

ANTH 3300 Cultural Anthropology

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Char Peery

Office:

Phone: 254.519.5705 (prefer email or Canvas message)

Email: Char.Peery@tamuct.edu

Office Hours:

Wed. 5:30-6pm, after class, & by appointment

Mode of instruction and course access:

This course meets face-to-face, (with supplemental materials made available online).

This course uses the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com>].

Student-instructor interaction:

During the week (Mon-Fri) I usually check emails often and respond within 1-2 days. I may not respond to weekend emails until Monday or Tuesday. Email is the best way to reach me. If you plan to come to my office hours right before class, please mention it or send me a quick email so I can let you know where to meet.

911 Cellular:

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas

911Cellular is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in 911Cellular through their myCT email account.

Connect at [911Cellular](https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management) [<https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management>] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in 911Cellular, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

COURSE INFORMATION

Catalog Course Description: Introduction to the concept of culture and the different attitudes toward cultural diversity in a postmodern, global community. Topics include prehistory, subsistence, economic anthropology, political anthropology, cultural eras, the rise of state societies, and kinship systems. Surveys theories and methods in anthropology and the history of the discipline.

Course Objectives:

- Students will understand the concept of culture, current theories and methods in anthropology and the history of the discipline.
- Students will be able to recognize and understand different aspects of human culture, as well as the extent of human variation and adaptation.
- Students will understand the different attitudes toward cultural diversity in a postmodern, global community.

Required Reading and Textbook(s):

Guest, Kenneth. Cultural Anthropology: A Toolkit for a Global Age (second edition). W.W. Norton &

Yu, Pei-Lin 1997. *Hungry Lightning: Notes of a Woman Anthropologist in Venezuela*. University of New Mexico Press. ISBN: 9780826318077

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course Requirements: (include point values for each- not just a percentage)

1. Reading assignments: Readings from the textbook are listed in the course schedule below and include readings from the chapters and one supplement posted in Canvas and/or ereserve. It is best to read the chapter just before the class period for which it is listed. One of your readings is a short ethnography/novel. You may read this novel at the pace you wish (faster or slower) however be aware that the pages listed on the syllabus are those that will be tested on for each exam.

2. Project preparation assignments:

NIH training (30 points): This training can be found at the following website:

<https://phrp.nihtraining.com/users/login.php>

You will complete the training as homework on your own time until you finish and print/save the completion certificate. This certificate must be turned in by the date of the first exam to

- (1) Receive credit for assignment one
- (2) To be able to submit your final project.

*If you have completed the training for another course you can use the same certificate, so long as it has not expired.

Project proposal (50 points): Students will turn in a brief description for the topic of their final project.

3. Reaction Comments (130 points):

At the conclusion of each class (except review classes when exams are handed out), students shall submit a Reaction Comment (RC), due before midnight. In Canvas, the student will send an email to the instructor, reacting to material discussed or experienced in class. A paragraph or two is sufficient. Students express their reactions to something discussed or experienced in class. The reaction may be emotional, cognitive, insightful, positive, negative, or neutral. A mere summary of material discussed in class, however, is insufficient for credit. Students shall identify their emails with the headings of RC1, RC2, etc., as indicated in the Course Calendar (Sect. 7.0). Using headings other than RC1, RC2, etc. may result in no credit. Obviously, students must attend class before they can react to material presented or discussed in class. Each RC is worth 10 points.

3. Exams (200 points each): There will be 2 non-cumulative exams, questions will be taken from the lectures, readings, syllabus, and any films shown in class.

4. Final Project: Participant observation – Select an event or activity to observe, and, ideally, to participate in at some level. The event or activity by be quiet simple, common, small, or frequent – or it may be elaborate, unusual, and different from your own cultural tradition – but it must meet these criteria:

- You have a right to be there, or you have secured permission or an invitation to attend from persons in charge.
- It is not familiar to you.
- It has a clear beginning and end.
- It is limited in time so you can observe the entire event.
- It is legal and risks little harm.
- You are curious about it.
- You have a trusted acquaintance familiar with the event – your key informant – who will accompany you or host you at the event and answer your questions about it.

