Anthropology 152: Culture and Humanity

Overview: This online course is an introduction to socio-cultural anthropology - the science of human diversity through the study of living human cultures and their historic roots. It begins with a brief introduction to anthropology as a discipline, emphasizing the methods and approaches anthropologists employ to study human variation. The course proceeds with an overview of the anthropological study of the human experience and condition, including: kinship, socio-political organization, economy, sexuality, gender, ethnicity, “race” and religion. The course concludes with a segment on applied anthropological approaches to real-world issues (war, genocide, indigenous rights, gender inequality).

Student Learning Outcomes: This course fulfills the University of Hawai‘i’s “Global and Multicultural Perspectives” general education requirement. Its primary goal is to provide students with a comprehensive overview of human socio-cultural diversity. By the conclusion of the course students will:

• Understand the theories and methods employed by socio-cultural anthropologists to study human variation.
• Recognize and challenge ethnocentric assumptions.
• Think anthropologically: scientifically, analytically, critically, comparatively and holistically.
• Anthropologically, reflectively, comparatively explore facets of their own cultures, values, beliefs, lifeways and experiences.
• Successfully develop and implement a cultural anthropological research project.

Course Materials: The text for this course is Kenneth Guest’s Essentials of Cultural Anthropology (2016). PDFs of additional required readings will be available on Laulima.

Requirements: This is an online course taught using a combination of taped lectures, power points, live discussions, videos and chatrooms. This course moves at an extremely accelerated pace. Active participation and self-discipline are essential to student success. In order to perform well, students will need to: 1) complete the assigned readings and thoroughly review all course materials, 2) participate in scheduled course discussions and complete course assignments, and 3) score well on two midterms and an open-book, open-notes final.

Grading: Student performance in the course will be assessed on a 100-point scale:

• Class participation = 10 points
• Course quizzes and assignments = 45 points
• Midterm = 15
• Cultural anthropological study/virtual presentation = 15 points
• Final exam = 15 points

The following scale will be used to determine final grades:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>97-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-96</td>
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<td>A-</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
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<td>B-</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>C-</td>
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<td>D+</td>
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**Academic Dishonesty:** Disciplinary action will be taken against all forms of academic dishonesty (plagiarizing, cheating, etc.) as outlined in the University of Hawai‘i-Manoa’s Campus Policies (http://www.catalog.hawaii.edu/about-uh/campus-policies1.htm).

**Two Points On Valid Sources of Information and Proper Citation:**
1) Wikipedia, however convenient, is not a valid source of reliable information. Anyone with a computer and internet connection can create/edit Wikipedia articles and entries. It should never be used as a serious research tool, and never be cited in an academic paper.
2) All academic papers require that you properly cite/give credit to your information source. Rephrasing/slightly changing the wording or structure of information does not make it your own. As students pursuing higher education, it is important for all of you to understand what plagiarism is, as well as how to evaluate, employ and cite an accurate source of academic information. To that end, the UH-Manoa Library has an excellent listing of online research and citation tools: http://guides.library.manoa.hawaii.edu/content.php?pid=143516&sid=1221447. The Pennsylvania State University's Online Writing Lab (OWL), accessible through the aforementioned link, is an especially useful tool for research and citation.

**Late Assignments and Exams:** As a general rule, late assignments and exams will not be accepted. Extenuating circumstances require proper documentation (i.e. a doctor’s note, etc.), and will be considered on a case-by-case basis at the instructor’s discretion.

**Extra Credit:** There are two extra-credit opportunities available in this course:

1) A two-page (12 point font, 1.5 spaced [including space between paragraphs], standard margins) essay on an aspect of human culture that interests you. The second page of the essay must be at least ¾ filled with text. **To be eligible for extra credit, students must secure the instructor’s approval for their essay topic.** Two points of extra credit possible.
2) Food is distinctive and significant to human cultures around the world. For this extra credit option you must: 1) Research the cultural affiliations of a specific recipe utilizing valid, academic resources, 2) Obtain the instructor’s approval of your recipe selection and its cultural affiliations, 3) Make a video documenting the preparation and consumption of your recipe to share with the class. Your video should explain to the class the geographic region,
culture, history and significance (is it a dietary staple, a food only prepared for special occasions?, etc.). To be eligible for extra credit, students must secure the instructor’s approval for the extra credit they intend to complete. Five points (one letter grade!) of extra credit possible.

