



IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE

### Basic Course Information

|                   |                                  |                     |                                      |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Semester:         | <b>Spring 2023</b>               | Instructor Name:    | <b>Dr. Arturo Marquez Jr.</b>        |
| Course Title & #: | <b>Cultural Anthropology 102</b> | Email:              | <b>arturo.marquezjr@imperial.edu</b> |
| CRN #:            | <b>20268</b>                     | Webpage (optional): | <b>n/a</b>                           |
| Classroom:        | <b>2735</b>                      | Office #:           | <b>2735</b>                          |
| Class Dates:      | <b>2/13 – 6/09</b>               | Office Hours:       | <b>MW 3:00-5:00pm</b>                |
| Class Days:       | <b>Tuesday and Thursday</b>      | Office Phone #:     | <b>760-355-6282</b>                  |
| Class Times:      | <b>11:20am – 12:45pm</b>         | Emergency Contact:  | <b>760-355-6144</b>                  |
| Units:            | <b>3</b>                         | Class Format:       | <b>In-Person</b>                     |

### Course Description

This course examines how anthropologists study cultures and societies. 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. (CSU/UC)

### 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.
- 4) Demonstrate an understanding of global cultural diversity.
- 5) Explain how Applied Anthropology is used in archaeology, medical anthropology, business, education, an economics.

### 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 subsistence strategies from forgers 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 its importance in human society 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

- Robert L. Welsh and Luis A. Vivanco 2020 *Cultural Anthropology: Asking Questions about Humanity*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Oxford University Press. ISBN: 9780197618875

### Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Students are assessed through a combination of weekly discussion posts, short essays, a midterm and a final exam. Active student participation is an important component of student assessment. The following is a breakdown of course requirements:

- **Discussion posts** (20 points): Students will upload a total of 10 discussion posts worth 2 points each on Canvas by Friday 11:59 pm. Discussion posts need to highlight an idea from that week's reading and raise at least one question for in-class discussion. These posts need to be at minimum 150 words long.
- **Short Essays** (20 points): Students will compose 4 short essays based on their original ethnographic research. Students are encouraged to identify a fieldsite for exploratory research as early in the semester as possible. A good fieldsite is a place students can gain consent to observe and participate in ways that are safe, within the law, and follow the American Anthropological Association (AAA) code of ethics. Short essays are 2 pages (double spaced) and due by Friday 11:59 pm.
  - Short Essay 1 – Initial impressions
  - Short Essay 2 – Informal Interview
  - Short Essay 3 – Anthropological Theory
  - Short Essay 4 – Ethnographic Synthesis
- **Group Activities** (15 points): Students will participate in 5 in-class group activities worth 3 points each. These group activities will be completed during our weekly class meetings and so cannot be made up.
- **Quizzes** (20 points): Students will complete 4 in-class quizzes worth 5 points each on the following topics: 1) ethnography, 2) globalization, 3) political economy, and 4) the human body.
- **Midterm** (25 points): A Midterm will be administered to assess student comprehension of course content from chapters 1-7 on Thursday April 6<sup>th</sup>.
- **Final Exam** (25 points): A Final will be administered to assess student comprehension of course content from chapters 8-14 on Thursday June 8<sup>th</sup>.



The Department of Education policy states that one (1) credit hour is the amount of student work that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of class time and two (2) hours of out-of-class time per week over the span of a semester. Because this is a three-credit course, students should expect to invest a minimum of nine hours per week.

### Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

There is a total of 125 points possible in this course allocated in weekly discussion posts, short essays, groups presentations and reports, and a final exam. The correspondence between points earned and final letter grade is the following:

| Points Earned | Letter Grade |
|---------------|--------------|
| 125 – 115     | A            |
| 114 – 104     | B            |
| 103 – 93      | C            |
| 92 – 82       | D            |
| 71 – 0        | F            |

### Course Policies

Attendance is crucial. If you foresee missing a class meeting, please inform the instructor.

Late work is accepted *only if* the instructor is informed with a detailed justification. If you experience any difficulty that impedes your ability to submit work by a due date, please inform the instructor as soon as possible. Meeting with the instructor during office hours is ideal to address these situations. Make-up exams may be allowed at the instructor’s discretion. If you foresee a time conflict or any other difficulty, please inform the instructor as soon as possible. Make-up exams will be scheduled at the end of the semester during finals week.