To help you think of some ideas, here are examples of events on campus and community that meet all these

criteria:

- Women’s rugby club practice (no scrums)
- Set building for the drama production
- Campus radio staff meeting
- A session of student video or computer gaming
- Sorority social event with outside guests
- Demolition derby (no driving)
- Seder celebration

Observe the event, taking a few notes, if this can be done unobtrusively, to refresh your memory during debriefing soon after. Request to participate in some way: to throw the ball, wield a hammer, pour the punch, etc. During the event or the debriefing, ask your key informant to explain what you observed.

After the event, after consulting your field notes and your key informant, debrief yourself by composing a typed document of notes. Include in these notes:

- What happened at the activity. Include sights, sounds, smells, tastes, tactile memories.
- How you felt during the activity.
- How people responded to you.
- What your key informant told you.
- Evidence that your presence influenced the scene.

Finally, you will write up a 3-5 page paper about the event. The write up should include

- an introduction and description of the
- methodology section – how did you collect your data, including a description of observation locations, events, etc and a brief paragraph about your key informant and why you chose them.
- analysis – what did you find? How does what you are exploring tie into what we have discussed in class? What theories or concepts from class do you recognize in your data and analysis? What understanding was gained from participation compared to just observing? What did having a key informant add to your understandings? What was learned from participant observation at this event that a questionnaire or interview about it might miss? For what purposes might a questionnaire or interview be better than participant observation?
- Conclusion and reflection – what are your conclusions regarding your topic? What was it like being a cultural anthropologist? What are the benefits and drawbacks of an anthropological approach?
- Include your typed notes as an appendix

Coursework	Points
Reaction Comments	130
Attendance	100
Project prep assignments	70
Exams	400
Final Project	300
Total:	1000

Points	Percent	Grade
900 – 1000	90 – 100	A
800 – 899	80 – 89	B
700 – 799	70 – 79	C
600 – 699	60 – 69	D
0 – 599	0 – 59	F

Posting of Grades

Grades will be posted in the Canvas Grade book where students can monitor their status. I try to post grades within one to two classes of their due date.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR

Week	Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
1	8/29	Class introduction		
2	9/5	Anthropology in a Global Age	Guest Ch. 1 Bestor – “How Sushi Went Global” Hungry Lightning p.1-14	RC1
3	9/12	Culture	Guest Ch. 2 (Miner “Body Ritual Among the Nacirema”) Lee “Christmas in the Kalahari” Hungry Lightning p.15-35	RC2
4	9/19	Fieldwork & Ethnography	Guest Ch. 3 Holmes – “Introduction” from Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies Hungry Lightning p.37-50	RC3
5	9/26	Language	Guest Ch. 4 Bohannon - Shakespeare in the Bush Laura Ahearn, Literacy, Power, and Agency: Love Letters and Development in Nepal Hungry Lightning p.51-80	RC4 NIH training due
6	10/3	Race & Racism	Guest Ch. 6 Hill – “Language, Race & White Public Space” Hungry Lightning p.81-104	RC5
7	10/10	Ethnicity & Nationalism	Guest Ch. 7 Tsuda – “No Place to Call Home” Hungry Lightning p.105-118	RC6
8	10/17	Midterm Exam		Project topic due
9	10/24	Gender & Sexuality	Guest Ch. 8 & 9 Nordberg – “Afghan Boys are Prized, So Girls Live the Part” Hungry Lightning p.119-152	RC7
10	10/31	Kinship, Family, & Marriage	Guest Ch. 10 Goldstein “When Brothers Share a Wife” Hungry Lightning p.153-177	RC8
11	11/7	Class & Inequality	Guest Ch. 11 Bourgeois – “Poverty at Work” Hungry Lightning p.179-201	RC9
12	11/14	The Global Economy	Guest Ch. 12 Lappé & Collins – “Why Can’t People Feed Themselves?” Bodley – “The Price of Progress” Hungry Lightning: finish book	RC10
13	11/21	Migration	Guest Ch. 13 Shandy – “Nuer Refugees in America”	RC11 Final project due
14	11/28	Politics & Power	Guest Ch. 14	RC12

