



## CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY ONLINE – Spring 2010



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<b>Class website:</b>	<a href="http://www.coursecompass.com">www.coursecompass.com</a>
<b>Office hours:</b>	<b>M</b> 9-11am (online), <b>T</b> 11:15-12:30, <b>Th</b> 11:15-1:00
<b>Office location:</b>	ArtB332B (3rd floor of Art & Behavioral Sci. building, outside wing, facing new parking structure)

**Dear Students: Read this ENTIRE syllabus. You'll be quizzed on it, and it'll help you get started in Course Compass & successfully complete the class. Before contacting me with questions, please refer to this syllabus and the course menu in Course Compass.**

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND ACCESS CODE:**

*Cultural Anthropology (5<sup>th</sup> edition) by Miller, ISBN 978-0-205-68329-1* (also available as an eBook from the publisher for a discounted price; several copies are available at the Periodicals/Reserve Desk in college library for check-out up to two hours). An access code is required and packaged with the textbook if purchased from the college bookstore. If you buy the book used, or off campus, you must purchase an access code or you won't be able to use the Course Compass class site (also sold separately at the bookstore or can be purchased online at the time you create a Course Compass account).

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course introduces students to cultural anthropology, a subdiscipline of anthropology that focuses on the cultural and social aspects of people around the globe. We'll explore topics such as: ethnicity and "race", language, gender, social stratification and class, sociopolitical organization, making a living, religion, kinship and marriage, perceptions of illness and healing, culture change, and the relationship between colonialism, globalization and development.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Relate aspects of their own culture to that of other societies
- Apply cultural anthropology to other disciplines, topics and social issues outside of the classroom
- Demonstrate a solid understanding of cultural relativism and how it applies to the study of various societies
- Compare and contrast the various subsistence strategies which are practiced cross-culturally
- Analyze and describe the various kinship and marriage systems which exist cross-culturally
- Evaluate and identify the levels of social and political organization, and various economic systems
- Assess whether the concept of race is a cultural or biological classification
- Identify the cross-cultural differences in interpreting and explaining disease and illness
- Compare and contrast the role that religious belief systems play in affecting behavior cross-culturally
- Assess the current effects of the industrialized world on developing nations and indigenous peoples of the world

### **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Student learning outcomes are behavioral objectives - what a student should know, value and be able to demonstrate or perform after the class is completed. Below is an example of a student learning outcome for this class:

*On an objective exam students will demonstrate an understanding of the holistic approach in anthropology by identifying the appropriate definition.*

### **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

In an online class you're completely responsible for your own learning and understanding class requirements including:

- Having regular access to a computer with internet access (at least 3 times per week), and dealing with any technical problems (see "Computer Skills & Problems" below or "Communication" on the course menu for Tech Support info)
- Familiarizing yourself with Course Compass and Distance Education student handbook, and completing the Orientation
- Checking announcements in Course Compass and email messages every week
- Familiarizing yourself with material contained in the syllabus, textbook, online lessons and other assigned reading
- Staying on top of due dates to ensure that work is submitted on time (no late exams or assignments are accepted)
- Keeping track of your grade in the online Gradebook throughout the semester (in "Tools", "My Grades")
- Understanding that an online class is not easier – or less work – than a regular, face-to-face class!

This class is a great option for self-motivated, independent learners. You may choose your own schedule and have the luxury of working from home. However, online classes are normally not easier than face-to-face classes. This course requires a lot of reading and you'll need to spend many hours on the computer every week. Many students drop online classes because they initially think the class is going to be easy, only to find it requires a lot more work than they anticipated. Others drop because they fall behind and find there's no way to catch up. **DON'T LET THAT HAPPEN TO YOU.** I recommend you set aside specific days/times each week as if you were attending a traditional class. Successfully completing an online class requires a lot of self-discipline. If you don't create a system that ensures you'll be able to stay on top of deadlines and submit work on time, you won't do well in this class.

Exams and assignments are due by 11:59pm on the due date, but I don't recommended waiting until the last minute (technical problems are not excuses for turning in late work). It's critical to your success that you complete all work in a timely manner, and I recommend you have a "back-up" computer option in case you run into computer problems.

