



Basic Course Information

Semester:	Spring 2026	Instructor Name:	Yuumi Danner
Course Title & #:	ANTH102—Cultural Anthropology	Email:	yuumi.danner@imperial.edu
CRN #:	20267	Webpage (optional):	N/A
Classroom:	Online	Office #:	Online
Class Dates:	04/20/2026 to 06/12/2026	Office Hours:	4/20-5/29: Tuesday & Thursday 8:30-9:30 a.m. [Meeting ID: 814 5130 7754 and Passcode: ANTH-IVC] and Wednesday 10:30-11:30 a.m. [Meeting ID: 836 9591 6257 and Passcode: ANTH-IVC]; 6/1-6/12: Wednesday 10:30-11:30 a.m. [Meeting ID: 836 9591 6257 and Passcode: ANTH-IVC]
Class Days:	Asynchronous (anytime, assignments due dates according to the Canvas calendar)	Office Phone #:	Direct contact via email, Canvas Inbox, Zoom, or indirectly via (760) 355-6144 [Department of Behavioral and Social Science Support Office]
Class Times:	Asynchronous (anytime)	Emergency Contact:	(760) 355-6144 [Department of Behavioral and Social Science Support Office]
Units:	3.00	Class Format/Modality:	Online (asynchronous)

Course Description

This course explores how anthropologists study and compare human culture. Cultural anthropologists seek to understand the broad arc of human experience focusing on a set of central issues: how people around the world make their living (subsistence patterns); how they organize themselves socially, politically, and economically; how they communicate; how they relate to each other through family and kinship ties; what they believe about the world (belief systems); how they express themselves creatively (expressive culture); how they make distinctions among themselves such as through applying gender, racial, and ethnic identity labels; how they have shaped and been shaped by social inequalities such as colonialism; and how they navigate culture change and processes of globalization that affect us all. Ethnographic case studies highlight these similarities and differences and introduce students to how anthropologists do their work, employ professional anthropological research ethics, and apply their perspectives and skills to understand humans around the globe. (C-ID: ANTH 120) (CSU/UC)



Course Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s)

None.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

1. Define the main goals and aims of cultural anthropology.
2. Describe the holistic and comparative approach.
3. Explain the difference between ethnocentrism and cultural relativism, demonstrating how cultural anthropology approaches global cultural diversity.

Course Objectives

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

1. Describe the goals of anthropology and its emphasis on cultural diversity.
2. Describe the comparative and holistic perspectives in studying culture as well as ethnocentrism and cultural relativism, and the importance of ethnographic studies.
3. Summarize the development of theories in cultural anthropology and the ethical issues anthropologists encounter and professional ethical obligations that must be met in the study of and application in cultural groups different from their own.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of economic subsistence strategies from foragers to agriculture and the interconnectedness of economic, political, and sociocultural forces of globalization amongst diverse cultural groups.
5. Describe why the family is the core of society and how kinship affects gender roles.
6. Describe the multifariousness of supernatural beliefs and their importance in human society's globalization.
7. Understand how language serves as a basis for communication and cognitive perception.
8. Demonstrate an awareness of the antiquity and creative forces of art and cultural change in human history.
9. Explain the difference between ethnicity and the concept of race as a cultural construct.
10. Recognize how Applied Anthropology is used in CRM studies, such as archaeology, as well as in medical anthropology, business, education, and economics.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Nina Brown, Thomas McIlwraith, and Laura Tubelle de González

2020 Perspectives: An Open Introduction to Cultural Anthropology. 2nd ed. American Anthropological Association, Arlington, VA.

ISBN Print: 978-1-931303-67-5

ISBN Digital: 978-1-931303-66-8

Updated 11/2024



This is a ZTC class. This textbook can be downloaded for free. The link is provided in the Course Materials and Software page in its Canvas course.

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Course Requirements

Out-of-class

In addition to completing assigned readings and engaging with recorded lectures, this accelerated, asynchronous 8-week course requires consistent out-of-class work each week. Because the course moves at a faster pace than a traditional semester, students are expected to plan regular study time and remain actively engaged throughout the term.

Out-of-class work includes a combination of **writing assignments, portfolios, audio reflections, quizzes, exams**, and a **course survey**, all designed to support learning, reflection, and skill development. Writing assignments consist of a multi-part research project, including Portfolio assignments (#1-4) and Research Paper Parts 1-3, which guide students through the research and writing process from topic selection to a final paper. These assignments emphasize skill-building, revision, and the development of academic research practices rather than polished work at every stage.

Students will also complete audio reflections, which serve as low-stakes opportunities to check in, connect course concepts to lived experiences, and reflect on learning. Quizzes and exams assess understanding of key concepts and the ability to synthesize material across multiple chapters. Finally, a course survey provides an opportunity to reflect on the learning experience and offer feedback to improve future courses.

Regular participation and timely submission of assignments are essential for success.

In-Class

- Course Participation

Students are expected to participate and interact with the instructor and with classmates. Your participation will be assessed through weekly assignments.

- Participation Expectations (with classmates and the instructor):
 - Be actively involved in your own learning.
 - Pay attention to emails and announcements in the course. Sign in to your course a few times a week so you don't miss anything.
 - You are responsible for knowing when assignments are due and for handing them in on time.
 - Check your institutional email frequently.
 - Notify me immediately with any concerns or issues you may have; don't leave it until too late.

My contact information, Office Hours, and contact policies are provided in the syllabus and Module 00. I will respond to your emails and questions in a timely fashion, within two business days at the most. Any additional course information or updates will be provided through announcements. Feedback on assignments and exams will be provided through the grade book. I will monitor the course activities by acknowledging student contributions and answering questions.