			Carolyn Nordstrom - Prologue from Shadows of War	
15	12/5	Religion	Guest Ch. 15 Daromir Rudnyckyj – “From Wall Street to Halal Street”	RC13
Finals	12/12	Final Exam		

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com>].

Username: Your MyCT username (xx123 or everything before the "@" in your MyCT e-mail address)
Password: Your MyCT password

However, using Canvas is not a requirement. If you prefer not to use Canvas please talk to me and we can make alternative arrangements.

Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select “Chat with Canvas Support,” submit a support request through “Report a Problem,” or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

Other Technology Support

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central.

24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu

Phone: (254) 519-5466

[Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.

INSTRUCTOR POLICIES.

Diversity in the Classroom

Respect for human diversity is a core concept in Anthropology. In this course we will be discussing a wide variety of beliefs and ideas and everyone’s contribution is important. Please respect the values, beliefs, and experiences of each member of the class and maintain a respectful, professional tone in all in class discourse. In this course we welcome individuals of all ages, backgrounds, citizenships, disabilities, education, ethnicities, family statuses, genders, gender identities, geographical locations, languages, military experience, political views, races, religions, sexual orientations, socioeconomic statuses, and work experiences.

Attendance

Attendance is a required for this course and I will be taking daily attendance. Missed classes mean missing the opportunity to turn in a reaction comment and the resulting missed points. If you have an emergency that requires missing class, extra credit may be arranged.

Late Work

Late work will be accepted but points will be deducted.

Modification of the Syllabus

This syllabus may be revised in minor ways at the discretion of the instructor with an updated file posted on Canvas and announced in class and online. The student is responsible for noting any changes in the syllabus.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

Drop Policy.

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete a [Drop Request Form](https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf) [https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf].

Professors cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed, signed and returned. Once you return the signed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

Academic Integrity.

TAMUCT expects all students to maintain high standards of personal and scholarly conduct. Students guilty of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary action. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, self-plagiarism ("recycling"), or collusion. The instructor shall initiate action for each case of academic dishonesty and report it to the Associate Director of Student Conduct. Zero points are assigned for any course product that violates academic honesty. The student should access this link for more information: <https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html>.

Disability Support.

If students believe that this course may present barriers to learning due to a disability, they must contact Access and Inclusion at (254) 501-5831 in Warrior Hall, Ste. 212. For more information, students may visit their website at <https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html>. Any information that the student provides is private and confidential and will be treated as such. The instructor cannot accommodate students' disabilities unless they first communicate with Access and Inclusion.

Tutoring.

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both on-campus and online. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, or have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 519-5796, or by emailing Dr.

DeEadra Albert-Green at deeadra.albertgreen@tamuct.edu.

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive FREE online tutoring and writing support. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

University Writing Center: Located in 416 Warrior Hall, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University-Central Texas is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students from 10am-4pm Monday-Thursday during the summer with online hours available Monday-Thursday from 6:00-9:00pm. Students may arrange a one-on-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by visiting the UWC during normal operating hours (both half-hour and hour sessions are available) or by making an appointment via [WOnline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) at [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu to schedule an online tutoring session. Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process.

While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the University Writing Center is here to help!

If you have any questions about the University Writing Center, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu.

University Library.

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 85,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index].

OPTIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS:

A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php) [https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php].

Copyright Notice.

Students should assume that all course material is copyrighted by the respective author(s). Reproduction of course material is prohibited without consent by the author and/or course instructor. Violation of copyright is against the law and Texas A&M University-Central Texas' Code of Academic Honesty. All alleged violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.