### **COMPUTER SKILLS AND PROBLEMS:**

It is the student's responsibility to work with the publisher's product support division if you are having trouble with Course Compass. If you have trouble with registering, logging in, or using the site please do the following:

- 1) Go to <http://247.pearsoned.com> (make sure to have the ISBN of your book handy)
- 2) You are not required to register or login - go directly to the folder that says CHAT and complete the form
- 3) You will be connected to an agent that can help you
- 4) If the agent is unable to help, they may refer your problem to a higher level agent and get back to you within 24 hours
- 5) At the end of the session you will receive an EMAIL copy of your CHAT session for your records. (If you do not receive this within 5 minutes of your completed CHAT check your JUNK EMAIL and SPAM filters)
- 6) If they do not get back with you within 24 hours, please send the instructor a copy of your CHAT session which has your INCIDENT NUMBER and I will ask the publisher's representative to investigate the problem

For general computer questions, you may want to contact or visit one of the [computer labs](#) on campus. Although owning a personal computer isn't mandatory, it's highly recommended. If you don't own a computer, you'll need to have regular access to one that allows you to log onto the internet. Plan to log on at least three times per week. High-speed internet access isn't required, but the faster the connection speed, the less time you'll spend waiting. Students will experience less frustration if they own a computer, preferably with high-speed internet access (comes in handy if you want to install Quicktime, Real Player, etc. for video clips).

To successfully complete this class, you need to have the following word-processing skills:

- Create and save a document in MS Word
- Copy-and-paste or cut-and-paste from one source to another
- Set margins and page orientation
- Use spelling, grammar and thesaurus functions

Students must have the following email skills:

- Send and receive emails with attachments
- Forward and reply to emails (there is a difference!)

Students should have the following cyber discussion and internet skills:

- Post messages to a discussion board
- Practice courtesy and respect when posting messages
- Visit sites by use of hyperlink or URL, and move forward and backward through sites
- Use a search engine
- Install QuickTime, RealPlayer, etc. to view film and audio clips (not required, but will come in handy)

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Allow plenty of time to prepare for assignments and exams. As a college student, it's your responsibility to discover how much time you need to study for exams, complete reading assignments, write papers, etc. When in doubt, start early! Students who invest a lot of time in completing assignments and studying for exams, usually earn the highest grades.

**ONLINE ORIENTATION:** Students are required to complete the online orientation (in "Orientation" on the Course Compass course menu) by the end of the first week of class. It includes reading materials to help get you started in this class (e.g. syllabus, Distance Education handbook) and "signing" a contract and emailing it to the professor.

**WEEKLY READING:** Don't fall behind! Reading is critical to your success in this class because it prepares you for the quizzes, exams and assignments. Reading is an essential part of a college education, as it improves critical thinking and comprehension skills. Make it a habit to keep up with assigned reading every week so you don't fall behind. In addition to textbook chapters, you're required to read the material in the lessons (articles, web links, handouts, etc.). Online classes require much more reading than traditional classes. In place of coming to class and listening to a lecture, the student is responsible for acquiring the material on his/her own (mainly by reading!). Therefore, online classes are only recommended for students with strong reading comprehension skills.

**ONLINE LESSONS:** All "lectures" are online lessons, which consist of material in addition to textbook chapters. Lessons may contain any of the following required, recommended or optional materials: articles, links to other websites, Powerpoint slides, additional "lecture notes", online activities and/or film clips.

**PLAGIARISM QUIZ (no credit, but required):** This quiz isn't worth any points, but you must complete it, and earn 100%, to qualify for submitting WebLabs, message board posts and extra credit assignments. These assignments will not be accepted if you don't complete the Plagiarism Quiz. The quiz is available in Course Compass in "Exams and Quizzes" and should be completed as soon as possible. It also serves as a practice quiz, to allow you to become familiar with test-taking methods in this class before you complete the first chapter quiz for credit. If you don't earn 100% on it the Plagiarism Quiz the first time, you can retake it until you do. To prepare for this quiz, read ALL the information on the *Plagiarism Handout* and *Plagiarism: What it is and How to Avoid it* website (located in "Exams and Quizzes").

**DISCUSSION BOARD (40 points, 10%):** There will be four required discussion assignments based on topics included in chapters and lessons. See "Assignments" and "Discussion Board" on the course menu for instructions and due dates. All students are required to read "Discussion Board Etiquette" (also in "Assignments") before participating in any of these assignments. Students who are rude or discourteous to their classmates will be required to discontinue participation and won't have the opportunity to earn points on Discussion Board assignments.

