate comprehension of the reading and lecture materials

COURSE CREDIT HOUR INFORMATION

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 3.0 unit class delivered over 15 weeks. Specific details about how the class meets the credit hour requirement can be provided upon request.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION - 10%

Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings, the faculty member has the option of filing a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice. If the date of de-enrollment is past the last date to withdraw from a class, the student will be assigned a grade of W or WF consistent with university policy in the grading section of the catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) in the (undergrad/graduate as appropriate) academic catalog.

Module Assignments (Read, View, Do) - 10%

There are numerous interactive in-class and online exercises of various lengths in each [module](#) that help to build knowledge and skill for the subject at hand. You will often be in discussion with one another, debating a certain topic, reacting to multimedia prompts and the like. Your colleagues are depending on your full participation for a high quality learning environment, and you are dependent on theirs. These exercises are core to your learning. The quality of your individual learning and the quality of learning from one another as a class depends on your full participation in these Module Assignments. These assignments will each count toward your Participation grade in this course.

Cross-Cultural Experience Reflections - 20%

Two cross-cultural experiences serve as the *signature assignment* for this course and are required of each student. You get to choose two significant cross-cultural events to participate in, observe, record field notes, research and reflect on. These experiences must take place during the course and must be spread out according to the deadlines in the Course Calendar. You will take field notes during each experience, interview key cultural consultants and do background research in professional social science peer reviewed journals.

Each Cross-Cultural Experience Reflection must include:

- An initial plan for your cross-cultural experience (worth 10%)
- A Cross-Cultural Experience Reflection paper that follows the *Guide to Cross-Cultural Experience Reflections* and includes the following main components (worth 90%)

1. A Title Page

2. A 2-3 page reflection on culturally significant insights, drawn from the different sections of the course, demonstrating your ability to use the concepts and perspectives learned from the course.
3. An annotated bibliography with two sources from peer reviewed academic social science journal articles. Both of these annotated sources are also to be quoted in the reflection to shed a professional light on one or two of the cultural phenomena written about in the reflection. See the Guide for more instructions on the annotated bibliography.
4. Physical evidence of your participation (e.g. brochures, event program, digital pictures/video, etc.). Include a digital copy on a separate page with your submission.
5. A copy of your field notes. A minimum of 2 full pages of field notes are required for Participant Observer status. Notes should be divided into "Descriptive" and "Interpretive" sections to distinguish from direct observation and the observer's interpretation of the observation.

Options must be approved by the professor. Student cross-cultural experiences will become opportunities for reflection by the entire class. See the Guide to Cross-Cultural Experience Projects for specific requirements. Please also see the [Cross-Cultural Reflection Rubric](#) to see how this assignment will be graded.

Cultural Anthropology Library Guide - PLNU librarians put together a resource page to help centralize resources that will help you succeed in this course.

Ethnographic Film Notes and Discussion - 30%

You'll be required to watch three ethnographic films during this course. These films provide an alternative genre in which to learn about key concepts from this course and to gain some exposure to particular contexts in which these concepts are embodied. A guide for reflection on each of the films is available. Students must use the guides to take reflective notes on each film and use these notes for a discussion with the rest of the class. Notes should be submitted online and will be graded for their thoroughness and quality.

[Cannibal Tours](#)

[The Other Side of Immigration](#)

[Life and Debt](#)

Exams - 30%

Two midterms and a final will assist you in reviewing and retaining key information from the assigned reading. The format for the exams will test a broad range of learning styles. Tests may include, but are not limited to, the following: multiple choice, matching, fill in the blank, true/false and short essay questions. Each student must take all exams.

Extra Credit

Students can earn up to 200 points total of extra credit. Extra credit is designed to give students additional opportunities to reflect on the concepts raised in the course. There are two options for extra credit, and students can do either or a combination of both for extra credit in the class.

