



### ANTH 161 Cultural Anthropolog

#### Course Information

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Semester	: Winter 2021 (December 23, 2021 – January 17, 2022)
Credit	: 4
Teaching Hours	: 50 Hours
Location	: Online
Professor	: Dr. Demetrios J. Brellas
Email	: <a href="mailto:dbrellas@framingham.edu">dbrellas@framingham.edu</a>
Virtual Office Hours	: TBA

*Also available by appointment!*

#### Course Description

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The field of Anthropology is the study of human beings. It aims to examine all aspects of the human condition, including language, culture, evolution, biology, and the complex and dynamic interplay between them. This course will serve as an introduction and broad survey of the subfield of Cultural Anthropology. Cultural Anthropology is the subfield of the discipline of Anthropology which examines human behavior in its cultural context. Culture, as we will see throughout the course of the semester, is not easy to define. We will examine all aspect of human culture, the methods and tools anthropologists use to study is, as well as the application of cultural anthropology in today's world. The course will also include a review of ethnographic work, both past and present, throughout the world, addressing contemporary issues as well as showcasing the diversity of human culture.

The course objectives are:

- To understand the methods, theories, and tools used by anthropologists to study culture
- To learn to look at the world from an “anthropological perspective.”
- To apply anthropology to understand and solve human problems
- To stimulate a respect for tradition and cultural diversity with a contemporary perspective.

#### Required Textbook

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Robert L. Welsch and Luis A. Vivanco. 2019. **Cultural Anthropology: Asking Questions about Humanity**. Oxford University Press. 2nd ed.

#### **Link to Extra Textbook Resources for Students:**

The textbook for this course also provides very useful resources to students at this site:

[https://learninglink.oup.com/access/welsch-vivanco-2e-student-resources#tag\\_all-chapters](https://learninglink.oup.com/access/welsch-vivanco-2e-student-resources#tag_all-chapters)

#### *Additional Readings & Viewing Material:*

These will be provided by me on Canvas in the course content folder for each unit and will take the form of book chapters, articles, or digital sources to be read in addition to the textbook chapters given for each unit.



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Additionally, instructional materials, such as PowerPoints, video links, vocabulary lists, and other documents will also be provided to the students via Canvas and/or email.

### Format of Course

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This intensive winter intersession course in Cultural Anthropology will be a fully asynchronous online course. It combines weekly readings, videos, and assessments with an engaging online discussion via Canvas related to the course modules. The course will require a **significant** commitment of time during the term where students will complete assignments and read the material in preparation for class. This is a fast-paced course in terms of the readings and assessments but we will also have a chance to get to discuss the material in a more casual and fun way on the discussion forums.

### Assignments and Grading

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Further details of the assignments will be delivered during class and/or uploaded to the Canvas content folder. Your grade will be calculated on the basis of the following:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>%</u>
Assessments	40
Discussion Forum	40
Ethnography Report	20

### Assessments

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Every week there will be one Assessment to complete on Canvas. Assessments are somewhere between a Quiz and a Test and are meant to evaluate your retention, understanding, and ability to apply the course material. They will consist of 20-25 questions relating to the lessons covered in the weekly unit modules. These questions will be multiple choice, multiple answer, fill-ins, matching, and constructed response (short answer/short essay) type questions. These assessments will be available all week (Monday Mornings to Sunday at Midnight). These can be completed on Canvas without any time restriction, apart from having to be finished at the end of that weekend (Sundays at 11:59pm).

### Discussion Forum

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Every week there will also be an active discussion forum. Consisting of one or two prompt-based discussion threads depending on the unit. Participation in the discussion forum is designed to apply what you have learned from the readings and course material. More importantly, it will be a place where we can examine culture together by drawing from our own experiences, thoughts, backgrounds, and traditions together. It is meant to be a place for living discussion where we will get to know one another through the material. The forums will not adhere to a very strict written format or guidelines. Here we can take advantage of the fact that this is a small group of students and create an area of real conversation together. Discussions, just like the assessments will be available all week (Monday Mornings to Sunday at Midnight). Every student will share a unique response to the prompt and be responsible throughout the week for replying or commenting on at least 2 other people's posts to receive full credit. I will also be answering the prompts and taking part in the conversation with you as well. Specific guidelines



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will be posted on Canvas but these are meant to be relaxed interesting conversations, remember you are already being evaluated by the assessments every week. Have fun with the forum, speak your mind and don't worry about how well written you think it is!