**DEVELOPMENT ANTHROPOLOGY PAPER (50 points, 12.5%):** Students will be required to analyze and assess the work of a non-profit organization that works, and provides aid, to communities in developing nations. A three-to-four page paper will be due at the end of the semester. Details available in the Course Compass class site.

**CHAPTER QUIZZES (100 points, 25%):** There will be 12 quizzes, each worth 10 points and covering one chapter. Only the 10 best scores will be calculated in your grade. You may miss up to four quizzes without affecting your grade, but I highly recommend you don't miss any (quizzes help prepare you for exams which cover some of the same material). Quizzes have a 30-minute time limit - going over may cause you to be locked out of the system (otherwise you'll lose several points from the quiz grade). Quizzes must be completed once opened and there are no opportunities to retake them or for make-ups. **Quizzes are "open book" but require you to read and study in advance!**

**EXAMS (210 points total, 52.5%):** *All exams will be timed and may only be completed once.* Exams are "open book, open note", but due to the breadth of material covered and the time limit (100 minutes for Exams 1 through 3, two hours for the Final, with a 5-minute grace period) it's critical that you allow plenty of time to read and *study* all the material ahead of time. It's recommended that you print lesson materials ahead of time and have them, as well as the textbook, handy while you take exams. This is a more efficient way of taking exams than traveling between windows as you take it (which may cause Course Compass to freeze up or lock you out of the system).

Exams include a combination of multiple-choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, multiple answer and matching questions. Fill-in-the-blank questions require only one answer unless otherwise noted. Go to "Exams and Quizzes" on the course menu to

access exams. Once you click on an exam link, the exam starts (you should see a timer in the lower left hand corner of your screen, otherwise use a watch or clock to keep track of time). *The system will not allow you to restart the exam again later.* I will reset ONE exam for each student, in the event that you experience computer problems and contact me in advance of the deadline. It is advised that you download Firefox (at [www.mozilla.com](http://www.mozilla.com)) and use it to access Course Compass to minimize the chance of experiencing technical problems (which are not valid excuses for submitting late work or taking make-ups). It is the student's responsibility to have access to a computer to take exams. Computer malfunctions or crashes are not a valid excuse for missing exams. This is why each student needs to have a "back up" plan and should plan to take exams well in advance of the deadlines.

*Keep in mind: this class is hosted by the publisher of the textbook, located on the East Coast (3 hours ahead of California's time zone). Exams must be submitted no later than 11:59pm Pacific Standard Time. See class schedule for exam chapters, topics and due dates. Exams may be completed early, but there won't be any opportunities for make-ups (regardless of the excuse; see "Late Work" below for details).*

### **LATE WORK:**

Due to the fact that online students have a great deal of flexibility when it comes to submitting assignments, no late work will be accepted (unless specifically stated). This policy applies to any, and all, excuses, whether due to medical, personal, domestic, or work-related reasons. **Computer problems are not a valid excuse for submitting late work.** If you experience problems with your computer, you must use a different one. Make sure you always allow yourself enough time in advance of exam deadlines, just in case you find you need to use someone else's computer. One option is to use the computer labs on campus (there are over 30 labs with approximately 1,000 computers available to ECC students).

### **EXTRA CREDIT:**

Students may earn up to 15 extra points towards their class grade. Extra credit is due at the end of the semester and can be used to make-up some points missed on assignments, quizzes and/or exams. Details will be announced in Course Compass. Extra credit is a privilege - I reserve the right to refuse extra credit assignments from anyone.

### **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

El Camino College requires that at least "six effective contacts be made between the instructor and online students during the semester". You may make these contacts in the following ways: email messages to the instructor and regular participation in message board assignments. If you're "missing" from our online community for over two consecutive weeks, you'll be dropped from the class. You create a "presence" for yourself online when you engage in assignments, submit quizzes, email the instructor, etc.

### **DROPPING THE CLASS:**

Although instructors may drop students for non-participation, the college views dropping as the student's responsibility. Occasionally instructors make mistakes and don't catch non-participation in time to drop the student (in which case he/she winds up with an "F" in the class). Don't assume you'll automatically be dropped due to non-participation. If you need to drop, do so by going to the Admissions Office on campus or online through MyECC.

### **ONLINE GRADEBOOK:**

For an up-to-date total of your class points throughout the semester, go to "Tools" on the course menu in the Course Compass class site and click on "My Grades". To determine your current grade, divide your points by the total points assigned in class thus far.