1. Students can attend approved events that relate to the content of the course and reflect on the significance of this event in relation to what we are learning in the course. The professor must approve these events for it to count as extra credit. Students will be required to write a two to three page reflection that effectively incorporates key concepts from this course in their reflection. Reflections are due no later than one week following the event. Students may take advantage of up to two of these opportunities during the semester at 50 points each for a maximum of 100 points to be added for these reflections.

2. Some students may want to read a more in-depth ethnography about a particular cultural group or social context. Students may read and critically analyze a mutually agreed upon ethnography from a professional anthropologist. Critiques should be no shorter than 3 pages and no longer than 5 pages and are due at the end of a semester. If you choose this option, YOU MUST FOLLOW the guidelines provided in the Guide to a Critique of Ethnographies available by following the link below. Follow the style guidelines required for publishing in the American Anthropological Association Style Guide. A maximum of 200 points may be added for critiques of ethnographies (100 points each).

NOTE: Extra credit for this course is calculated by adding the points earned AND by adding the total possible points to the overall total grade before calculating the final grade. This means that if you do 200 points of extra credit and you originally have 880/1,000 (88%, B+), you'll improve your grade to 1,080/1,200 (90%, A-).

REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED STUDY RESOURCES

Eriksen, Thomas Hylland

[2015 Small Places, Large Issues: An Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology. Pluto Press. Fourth edition. \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

DeVita, Philip

[2000 Stumbling Toward Truth: Anthropologists at Work. Waveland Press. \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Additional readings from various sources will be required throughout the semester as assigned. All reading except for the texts above will be available at the course eclass site.

Cultural Anthropology Library Guide

PLNU librarians put together a resource page to help centralize resources that will help you succeed in this course. This site will be particularly useful for your Cross-Cultural Experience Project.

American Psychological Association Style

Academic writing is a disciplined way of writing designed to speak clearly and concisely to a community of scholars with an agreed upon style of writing. Disciplines differ in their writing conventions, and as you learn to speak and write from different perspectives, you learn the conventions of those perspectives. As practice in learning how to write using conventions unique to a particular discipline, publisher or employer, this course requires you to use the American Psychological Association's (APA) professional Style Guide. As with any publisher or employer that will require you to morph your writing style to their conventions, be sure to use APA citation style in your lists of citations as well as in the body of your text.

<http://www.apastyle.org/>

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Course Requirements:

General requirements include:

1. Comprehensive reading and viewing of texts and assigned materials.
2. Active participation in online discussions and activities.
3. Demonstration of the ability to apply foundational knowledge and principles to contemporary social circumstances.
4. Successful and timely completion of assignments, course projects and exams.

Course Grading System:

Attendance and Participation	100		Grade Determination
Class attendance and participation			(Percentage):
Module Assignments	100		A 93 -100
Participation in class and online assignments			A- 90 – 92.9
Cross-Cultural Experience Reflections	200		B+ 87 – 89.9
Cross-Cultural Experience plans (2 x 10 points each)	20		B 83 – 86.9
Cross-Cultural Experience Reflections (2 x 90 points each)	180		B- 80 – 82.9
Ethnographic Films and Discussions	300		C+ 77 – 79.9
Film Notes (3 x 100 points each)	300		C 73 – 76.9
In-class Discussions (3)			C- 70 – 72.9
Exams	300		D+ 67 – 69.9
Midterms (2 x 100 points each)	200		D 63 – 66.9
Final (100)	100		F 0 – 62.9
Total	1000		
<i>Extra Credit</i> (200 points possible)		(200)	
Total including full extra credit		(1200)	

ACADEMIC HONESTY®

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one’s own when in reality they are the results of another person’s creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS®

If you have a diagnosed disability, please contact PLNU's Disability Resource Center (DRC) within the first two weeks of class to demonstrate need and to register for accommodation by phone at 619-849-2486 or by e-mail at DRC@pointloma.edu. See [Disability Resource Center](#) for additional information.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION®

Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings, the faculty member can file a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog.