

**CALDWELL UNIVERSITY**  
**Course Syllabus**

**I. BASIC COURSE INFORMATION**

1. **Course Title:** Cultural Anthropology
2. **Course Number:** AN-225-001
3. **Department:** Anthropology
4. **Credit Hours:** 3
5. **Instructor:** Troy E. Spier
6. **Office Hours:** By Appt. Only
7. **Semester:** Spring 2019
8. **Meeting Times:** 16:20-18:50 W
9. **Location:** Werner Hall 206

**II. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed as an introduction to the field of cultural anthropology through the investigation of the varieties and similarities in different societies and cultures. This is accomplished through cross-cultural study of communication, social institutions, and cultural practices, combined with a holistic examination of select societies around the world. As such, this course attempts to introduce broadly the concepts, methods, and findings of the field.

**III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

As a result of learning in this course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe the major objectives of cultural anthropology as a field of scholarly inquiry.
2. Identify and exemplify the most commonly used nomenclature with reference to ethnicity and race, gender, sexuality, kinship, immigration, material culture, religion and ritual, linguistics, etc.
3. Understand and analyze the role and contribution of ethnographic writing to the field.
4. Conduct close readings of textbook chapters and articles that demonstrate an ability to comprehend, paraphrase, and synthesize complex texts.
5. Compose weekly written responses that make connections to everyday life and formulate two questions for in-class discussion.
6. Interpret and interrogate important domains of visual anthropology through cinematic representations, e.g. through the composition of an essay that draws from the readings and makes explicit the anthropological connections to or in the film.
7. Demonstrate participant observation by attending a religious service that differs from one's own and composing a high-quality response that indicates thoughtful, critical, mature reflection.

**IV. COURSE MATERIALS**

**1. Required Textbook:**

Nanda, Serena and Richard L. Warms. 2018. *Culture Counts: A Concise Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. Cengage Learning: Boston, MA. Print.

ISBN-10: 1337109681

ISBN-13: 978-1337109680

## 2. Supplemental Materials:

Any supplemental materials used in this class will be provided online and/or distributed through email. Additionally, any films to be viewed for the purpose of establishing links to our textbook will be watched in class and do not need to be purchased nor borrowed from the library.

## V. REQUIREMENTS

1. **ATTENDANCE:** Regular attendance is necessary for your success in this course. This includes not only coming to class (on time!), but also participating in class discussions and activities. If you arrive more than fifteen minutes late to class without a valid excuse, you will be marked as absent for that session. Should you miss three or more sessions, a faculty-initiated withdrawal may be initiated. If you find that you need to leave early or will arrive late, you need to speak with me as soon as possible to ensure that you're not being unnecessarily penalized.

2. **TECHNOLOGY:** You must turn off and put away any technological devices that will prevent us from learning effectively. This is limited not only to cell phones, but also to tablets, laptops, etc. All slides will be uploaded online, and you are encouraged to take *handwritten* notes during class. If you know that you will need to take a phone call during instructional time, please let me know (if possible) at the start of the class to limit any distractions.

*Students are prohibited from using video or audio recording devices to record lectures, class discussions, conversations, or interactions between and among faculty or between faculty and students, unless prior written approval to record is obtained from the faculty member or, if appropriate, from the Office of Disability Services. Students with documented disabilities who are permitted to record lectures as a reasonable academic accommodation must sign the "Agreement for Recording of Lectures" provided by the Office of Disability Services. Students without documented disabilities who desire to use recording devices must obtain prior written permission from the instructor and sign the general "Agreement for Recording of Lectures" form. Students permitted to record lectures or class discussions acknowledge that the recording is for individual use and solely to assist in studying for the course. The recordings may not be shared, released, publicly or electronically posted or distributed. Students who violate this policy will be exposed to academic integrity sanctions and/or other legal recourse available to the faculty and the University.*

3. **COURSEWORK:** After assignments and exams have been evaluated, grades will be uploaded online. If you wish to review your performance at any point, please arrange a meeting with me. If assignments are turned in late without an approved excuse or an extension, ten percent (10%) will be automatically deducted per day (**not** per class). Written assignments may be revised for a higher grade, but they must be submitted with the original version no later than one week after they have been returned.

## VI. ACADEMIC HONESTY AND INTEGRITY

Academic Integrity, or honesty, in dealing with ideas, facts, data, interpretations, conclusions, and expression of these, is essential to the very nature of any academic community. The nature and mission of Caldwell University demand a high respect for moral values, including intellectual honesty and justice. Every student who attends Caldwell University agrees to abide by this Academic Integrity Policy as long as he or she remains enrolled. Students who witness violations are strongly encouraged to report the academic dishonesty to the appropriate academic authority. More specifically, this means that you will not engage in plagiarism, fabrication, cheating, the unauthorized distribution of copyrighted material, etc. Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be accepted, will result in a

failing grade for the assignment, and will be enforced in accordance with the Academic Integrity Policies outlined in the Caldwell University Catalog (pp. 59ff): [https://caldwell-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/formidable/24/16867-6-UG-Catalog\\_2016-17\\_LINKS.pdf](https://caldwell-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/formidable/24/16867-6-UG-Catalog_2016-17_LINKS.pdf)

## VII. GRADING SYSTEM AND ASSIGNMENT BREAKDOWN

Grades are earned based on your performance on assignments and quizzes, your attendance, and your participation. Should any discrepancies exist between your calculations and mine, contact me immediately to discuss the issue. Listed below is our grading system.

A	=	90-100%	C	=	70-79%	F	=	0-59%
B	=	80-89%	D	=	60-69%			

There are two equally weighted exams in this course. The first will take place after the eighth chapter, and the second will take place at the end of the semester.

You will be required to complete the reading before each session and submit a weekly response on Blackboard, which will contain connections to or reflections on the chapter (**not** a summary) *and* will provide two questions that we can use to launch our own discussion.

Additionally, since participant observation is so crucial to the field of anthropology, we will each attend a religious service that differs from our own in terms of beliefs, majority ethnicity, or language and then write a two-page participant observation account of it. For instance, if you identify as a Caucasian Jew, you might decide to attend a predominantly African American Christian service; on the other hand, if you identify as a South Asian Muslim, you might choose to visit a Buddhist temple. We will share our findings with the class toward the end of the semester, and the rubric can be found on Blackboard.

Finally, since a major portion of this course emphasizes the role of film to anthropology, we will be watching a film every class that is directly related to the topic at hand. In order for us to make explicit these connections, this course requires a single essay called the “Film to Concepts” Paper. The rubric and more specific details can be found on Blackboard.

Attendance and Participation	140 pts. (10 pts./each)
Weekly Responses (10)	200 pts. (20 pts./each)
“Newcomer” Assignment	35 pts.
“Film to Concepts” Paper	75 pts.
Midterm Exam	100 pts.
Final Exam	100 pts.

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**Total:           650 pts.**

## VIII. ACCOMMODATIONS

Any student who has a documented disability and is in need of academic accommodations must contact the Office of Disability Services and notify the professor of this course. Students are required to provide written documentation of their disability in order to be eligible for accommodations. Accommodations are individualized and in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992.

**Office of Disability Services at Caldwell University  
Student Center, First Floor**

<b>Hours of Operation:</b>	M-F 8:30am-4:30pm
<b>Phone:</b>	973-618-3645
<b>Fax:</b>	973-618-3488
<b>Director of Disability Services:</b>	Barbara Moran, M.P.A. <a href="mailto:bmoran@caldwell.edu">bmoran@caldwell.edu</a>

## IX. OTHER INFORMATION

If any comments, questions, or concerns arise throughout the semester you can contact me at [tspier@caldwell.edu](mailto:tspier@caldwell.edu). When writing your email, please make sure that you provide the course number and section. Remember your manners: Address me at the beginning of the email and list your name at the bottom. Note, in compliance with FERPA laws, all electronic communication must be done through the student's Caldwell University account.