- Participation Expectations (Assignments):
 - A. Interact with Respect
 - Introduce relevant, facilitating information, ideas, and opinions to enrich the discussion.
 - Respond with relevant information or opinions to questions asked.
 - Ask clarifying questions.
 - Synthesize information, ideas, and opinions to determine relevancy.
 - Acknowledge the contributions of others.
 - Adjust tone to encourage equitable and respectful discussions.
 - B. Preparation
 - Read thoroughly.
 - Take notes.
 - Do assignments on time.
 - Be prepared for class (readings, assignments, materials).
 - Set aside your cultural values (use your cultural relativism lens).
 - C. Engagement
 - Utilize Canvas tools to communicate with classmates and the instructor.
 - Practice cultural anthropology in your daily life.

Instructional Methods

- Audio Visual
- Lecture
- Quiz
- Reading assignments
- Hands-on activities
- Writing assignments
- Exams
- Two (2) hours of independent work done out-of-class per hour of lecture/class work, or 3 hours of lab, practicum, or the equivalent per unit, is expected. (For an accelerated class, expect up to double per week)
- Distance Learning



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Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Grading Scheme

- $A \geq 90.0\%$
- $B \geq 80.0\%$
- $C \geq 70.0\%$
- $D \geq 59.0\%$
- $F \leq 58.9\%$

<i>Assignments</i>	<i>Maximum Points</i>	<i>% Total Grade</i>
<i>Quizzes</i>	80	18%
<i>Portfolios</i>	67.5	15%
<i>Audio Reflections</i>	45	10%
<i>Research Paper</i>	112.5	25%
<i>Exams</i>	135	30%
<i>Survey</i>	10	2%
<i>Total Available Points</i>	450	100%

Assignment details are provided on the assignment page.

Academic Honesty (Artificial Intelligence -AI)

IVC values critical thinking and communication skills and considers academic integrity essential to learning. Using AI tools as a replacement for your own thinking, writing, or quantitative reasoning goes against both our mission and academic honesty policy and will be considered academic dishonesty or plagiarism unless you have been instructed to do so by your instructor. In case of any uncertainty regarding the ethical use of AI tools, students are encouraged to reach out to their instructors for clarification.

Accessibility Statement

Imperial Valley College is committed to providing an accessible learning experience for all students, regardless of course modality. Every effort has been made to ensure that this course complies with all state and federal accessibility regulations, including Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations. However, if you encounter any content that is not accessible, please contact your instructor or the area dean for assistance. If you have specific accommodations through **DSPS**, contact them for additional assistance.

We are here to support you and ensure that you have equal access to all course materials.



Course Policies

Attendance

A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activities of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class.

Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. For online courses, **students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped.** Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.

Netiquette

- "Netiquette" refers to the rules of behaving well online. It can be more difficult to discern meaning in written text than in spoken conversation, so pay particular attention to your words.
- Keep your language clear and concise; ensure posts are on-topic; use correct spelling, grammar, and capitalization (all caps = yelling); and contribute productively to conversations.

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty in the advancement of knowledge requires that all students and instructors respect the integrity of one another's work and recognize the importance of acknowledging and safeguarding intellectual property.

There are many different forms of academic dishonesty. The following kinds of honesty violations and their definitions are not meant to be exhaustive. Rather, they are intended to serve as examples of unacceptable academic conduct.

- Plagiarism is taking and presenting as one's own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to "cite a source" correctly, you must ask for help.
- Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment, using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials that are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the General Catalog for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include but are not limited to, the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment; (c) communicating test information with another person during an



examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment; (e) using a commercial term paper service.

Other Course Information

N/A

Financial Aid

Your Grades Matter! In order to continue to receive financial aid, you must meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirement. Making SAP means that you are maintaining a 2.0 GPA, you have successfully completed 67% of your coursework, and you will graduate on time. If you do not maintain SAP, you may lose your financial aid. If you have questions, please contact financial aid at finaid@imperial.edu.

IVC Student Resources

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> or click the heart icon in Canvas.



Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Assignments
Week 1	Syllabus & Introduction Chapter 1: Introduction to Anthropology Chapter 2: The Culture Concept	Quiz: Course Policies Quiz: Chapters 1 & 2 Portfolio #1 Audio Reflection #1
Week 2	Chapter 3: Doing Fieldwork: Methods in Cultural Anthropology Chapter 4: Language Chapter 5: Subsistence	Quiz: Chapters 3-5 Research Paper Part 1 Audio Reflection #2
Week 3	Chapter 6: Economics Exam #1 Chapter 7: Political Anthropology: A Cross-Cultural Comparison	Exam #1 Portfolio #2
Week 4	Chapter 8: Family and Marriage Chapter 9: Race and Ethnicity Chapter 10: Gender and Sexuality	Quiz: Chapters 7-10 Research Paper Part 2 Audio Reflection #3
Week 5	Chapter 11: Religion Chapter 12: Globalization Chapter 13: The History of Anthropological Ideas	Quiz: Chapters 11-13 Portfolio #3 Audio Reflection #4
Week 6	Exam #2 Chapter 14: Culture and Sustainability: Environmental Anthropology in the Anthropocene Chapter 15: Performance Chapter 16: Media Anthropology: Meaning, Embodiment, Infrastructure, and Activism	Exam #2 Audio Reflection #5
Week 7	Chapter 17: Health and Medicine Chapter 18: Seeing Like an Anthropologist: Anthropology in Practice	Quiz: Chapters 17 & 18 Research Paper Part 3
Week 8	Chapter 19 Public Anthropology Exam #3	Exam #3 Portfolio #4 Survey

*****Subject to change without prior notice*****