Course Goals and Student Learning Outcomes:

Cultural anthropology is an attempt to understand cultural realities other than one’s own and to see other cultural communities as much as possible from the perspectives of their own members. Learning about other cultures can enrich the student’s appreciation and critical understanding of his or her own way of life.

Because it explores an expanded range of possibilities in the ways private and public life can be organized, anthropology can be an important resource for public policy. Knowledge of options that have been worked out in other cultures can help us make well informed and intelligent decisions about important issues that confront all contemporary societies. We can learn from great and small cultural traditions other than our own in responding to the challenges and opportunities that globalism and new information technologies present to our sense of community and our relation to the natural environment.

Creative people in the graphic arts, literature, religion, and philosophy have often found inspiration in other cultural traditions, and aesthetic exploration is a central dimension of the anthropological experience. Visual culture and ethnographic film will be an important part of this course.

The fundamental purpose of Anthropology 152 is give majors and non-majors a basic grasp of the distinctive kinds of questions that anthropologists ask about culture and social institutions as well as the methods they use to get answers.

The key elements of social anthropology—a central emphasis on culture as an object of study and the use of ethnographic research methods—are becoming widely accepted across a broad range of academic fields, and students will find that knowledge of anthropology provides deeper insight into current trends in many, if not all, of the other social sciences, the arts, and humanities.

Although what you gain from this course will be highly individual, depending on your own experience and motivations, there are certain general student learning outcomes that the course is aimed at. On successful completion of the course the student will:

- **Gain** a basic understanding of the differences between the methods and goals of natural science and those of cultural science and how the combination of the two traditions is used by anthropologists;
- **Understand** the history and theory of the four subfields of anthropology and their perspectives on the interaction of biological, environmental, and cultural factors in the diversity of human societies;
- **Recognize** the diversity of cultural options in approaches to gender relations, social hierarchy, religion, and the production and distribution of wealth;
- **Acquire** the ability to analyze the visual dimensions of cultural meaning, recognizing the elements of semiotics and the techniques of visual ethnography.
Course Requirements and Evaluation:

Attendance and participation are part of the grade for this course and will be measured primarily by short, unannounced, in-class reaction papers. There will be two midterm exams and a final exam. Two short writing assignments involving original ethnographic research will also be required. A final grade will be determined by: participation and attendance (unscheduled in-class reaction papers) 10%; midterm exams, 20% each; short research papers, 12.5% each; final exam, 25%.

Required Texts:


Exam Schedule:

Midterm I: September 29
Midterm II: November 12
Final: December 15

Ethnographic Research Assignments (Short Papers):

Detailed instructions for format requirements such as length, organization, and points to be covered will be given in class. Topics:

1. Mini ethnography: Individual and Group Identity among Students at UHM: Apply Brison’s account of the sociocentric self to an analysis of student identity (due October 15)

2. Mini analysis of visual culture of the UHM campus (due December 3)

Tentative Schedule of Topics and Readings:

Note: Lecture topics are keyed to textbook and assigned ethnography (Brison) but the content of class lectures will not be confined to the readings. About 40% of exam questions will be on lecture material.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Brison: Preface</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Schultz &amp; Lavenda: Chpt. 1</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Culture Theory</td>
<td>S &amp; L: Chpt. 2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Brison: Chpt. 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Ethnographic Method</td>
<td>S &amp; L: Chpt. 3</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Brison: Chpt. 2 &amp; 3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
4. History of Anthropology  
   S & L: Chpt. 4  
   Brison: Chpt. 4

5. Language and Culture  
   S & L: Chpt. 5

6. Psychology and Anthropology  
   S & L: Chpt 6  
   Brison: Chpt. 5

**Midterm I**  
Sept. 29

7. Art and Ritual  
   S & L: Chpt. 7

8. Worldview  
   S & L: Chpt. 8  
   Brison: 6 & 7

**Mini Ethnography Paper**  
October 15

9. Political & Legal Anthropology  
   S & L: Chpt. 9

10. Economic Anthropology  
    S & L: Chpt. 10

11. Kinship Studies  
    S & L: Chpt. 11

12. Marriage  
    S & L: Chpt. 12

**Midterm II**  
November 12

13. Hierarchy & Domination  
    S & L: Chpt 13

14. Culture and Globalism  
    S & L: Chpt. 14

15. Applied Anthropology  
    S & L: Chpt. 15

**Mini Visual Culture Analysis**  
December 3

16. Conclusion and Review  

**Final Exam**  
December 15