*“Anthropology demands the open-mindedness with which one must look and listen, record in astonishment and wonder that which one would not have been able to guess.”*

**Margaret Mead**

*“I believe the present state of our knowledge justifies us in saying that, while individuals differ, biological differences are small. There is no reason to believe that one race is by nature so much more intelligent, endowed with great will power, or emotionally more stable than another that the difference would materially influence its culture.”*

**Franz Boas**

*“No man ever looks at the world with pristine eyes. He sees it edited by a definite set of customs and institutions and ways of thinking.”*

**Ruth Benedict**

*“The worlds in which different societies live are distinct worlds, not merely the same world with different labels attached. We see and hear and otherwise experience very largely as we do because the language habits of our community predispose certain choices of interpretation.”*

**Edward Sapir**

## X. TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

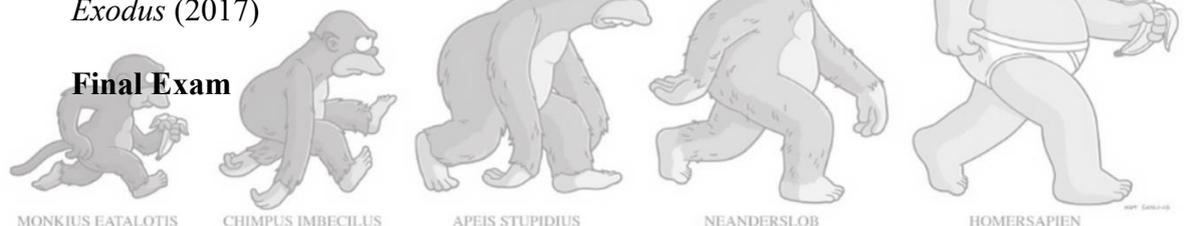
Listed below is the tentative course schedule for the semester. We will spend the early classes attempting to apprehend precisely what we mean when we talk about cultural anthropology as a field of inquiry, and then we will foreground specific sociocultural topics, e.g. economic status and distribution of wealth, language and communication generally, marriage and family relationships, etc.

<b>January 23</b>	Introduction to Course and Syllabus Personal Introductions <i>What is Anthropology, and Why Should I Care?</i> (Chapter 1) <i>The Kidnapped Bride</i> (2004)
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<b>January 30</b>	<b>NO CLASS (INCLEMENT WEATHER)</b>
<b>February 6</b>	<i>Culture Counts</i> (Chapter 2) <i>Doing Cultural Anthropology</i> (Chapter 3) <i>The Anthropologist</i> (2015)
<b>February 13</b>	<i>Communication</i> (Chapter 4) <i>The Linguists</i> (2008)
<b>February 20</b>	<i>Making a Living</i> (Chapter 5) <i>Happy People: A Year in the Taiga</i> (2010)
<b>February 27</b>	<i>Economics</i> (Chapter 6) <i>Up the Yangtze</i> (2007)
<b>March 6</b>	<i>Political Organization</i> (Chapter 7) <i>También la Lluvia</i> (2010)
<b>March 13</b>	<b>NO CLASS (Spring Break)</b>
<b>March 20</b>	<i>Stratification: Class, Case, Race, and Ethnicity</i> (Chapter 8) <i>Suspino: A Cry for Roma</i> (2003)
<b>March 27</b>	<b>Midterm Exam</b> <i>Entre les Murs</i> (2008)
<b>April 3</b>	<i>Marriage, Family, and Kinship</i> (Chapter 9) <i>The Breadwinner</i> (2017)
<b>April 10</b>	<i>Sex and Gender</i> (Chapter 10) <i>Ukraine is Not a Brothel!</i> (2013)
<b>April 17</b>	<i>Religion</i> (Chapter 11) <i>Why Can't I Be a Sushi?</i> (2014) <b>Share "Newcomer" Assignment In-Class</b>
<b>April 24</b>	<b>NO CLASS (Honors Convocation)</b> <b>"Film to Concepts" Due Electronically</b>
<b>May 1</b>	<b>Course Evaluations</b> <i>Creative Expression: Anthropology and the Arts</i> (Chapter 12) <i>Culture, Change, and Globalization</i> (Chapter 14) <i>Exodus</i> (2017)

**May 8**

**Final Exam**



**HOMERSAPIEN**