
ANTH 203 (LEC01)
Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology
GFC Hours 3-0
Spring 2023

Instructor:	Görkem Aydemir-Kundakçı	Lecture Location:	ST 135
Phone:	403-220-6932	Lecture Days/Time:	Tuesday 9:00-11:45 Thursday 9:00-11:45
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Prerequisite(s): None.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Sociocultural anthropology is the study of human culture and social experience. But what does that mean? What exactly do sociocultural anthropologists do? Whom or what do they study and why? Perhaps most important of all, how can sociocultural anthropology help us understand the world we live in?

In answering these questions, this course offers an introduction to the field of sociocultural anthropology—its methods, language, key concepts, and characteristic ways of thinking about the spectrum of human diversity. We will learn about the field's breadth and methodologies, sample some of its classical themes, and explore contemporary issues of research. With an eye toward appreciating differences and commonalities, this course examines how human beings live their lives through a range of sources including ethnography, social theory, and historical analyses.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology is committed to student knowledge and skill development.

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Identify the methods and object of study of sociocultural anthropology.
2. Use broad anthropological concepts such as culture, society, structure, function, and process to analyze social phenomena, constructs, and categories.
3. Apply anthropological concepts to understand and question their own social worlds and cultural biases.
4. Exercise skills in critical reading and analytical reasoning.
5. Appreciate and critically analyze cultural difference as a fundamental aspect of human nature.

READINGS AND TEXTBOOKS:

Required Textbook

Ferraro, Gary, Susan Andreatta and Chris Holdsworth. 2018. *Cultural Anthropology: An Applied Perspective (Canadian Edition)*. Toronto: Nelson

Additional Readings

Additional readings from the relevant literature as indicated in the Schedule—links provided on D2L.

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY and EQUIPMENT:

Students will need access to a computer and an Internet connection to be able to access and view course materials and components (via the D2L shell for the course) and library resources.

If you are unfamiliar with D2L or with some of its features, tutorials are available here:

<https://conted.ucalgary.ca/students/online-resources-2.jsp>.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

Grades are based on the following components:

First MIDTERM EXAM

- 30% of the final grade
- 50 Multiple choice and T/F questions
- 2 short answer questions

- Date: **May 16th** (Tuesday)

Second MIDTERM EXAM

- **30%** of the final grade
- 50 Multiple choice and T/F questions
- 2 short answer questions
- Date: **June 1st** (Thursday)

FINAL EXAM

- **40%** of the final grade
- 60 Multiple choice and T/F questions
- 4 short answer questions
- Date: **TBA – scheduled by the Registrar**

Important Information concerning the exams:

1. Exams are **cumulative**. Material covered on the second midterm will include questions based on the material covered by the first midterm. The final exam will cover material from the entire course.
2. Midterms and the final are **closed-book** exams. Therefore, students are NOT allowed to consult their own material or external resources during the examination.
3. All midterms will be held **in-class**.

Department of Anthropology and Archaeology Grading Scheme:

A+	95 – 100%	B+	80 – 84.9%	C+	67 – 70.9%	D+	55 – 58.9%
A	90 – 94.9%	B	75 – 79.9%	C	63 – 66.9%	D	50 – 54.9%
A-	85 – 89.9%	B-	71 – 74.9%	C-	59 – 62.9%	F	< 50%

Deferred Exams:

Deferral of a mid-term exam must be cleared with the instructor. Deferral will be granted only in cases of personal injury, illness, or immediate family emergency. Students may choose to provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request. This may include, but is not limited to, a prolonged absence from a course where participation is required, a missed course assessment, a deferred examination, or an appeal. Students are encouraged to submit documentation that will support their situation. **The decision to provide supporting documentation that best suits the situation is at the discretion of the student. Students cannot be required to provide specific supporting documentation, such as a medical note.**

Falsification of any supporting documentation will be taken very seriously and may result in disciplinary action through the Academic Discipline regulations or the Student Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

IMPORTANT: Deferral of the final exam requires Registrar approval.

Reappraisal of Graded Term Work: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

Reappraisal of Final Grade: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

Land Acknowledgement

The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology acknowledges the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprising the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai First Nations), as well as the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Goodstoney First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3.

Acknowledgment and Respect for Diversity

The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology views diversity of identity as a strength and resource. Your experiences and different perspectives are encouraged and add to a rich learning environment that fosters critical thought through respectful discussion and inclusion.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance:

Students **are expected** to attend all classes and to contribute to class discussions based on the class material, assigned readings and films. Students will be unable to make valuable contributions to discussion, or benefit from the contributions of others, if the readings have not been done beforehand. As you are required to demonstrate a working knowledge of all course materials in exams, grades will suffer if more than two classes are missed.