In order to achieve our course objectives, it is important to foster an engaged learning environment that is respectful and welcoming of everyone in class. Please refrain from any activity that may impede on others’ learning and participation. To this end, please be mindful of how you utilize your digital devices during our class meetings. Laptop computers, cell phones, and other such devices may be used *only* to consult readings, notes, and related course material. If you need to take a call or answer a text message, please step outside to prevent disrupting class discussions and activities. Students using their devices for non-course related purposes will be asked to refrain from using them in future class meetings. If these devices hinder active class participation and engaged learning, the instructor may prohibit their use for the rest of the semester.

Plagiarism is a serious offense and will result in adverse consequences. Plagiarism is presenting someone else’s work as one’s own without citing the original source. It is crucial students understand the seriousness of plagiarism. Please do not copy and paste work from online sources or our textbook. Students are encouraged to reference their sources but always in a way that highlights their original ideas and clearly cites their sources. If you are unsure about IVC’s plagiarism policy, please contact the instructor or refer to IVC’s student services.

### Other Course Information

The instructor may modify the syllabus as necessary to ensure the learning objectives are met. If there are any modifications to the syllabus, students will be notified via email within 24 hours.



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Office hours are available in-person in room #2735 or via Zoom on Monday and Wednesday from 3:00-5:00pm. If you have a time conflict, please email the instructor to discuss alternate days or times. Students are encouraged to contact the instructor to discuss questions or concerns. Office hours are an additional resource in your professional trajectory at IVC. The instructor is *always* open to dialogue, and is committed to your success. Students are encouraged to view office hours as an opportunity to receive one-to-one guidance on specific assignments, quizzes or upcoming exams. Moreover, use office hours to discuss the many merits of anthropology as a major, or to discuss ways anthropology can contribute to your professional development beyond IVC.

### 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

| Date or Week                        | Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic   | Pages/ Due Dates/Tests                      |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| Week 1<br>Feb. 14 and 16            | Chapter 1: Anthropology: Asking Questions about Humanity                             | Discussion post 1                           |
| Week 2<br>Feb. 21 and 23            | Chapter 2: Giving Meaning to Human Lives   | Discussion post 2                           |
| Week 3<br>Feb. 28 and March 2       | Chapter 3: Ethnography: studying Culture   | Short Essay 1<br>In-class Quiz 1 (March 2)  |
| Week 4<br>March 7 and 9             | Chapter 4: Linguistic Anthropology: Relating Language and Culture                    | Discussion post 3                           |
| Week 5<br>March 14 and 16           | Chapter 5: Globalization and Culture: Understanding Global Interconnections          | Short Essay 2<br>In-class Quiz 2 (March 16) |
| Week 6<br>March 21 and 23           | Chapter 6: Foodways: Finding, Making, and Eating Food                                | Discussion post 4                           |
| Week 7<br>March 28 and 30           | Chapter 7: Environmental Anthropology: Relating to the Natural World                 | Discussion post 5                           |
| Week 8<br>April 4 and 6             | <b>Midterm Review</b>  | Midterm                                     |
| <b>SPRING BREAK (April 10 – 15)</b> |  |   |
| Week 9<br>April 18 and 20           | Chapter 8: Economics: Working, Sharing, and Buying                                   | Short Essay 3<br>In-class Quiz 3 (April 20) |
| Week 10<br>April 25 and 27          | Chapter 9: Politics: Cooperation, Conflict, and Power Relations                      | Discussion post 6<br>Group Activity 1       |
| Week 11<br>May 2 and 4              | Chapter 10: Race, Ethnicity, and Class: Understanding Identity and Social Inequality | Discussion post 7<br>Group Activity 2       |
| Week 12<br>May 9 and 11             | Chapter 11: Gender, Sex, and Sexuality: The Fluidity of Maleness and Femaleness      | Discussion post 8<br>Group Activity 3       |
| Week 13<br>May 16 and 18            | Chapter 12: Kinship, Marriage, and the Family  | Discussion post 9<br>Group Activity 4       |
| Week 14<br>May 23 and 25            | Chapter 13: Religion: Ritual and Belief  | Discussion post 10<br>Group Activity 5      |



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| Date or Week                 | Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic                                   | Pages/ Due Dates/Tests                    |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| Week 15<br>May 30 and June 1 | Chapter 14: The Body: Biocultural Perspectives on Health and Illness | Short Essay 4<br>In-class Quiz 4 (June 1) |
| Week 16<br>June 6 and 8      | <b>Review Final Exam</b>   | Final Exam                                |

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