### **Final Paper: Ethnography Report:**

As part of this course we will examine ethnographic publications presenting the results of anthropological research. I will make many of these available on the course site. As part of the class each one of you will select and read an one of these ethnographic books. Students will select their source text by the second week of class. Students will be responsible for writing a 4-5 page report on their chosen ethnography. The prompt with the assignment details can be found on the course site. The report will be due by Midnight on Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Office Hours & Communication with Me:**

You are welcome to e-mail me at any time for any reason. I like to think that I am a fairly quick responder but sometimes throughout the term it may take up to 24hrs, particularly over the weekends. I am generally available for zoom from Monday-Thursday from 11am- 2pm, just email me and I will set up a chat with you! I can also schedule availability outside of those times by appointment as well. I encourage students to email me whenever they need help or with any concerns they have or for me to hop in to zoom if they want to talk. I will also hold open weekly Check-in sessions, where students can pop in to review the material, get help with assessments, or say just say hello. The first of these will be Monday, December 27<sup>th</sup> from 12-2pm. The will be listed on Canvas.

Office Hours Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/92265605864>

### **Writing Resources and Help:**

The university has an excellent, free writing tutor service at CASA (Center for Academic Support and Advising). They also offer various services and accommodations for to students. Visit their site at: <https://www.framingham.edu/academics/center-for-academic-success-and-achievement/>

### **Academic Honesty:**

Faculty members of the Sociology Department are committed to maintaining high academic standards. Students should be aware of Framingham State University's policies concerning academic honesty. Infractions include plagiarism, cheating on assessments, unauthorized collaboration with other students, and submitting work in more than one course for academic credit. According to the FSU catalog, plagiarism is defined as "claiming as one's own work the published or unpublished literal or paraphrased work of another". Academic dishonesty is a serious violation. Penalties for violations of academic honesty can include receiving a failing grade for the course and punishments of academic suspension or dismissal from the College.

### **Antiracism at FSU:**

At Framingham State University, faculty, staff, and students work together to sustain a learning, working, and living community free from hate, discrimination, harassment, and intolerance. We recognize the damaging effects of systemic racism—including policies, structures, and historic practices—on the experience and success of communities of color. Coming from different backgrounds and different levels of privilege, we can all affirm and engage in antiracist work. Diversity of voices, and of minds, strengthens our ability to solve problems and to ask and answer questions about the world we share. As your instructor, I commit to upholding community values of inclusion, civility, accessibility, and mutual respect. I expect this class to commit to creating a community that affirms and welcomes all persons from diverse backgrounds and experiences, and supports the realization of everyone's potential.



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### **FSU Notice of Non-Discrimination and Diversity:**

Framingham State University is committed to a policy of non-discrimination, equal opportunity, diversity, and affirmative action. The University is dedicated to providing educational, working, and living environments that value the diverse backgrounds of all people. Furthermore, the Massachusetts Civil Rights Act ("MCRA," M.G.L. c. 12, §§ 11H, 11I, 11J) protects the rights of all residents of and visitors to Massachusetts to be free from bias-motivated threats, intimidation, and coercion that interfere with their civil rights. The MCRA protects the right to attend school, live peacefully, and enjoy other basic rights.

## **Cultural Anthropology**

### **Course Schedule and Readings Brief Summary**

*\*Detailed descriptions of the requirements and main ideas for each content unit and module will be found on the Canvas course site. All support material and lessons can also be found on campus. Assignments, discussions, and assessments are also to be completed on Canvas by the listed due-dates.*

### **Unit 1: Introduction to Anthropology (December 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>)**

**Lesson Module A:** Introduction and core principles of anthropology

**Textbook Readings:** Welsch & Vivanco: Chapter 1

**Lesson Module B:** Studying Culture

**Textbook Readings:** Welsch & Vivanco: Chapter 2; Chapter 3

**\*Other Readings & Viewing Material:** See Canvas.

**Assessment #1 and Discussion Forum #1 Due on Sunday Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> by 11:59pm**

### **Unit 2: Expressions of Culture Part I (December 27<sup>th</sup> – January 2<sup>nd</sup>)**

**Lesson Module A:** Anthropology of Language

**Textbook Readings:** Welsch & Vivanco: Chapter 4

**Lesson Module B:** Humans and their Environment: Foodways and Culture

**Textbook Readings:** Welsch & Vivanco: Chapter 6; Chapter 7

**\*Other Readings & Viewing Material:** See Canvas.

**Assessment #2 and Discussion Forum #2 Due on Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> by 11:59pm**

**Ethnography Report Book Choice Due by Wednesday, Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> by 11:59pm**



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## Unit 3: Expressions of Culture Part II (January 3<sup>rd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>)