Students **are expected** to be present for all exams.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit <https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/student-services/access>. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor or the Department Head. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure>.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Academic integrity is the foundation of the development and acquisition of knowledge and is based on values of honesty, trust, responsibility, and respect. We expect members of our community to act with integrity. The University Calendar includes a statement on the principles of conduct expected of all members of the university community (including students, faculty, administrators, any category of staff, practicum supervisors, and volunteers), whether on or off university property. This statement applies in all situations where members of the university community are acting in their university capacities. All members of the university community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the principles of conduct statement, which is available at: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

The University of Calgary is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect.

Academic dishonesty is not an acceptable activity at the University of Calgary, and students are **strongly advised** to read the Student Misconduct section in the University Calendar at: www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html. Often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are (1) presenting another student's work as your own, (2) presenting an author's work or ideas as your own without adequate citation, and (3) using work completed for another course. Such activities will not be tolerated in this course, and students suspected of academic misconduct will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the calendar at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-procedure>

For students wishing to know more about what constitutes plagiarism and how to properly cite the work of others, the Department of Geography recommends that they attend Academic Integrity workshops offered through the Student Success Centre: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>

INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing. Information on Instructor Intellectual Property can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/intellectual-property-policy>

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks, etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

SUPPORTS FOR STUDENT LEARNING, SUCCESS, AND SAFETY

Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success Centre
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

May 4 (Class 1) – What is Anthropology?

Chapter 1- "Anthropology in a Global World"

Bohannon, Laura. "Shakespeare in the Bush," *Natural History*. 1966. Aug-Sept: 1-12

May 9 (Class 2) – Culture and Cultural Meaning

Chapter 2 – "The Concept of Culture"

Miner, Horace. "Body Ritual Among the Nacirema." *American Anthropologist*. 1956. 58.

May 11 (Class 3) – History of Anthropology and Philosophical Origins

Chapter 4 – "The Growth of Anthropological Theory"

["From the Belgian Congo to the Bronx Zoo,"](#) NPR Radio Diaries, September 8, 2006.

May 16 (Class 4) – FIRST MIDTERM

In-class screening: *Cannibal Tours*

May 18 (Class 5) – Ethnographic Enterprise

Chapter 5 – “Research Methods in Cultural Anthropology”
Selected “Arrival Stories”

May 23 (Class 6) – Language and Communication

Chapter 6 – “Communication and Culture”
Gershon, Ilana. 2012. *The Breakup 2.0: Disconnecting over New Media*. Cornell University Press. (selections)
In-class screening: *Talking Black in America*

May 25 (Class 7) – Kinship and Descent

Chapter 8 – “Marriage, Family, and Kinship”
[“Donor Siblings, and a New Kind of Family”](#) by Tamsin Eva, The New York Times. 2012.

May 30 (Class 8) – Ritual and Belief Systems

Chapter 12 – “Religion”
Evans-Pritchard, E.E. 1937. “The Notion of Witchcraft Explains Unfortunate Events.” In *Witchcraft, Oracles, and Magic among the Azande*. 1937.
In-class screening: *Witchcraft Among the Azande*

June 1 (Class 9) – SECOND MIDTERM

In-class screening: *Descendants*

June 6 (Class 10) – Difference

Chapter 9 – “Sex and Gender”
Chapter 10 – “Social Inequality: The Meaning of Difference”

June 8 (Class 11) – Reciprocity and Economic Systems

Chapter 7 – “Economics, Adaptation, and Subsistence Patterns”
In-class screening: *Kawelka: Ongka’s Big Moka*

June 13 (Class 12) – Social Control and Power

Chapter 11 – “Political Organization and Social Control”
Émile Durkheim, “What is a Social Fact?” pp. 1-13 in *The Rules of the Sociological Method*. Ed. by Steven Lukes; trans. by W.D. Halls (New York: Free Press, 1982).

June 15 (Class 13) – Decolonizing Anthropology

Chapter 14 – “The Modern World Order”
Aydemir, Gorkem. 2021. [“Uncertainty and Viral Emergencies in the Margins Georgia”](#)
Anthropology News.

IMPORTANT DATES

W May 3	First day of Spring Term lectures
T May 9	Last day to drop a class without a financial penalty
T May 9	Last day to add or swap a course
F May 12	Fee payment deadline for Spring Term full and half courses.
M May 22	Victoria Day, University closed. No classes.
R Jun 15	Spring Term Lectures End. Last day to withdraw with permission from Spring Term courses.
Jun 19-21	Spring Final Exam Period