### **ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:**

Students are expected to abide by ethical standards in preparing and presenting material that demonstrates their level of knowledge, and which is used to determine grades. *Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated.* This sort of behavior violates Section I.B.1 of El Camino College's Board Policy 5138, Standards of Student Conduct.

The following constitutes PLAGIARISM in this class: 1) submitting under one's own name papers which have been prepared by others (including the use of commercial term paper companies); 2) copying word for word, an author's sentences or paragraphs and including them in your paper as your own work; 3) paraphrasing published material without acknowledging the source. CHEATING is defined as: 1) using notes or the work of other students in papers in ways other than those expressly permitted by the instructor; 2) misreporting or altering the data in papers involving the collection of data;

3) submitting a paper that is identical to that of another student's (i.e. sentences and/or paragraphs are the same, word for word, and/or results from data collection are identical).

Academic dishonesty may be dealt with in the following ways: 1) the student may receive an appropriate academic penalty such as an oral reprimand; 2) an "F" may be assigned on all or part of a particular paper or exam; and/or 3) the student may be suspended from all classes for that term and the following term if deemed appropriate.

### **THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL APPROACH:**

Anthropology is the study of humans from all perspectives: cultural, social and biological, as well as past and present. Cultural anthropology, as the name implies, deals with human cultural traditions and society, while topics within physical/biological anthropology focus on the biology of humans, including their evolutionary history (and that of the non-human primates, our "closest living relatives").

#### THE EVOLUTIONARY APPROACH IN ANTHROPOLOGY

Anthropologists from all of the four subfields - cultural, physical/biological, linguistic and archaeology - view humans as part of the natural world, and the biological and geological changes that have happened on earth. In other words, they place humans in an evolutionary context, alongside other organisms (as biologists and other scientists do). Although cultural anthropology doesn't deal directly with evolution, this perspective is evident throughout the textbook and in some of the lessons in this class. In a physical/biological anthropology class, students learn about evolution - including human evolution - in great depth. However, a cultural anthropology class is not the appropriate forum to do so. Therefore, if you have any questions about evolution (i.e. its validity, the factual evidence for it, arguments for and against it, the Creation-Evolution controversy, etc.) I suggest you visit: [www.talkorigins.org](http://www.talkorigins.org).

#### CULTURAL RELATIVISM

An anthropology class provides students with a broad perspective on a wide range of topics. The role of a cultural anthropologist is to learn about lifeways that are different from his/her own, not to make judgments as to whether the ways of another culture/community are right or wrong. An anthropologist understands that what is considered "right" in one society, may be viewed as wrong or immoral in another. This is why cultural relativism is one of the core concepts of the discipline of cultural anthropology. However, anthropologists don't always accept, or agree with, all traditions. In fact, they often find themselves studying societies that practice traditions which contradict their own beliefs or values, or that they find personally distasteful or immoral. There have also been instances where the anthropologist decides to discontinue research in a given society, or assists members of the society in their human rights efforts, when faced with traditions that are harmful or violate basic human rights. The objective of cultural anthropology, however, is to learn how others live and how other societies "tick", not to decide whether their actions are right (which can be a very challenging task in some cases)!

Anthropology students should take this same approach. You're not required to accept, or believe, everything you learn or experience in this class. But you're expected to show and practice respect and tolerance at all times, even if you're presented with topics that may be shocking or unusual to you. The anthropological approach is one in which diversity is valued and appreciated. I hope that as a student of anthropology you'll be able to do the same!

### **STUDENT SERVICES INFORMATION:**

The following services are available (dial 1-310 before each number):

ASSESSMENT/TESTING CENTER	660-6536	SSC 217
BOOKSTORE	660-3380	
CAREER SERVICES CENTER	660-6137	SSC 1 <sup>st</sup> floor
COUNSELING SERVICES DIVISION	660-3458	SSC 1 <sup>st</sup> floor
DISTANCE EDUCATION	660-6453	LIBRARY, East Wing, Rm 76
EOP&S	660-3464	SSC 202 & 203
FINANCIAL AID	660-3493	SSC 215
HEALTH CENTER	660-3643	
LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER	660-6494	LIBRARY
(Includes Tutoring)		
LIBRARY	660-3519	
SPECIAL RESOURCE CENTER	660-3296	SSC
TRANSFER CENTER	660-3408	SSC 1 <sup>st</sup> floor
WRITING CENTER	660-3873	COMM 202

