



Framingham

State University

ANTH 161 Cultural Anthropology

Course Information

Semester	: May 30, 2022 – July 1, 2022
Credit	: 4
Teaching Hours	: 50 Hours
Location	: Online
Professor	: Dr. Demetrios J. Brellas
Email	: dbrellas@framingham.edu

Also available by appointment!

Course Description

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 aspects of human culture, the methods and tools anthropologists use to study it, 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

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

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. 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

This intensive summer session 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

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>% of final Grade</u>	<u>Number Grade</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
Assessments	40% (4 @ 10% each)	95-100	A
		90-94	A-
Discussion Forums	40% (5 @ 8% each)	87-89	B+
		83-86	B
		80-82	B-
Ethnography Report	20%	77-79	C+
		73-76	C
Total Grade	100%	70-73	C-
		60-69	D
		0-59	F

Assessments

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

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). The only exception to this timeline is the final discussion forum which



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will be due on Friday, July 1st. 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 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 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 July 1st.

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.

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.

(Schedule & Readings Outline Follows on Next Page)



Cultural Anthropology

Anthropology 161 – Summer 2022

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 (May 30th – June 5th)

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, June 5th by 11:59pm

Unit 2: Expressions of Culture Part I (June 6th – June 12th)

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, June 12th by 11:59pm

Ethnography Report Book Choice Due by Wednesday, June 8th by 11:59pm



Unit 3: Expressions of Culture Part II (June 13th – Jun 19th)

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, June 19th by 11:59pm

Unit 4: Expressions of Culture: Part III (June 20th - June 26)

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, June 26th by 11:59pm

Unit 5: Culture in a Changing World (June 27th – July 1st)

Lesson Module A: Globalization and Culture

Textbook Readings: Welsch & Vivanco: Chapter 6

Lesson Module B: Materiality & The Social Meaning of *Things*

Textbook Readings: Welsch & Vivanco: Chapter 15

Discussion Forum #5 Due on Friday, July 1st by 11:59pm (No Assessment This Week)

Final Ethnography Report Due on Friday, July 1st by 11:59pm.



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.
- Ferne, Elizabeth Warnock. *Guests of the Sheik: An Ethnography of an Iraqui 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 PressInc, 1988.
- Holmes, Seth M. *Fresh fruit, broken bodies*. University of California Press, 2013.
- Lee, Richard B. *The Dobe Ju/'hoansi*. Cengage Learning. 4th 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.