**Lesson Module A:** Crafting Identities I: Kinship, The Family, & Gender

**Textbook Readings:** Welsch & Vivanco: Chapter 11; Chapter 12

**Lesson Module B:** Crafting Identities II: Ethnicity, Race, & Power

**Textbook Readings:** Welsch & Vivanco: Chapter 10

**\*Other Readings & Viewing Material:** See Canvas.

**Assessment #3 and Discussion Forum #3 Due on Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup> by 11:59pm**

## Unit 4: Expressions of Culture: Part III (January 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>)

**Lesson Module A:** Religion, Ritual, and Magic

**Textbook Readings:** Welsch & Vivanco: Chapter 13

**Lesson Module B:** Health, Illness, and Culture

**Textbook Readings:** Welsch & Vivanco: Chapter 14

**\*Other Readings & Viewing Material:** See Canvas.

**Assessment #4 and Discussion Forum #4 Due on Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup> by 11:59pm**

## Catchup Day: Monday January 17<sup>th</sup>: Catchup Day

All Missing Work and Assessments are Due by 11:59pm

**Help with Editing your Ethnography report or catchup work: I will be available all day for students by zoom.**

Open Office Hours from **12-1pm** and **6-7pm**, or by appointment (9am-8pm) all day if needed.

**Final Ethnography Report Due on Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup> by 11:59pm.**



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## Bibliography of Ethnographic Book Selections

Barth, Fredrik. *Nomads of South Persia. The Basseri Tribe of the Khamseh Confederacy*. Oslo University Press, 1961.

Black, Rachel E. *Porta Palazzo: The anthropology of an Italian market*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012.

Delaney, Carol. *The seed and the soil: Gender and cosmology in Turkish village society*. Vol. 11. Univ of California Press, 1991.

De León, Jason. *The land of open graves: Living and dying on the migrant trail*. Vol. 36. Univ of California Press, 2015.

Fadiman, Anne. *The spirit catches you and you fall down*. Macmillan, 2012.

Fernea, Elizabeth Warnock. *Guests of the Sheik: An Ethnography of an Iraqi Village*. Vol. 693. Doubleday, 1965

Gearing, Fred. *Vasilika: A Village in Modern Greece*. (1963): 1170-1172.

Gonzales, Roberto G. *Lives in limbo*. University of California Press, 2015.

Hicks, David. *Tetum ghosts and kin*. Waveland Press Inc, 1988.

Holmes, Seth M. *Fresh fruit, broken bodies*. University of California Press, 2013.

Lee, Richard B. *The Dobe Ju/'hoansi*. Cengage Learning. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2013.

Namu, Yang Erche, and Christine Mathieu. *Leaving mother lake: A girlhood at the edge of the world*. Little, Brown, 2007.

Nardi, Bonnie. *My life as a night elf priest: An anthropological account of World of Warcraft*. University of Michigan Press, 2010.

Nitsiakos, Vassilis. *Peklari: Social economy in a Greek Village*. Vol. 5. LIT Verlag Münster, 2016.

Peteet, Julie. *Space and mobility in Palestine*. Indiana University Press, 2017.

Roth-Gordon, Jennifer. *Race and the Brazilian body: Blackness, whiteness, and everyday language in Rio de Janeiro*. Univ of California Press, 2016.

Shostak, Marjorie. *Nisa*. Harvard University Press, 1981.

Stack, Carol B. *All our kin: Strategies for survival in a black community*. Basic Books, 1975.

Tavory, Iddo. *Summoned: Identification and religious life in a Jewish neighborhood*. University of Chicago Press, 2016.

Tkacz, Virlana. *Siberian Shamanism: The Shanar Ritual of the Buryats*. Simon and Schuster, 2015.

Turnbull, Colin. *The forest people*. Simon & Schuster, 1961.

Weiner, Annette B. *The Trobrianders of Papua New Guinea*. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1988.