Student Resources: A variety of resources exist at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa to help students maximize their educational experience.

- **First Year Center** (http://manoa.hawaii.edu/freshman/academic.html) - Helps new students plan their degree programs and navigate their educational requirements.
- **The Student Success Center at Sinclair Library** (http://guides.library.manoa.hawaii.edu/gohere) - Physically located in Sinclair Library (for those of you who can access the UH Manoa campus). Helps students develop and implement study skills and research plans. Offers a helpful “Live Chat” with librarians feature.
- **Writing Center** (http://www.english.hawaii.edu/writingcenter/) - Free assistance, by appointment (tutors@hawaii.edu) with writing term papers, projects and assignments.
- **Kokua Program** (www.hawaii.edu/kokua/) - A confidential resource for students with disabilities that helps coordinate individual accommodations for every facet of their education. Students with disabilities are also welcome to contact the instructor directly to make confidential arrangements.

Course Schedule

**Week 1**

Introduction, Logistics and Course Requirements  
History and Foundation of Anthropology as a Discipline  
Socio-Cultural Anthropological Methods  
Read: Guest Chapters 1 and 3  
Access and view this video on “Doing Anthropology” produced by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology: http://techtv.mit.edu/videos/315-doing-anthropology  
Class Discussion Comments and Assignment #1 Due by Friday at 4 p.m.

**Week 2**

Culture and Cultural Change  
Communication and Lifeways  
Check out the Polynesian Voyaging Society’s website: http://www.hokulea.com  
Access and view the film “The Wayfinders: A Pacific Odyssey” (http://video.pbs.org/program/wayfinders-pacific-odyssey/)  
Read: Chapters 2 and 4
Read through the materials on the film’s accompanying website:
http://www.pbs.org/wayfinders/
Read: “The Sad Truths About Uncontacted Tribes”
Class Discussion Comments Due by Wednesday at 4 p.m.
Exam #1 Taken Through Laulima by Friday at 4 p.m.

Week 3
Kinship, Families and Marriage
Ethnicity and “Race”
Socio-political Systems
Read: Guest Chapters 5, 6, 9 and 12
Class Discussion Comments Due by Wednesday at 4 p.m.
Assignment #2 Due by Friday at 4 p.m.

Week 4
Anthropological Field Study Development and Implementation
Project proposal, peer editing and evaluation
Class Discussion Comments Due by Wednesday at 4 p.m.

Week 5
Sexuality and Gender
Religion and Worldview
Read: Guest Chapters 7, 8 and 13
Assignment #3 Due by Friday at 4 p.m.
View and access Dr. Helen Fisher’s TedTalk “The Brain in Love”
https://www.ted.com/talks/helen_fisher_studies_the_brain_in_love?language=en
And “Human Sexuality is Complicated”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xXAoG8vAyzI
Class Discussion Comments Due by Wednesday at 4 p.m.

Week 6
Virtual student presentations
Applied Anthropology: War and Genocide
Applied Anthropology: Indigenous Rights
Concluding remarks
Final open-book and open-notes essay
Valid, Academic Sources of Information

As college students pursuing higher education, it is your responsibility to identify and utilize valid, academic sources of information in your studies.

Valid, academic sources of information:
- are authored by degree-holding experts in their fields
- are vetted by other degree-holding experts (the peer review process)
- are based on empirical (observable fact)
- employ multiple lines of direct evidence
- make sound, convincing arguments
- are published by reputable journals, publishing houses and academic institutions
- concisely, transparently acknowledge their sources of information
- linked to established, reputable institutions (museums, universities, research institutions
- advance knowledge (what we think we know)
- can be **(but are not always)** websites ending in “.edu,” “.org,” and “.gov”

Invalid, non-academic sources of information:
- are authored by non-experts/specialists
- are not peer-reviewed
- selectively use circumstantial/unreliable evidence and data
- do not make convincing arguments
- do not clearly acknowledge their sources of information
- utilize outdated information
- are not published by reputable institutions, publishers or individuals
- are created or sponsored by individuals and groups with an agenda, not a desire to add to collective human knowledge
- are typically posted on websites ending in “.com”

Examples of invalid, non-academic sources of information you should NEVER use for research include: Wikipedia, About.com and Google Books.
Bibliography

Guest, Kenneth