



IMPERIAL VALLEY COLLEGE

Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 2024	Instructor Name:	Dr. Arturo Marquez Jr.
Course Title & #:	Cultural Anthropology ANTH 102	Email:	arturo.marquezjr@imperial.edu
CRN #:	10259	Webpage (optional):	n/a
Classroom:	Online	Office #:	2735
Class Dates:	08/12 – 12/07	Office Hours:	By appointment
Class Days:	Online	Office Phone #:	760-355-6282
Class Times:	Online	Emergency Contact:	760-355-6144
Units:	3	Class Format/Modality:	Asynchronous

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.



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- 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

Below is the required textbook this semester:

- *Perspectives: An Open Invitation to Cultural Anthropology*. 2nd Edition. 2020. Edited by Nina Brown, Thomas McIlwraith, and Laura Tubelle de González. American Anthropological Association, Arlington, VA.

The required textbook is available on Canvas and online following the link: <https://perspectives.americananthro.org/>

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

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.

Students are assessed through a combination of discussion posts, short essays, quizzes, and exams. Active student participation is an important component of the final assessment. The following is a break-down of course requirements:

- **Discussion Posts and Comments** (60 points): Students will complete 15 discussion posts worth 3 points each based on the course readings for the corresponding week. To ensure maximum points, it is crucial to provide at least one quote from the readings (with page numbers). After publishing the discussion post, students are expected to read through posts and provide a constructive comment to at least one peer worth 1 point each. Discussion posts must be 150 words minimum and posted by 11:59pm on Thursday; comments must be 50 words minimum and posted by Friday at 11:59pm.
- **Video Reports** (20 points): Students will analyze videos available on Canvas and produce a report highlighting connections to our course textbook on anthropological concepts. It is important to watch these videos in their entirety and include timestamps from the videos and quotes from the textbook. Video Report must be 200 words minimum and are due by Saturday at 11:59pm.
- **Quizzes** (80 points): Students will complete a total of 8 quizzes based on the readings. Quizzes will be comprised of multiple-choice questions and short essay responses in which it is crucial to provide quotes, concrete examples, and page numbers from the textbook. Without quotes and page numbers, short essay responses in these quizzes will not earn maximum available points.
- **Projects** (40 points): Students will complete 4 projects worth 10 points each based on key ideas from the readings. These projects will require students to conduct original ethnographic research with the goal of generating new insights about a topic that is of personal interest. Below are further details on each of the 4 projects:
 - Project 1 and Project 2 (Fieldwork Journal): Students will conduct ethnographic research by visiting a place of interest and writing about their experience, specifically regarding important details of the place visited, people they spoke to, and objects and routines observed. Students should plan to visit this fieldsite on at least 3-4 separate occasions spending a minimum of 1 hour each visit.
 - Informal Interview: After the first visit to their fieldsite, students should decide on a person familiar with their fieldsite who they would like to interview. While the criteria for who to interview is open, it is important to interview someone who is available and open to share their perspective to students. The



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aim of the Informal Interview is to expand students' understanding of the place of interest where they are conducting ethnographic research.

- Visual Anthropology: When possible, students are encouraged to photograph aspects of their fieldsite they find interesting and important. Photographs will be accompanied with a 2-page report.
- **Final Project** (20 points): Students will create a slide presentation on their ethnographic research (Project 1-4) and upload this presentation to our course Padlet. Students will have the opportunity to learn from each other's research and provide constructive feedback in the form of comments.
- **Final Exam** (30 points): The Final Exam will be comprised of multiple choice and short essay questions and is due Sunday December 8th. The Final Exam will cover material from all chapters assigned this semester.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

There is a total of 250 points possible in this course. The correspondence between points earned and final letter grade is the following:

Points Earned	Letter Grade
250 – 231	A
230 – 211	B
210 – 186	C
185 – 151	D
150 – 0	F

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.

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

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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.

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.

There is support for you here at IVC. If you require further support, please do not hesitate to contact the Disability and Support Project & Services (DSPS) to learn more: <https://www.imperial.edu/students/dsps/>

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

Date or Week	Topic, Readings	Assignments, Due Dates, Exams
	Module 1	
Week 1 August 12-18	Intro to Cultural Anthropology <u>Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapters 1 – Introduction to Anthropology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion Post and Comments 1
Week 2 August 19-25	Defining Culture <u>Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 2 – The Culture Concept 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion Post and Comments 2 Quiz 1
Week 3 August 26- September 1	The History of Cultural Anthropology <u>Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 13 – The History of Anthropological Ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion Post and Comments 3 Video Report 1
Week 4 September 2-8	Studying Culture <u>Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 3 – Doing Fieldwork 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion Post and Comments 4 Quiz 2

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Date or Week	Topic, Readings	Assignments, Due Dates, Exams
	Module 2	
Week 5 September 9-15	Language and Culture <u>Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 4 – Language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Post and Comments 5
Week 6 September 16-22	Human Survival and Reproduction <u>Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 5 – Subsistence • Chapter 8 – Family and Marriage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Post and Comments 6 • Project 1 (Fieldwork Journal 1) • Quiz 3
Week 7 September 23-29	Money, Culture, and Everyday Global Connections <u>Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 6 – Economics • Chapter 12 – Globalization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Post and Comments 7 • Video Report 2
Week 8 September 30-October 6	The Cultures of Politics and Medicine <u>Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 7 – Political Anthropology • Chapter 17 – Health and Medicine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Post and Comments 8 • Quiz 4
	Module 3	
Week 9 October 7-13	The Race Concept <u>Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 9 – Race and Ethnicity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Post and Comments 9
Week 10 October 14-20	Gender and Human Sexuality <u>Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 10 – Gender and Sexuality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Post and Comments 10 • Project 2 (Fieldwork Journal 2) • Quiz 5
Week 11 October 21-27	Religion, Witchcraft, and Spirituality <u>Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 11 – Religion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Post and Comments 11 • Video Report 3
Week 12 October 28-November 3	Culture as/of Performance <u>Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 15 – Performance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Post and Comments 12 • Quiz 6



Date or Week	Topic, Readings	Assignments, Due Dates, Exams
	Module 4	
Week 13 November 4-10	The Study of Culture in the Anthropocene <u>Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 14 – Culture and Sustainability: Environmental Anthropology in the Anthropocene November 2 – Deadline to drop with ‘W’	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Post and Comments 13
Week 14 November 11-17	Anthropology Beyond College <u>Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 18 – Seeing Like an Anthropologist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Post and Comments 14 • Project 3 (Informal Interview) • Quiz 7
Week 15 November 18-24	Anthropology in Our Global Communities <u>Readings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 19 – Public Anthropology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion Post and Comments 15 • Project 4 (Visual Anthropology) • Video Report 4 • Quiz 8
November 25-30	Thanksgiving Break	
Week 16 December 2-8	Final Project and Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Project • Final Exam

Subject to change without prior notice