

Anthropology 102--Human Ways of Life: Cultural Anthropology (8016)  
West Los Angeles College, Fall 2015

Instructor: Dr. A. Preziosi

email: prezioa@wlaac.edu

Phone: (310)287-4225

Please use the Private Message system to contact me regarding the course.

---

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course will examine human culture. As a survey course, it covers broad issues such as what culture is, how culture is communicated, and aspects of culture such as subsistence, economics, relationships, politics, religion, and art. We will look at the similarities and differences among several human societies found around the world to discover how people have met the challenges of human life and how they have adapted to their material, social, and ideational environments. Thus we will discuss the history and theories of anthropology, the methods that anthropologists use in the study of culture, and basic frameworks of anthropological concepts and analysis.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

This course will students achieve the following Institutional Outcomes:

**Critical Thinking:** Analyze problems by differentiating fact from opinions, using evidence, and using sound reasoning to specify multiple solutions and their consequences. Students will apply critical thinking to investigate and interpret the influences of culture and environment upon human beings. Students will apply anthropological method and theory in written assignments.

**Cultural Diversity:** Respectfully engage with other cultures in an effort to understand them. Students will participate in activities designed to elicit discussion and understanding of cultural variation found among *Homo sapiens*. Students will research and analyze various features of certain cultures and present results in a written paper as well as an informal class presentation.

**Course Level:**

**SLO1:** Compare various cultural choices and interpret the choices as biological and cultural adaptations to the environment.

**SLO2:** Recall and define anthropological terms and concepts that deal with family and kinship.

---

**READINGS:** The required textbook is Conrad Kottak's *Mirror for Humanity: A Concise Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*, 8th edition, 2012. (ISBN 978-0-07-803490-9)

You must have this edition of the text for the course. Readings are listed on the Course Outline. Please keep up with the readings; read the chapters by the weeks listed.

**MODULES:** Modules, accessed from the left hand menu of the class site, are the "classroom" component of this course. Read the assigned chapter(s) first, and then access the corresponding modules, listed by week (see Course Outline for assigned modules). Module material is designed to add to course readings with the assumption that you have already read the chapter(s). While reading the modules, have your textbook at hand. All module sections and material linked within are required. If you do not keep up with modules (see Course Outline for weekly module requirements) you run the risk of being excluded from the class for lack of participation.

**DISCUSSIONS:** There are three categories of discussions available for student participation. All discussions can be accessed from the left hand menu in our class site. Click on "Discussion and Private Message" to see two 'Main' discussion categories "Required Discussion Essays" & "Questions" and one 'Other' category, "Student Lounge." Required Discussion Essay topics (D1-D7) can also be accessed through CourseMap.

A. "Required Discussion Essays" is where I will take attendance and where you will submit your essays on topics posed by the instructor covering course material (textbook and modules). Essay 1 is due no later than Wednesday and Essay 2 by Friday of each week (weeks 1-7). See the first module for Discussion Essay requirements.

<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Topic</b>
D1	Culture	D5	Gender
D2	Doing		
Anthropology	D6	Religion	

D3  
Anthropology

Language

D7

Applied

D4

Making a Living

Missing discussions may result in being excluded from the course.

B. "Questions" are for when you have a question or comment on the syllabus or material from the readings and/or the modules. Use this forum to ask all class questions (with the exception of individual grade or other private matters, in which case use Private Message). This will allow others to benefit from the question as well as contribute responses.

C. "Student Lounge" provides you with a forum to "talk" amongst yourselves about course material. These are informal discussions between students on course related topics. The instructor will not respond to questions in this forum.

The instructor reserves the right to eliminate inappropriate topics from this and other forums. If a Discussion Essay is removed by the instructor it will not be graded. See Policies below for appropriate class communications.

**TESTS:** Tests cover the material presented in the course – both text and module. All tests are objective. While there is no time limit as to how long you have to take a test, the test has to be completed no later than the posted due date but preferably by the week listed in the course outline. Please be advised that you need to set aside time to take a test after you have finished the readings. Never wait until the last minute to do any tests because late tests, regardless of the reason (including illness, computer problems, lack of internet connection, forgot, work, etc), will not be accepted. To avoid any unforeseen complications that may prevent you from turning in a test, finish each test well before the due date.

You can stop taking a test and continue it at a later time but be aware that if you submit/finish a test, even accidentally, there is no going back to make changes or to redo the test.

Test	Covers	Test	Covers
T1	Ch. 1	T8	Ch. 8
T2	Ch. 2	T9	Ch. 9
T3	Ch. 3	T10	Ch. 10

T4	Ch. 4	T11	Ch. 11
T5	Ch. 5	T12	Ch. 12
T6	Ch. 6	T13	Ch. 13
T7	Ch. 7		

**COURSE GRADE:** Your course grade will be based on points earned from the tests and the required class discussions.

		A 351-390
		B 312-350
Discussions	130	C 273-311
Tests	260	D 234-272
<hr/>	<hr/>	F 233 and below
Total Possible Class Points:	390	

Please be aware:

\*Incompletes will only be given in extreme circumstances. Consultation with the instructor required.

\*No extra credit will be offered.

Last date to drop a 1<sup>st</sup> 8 Week class without a "W" is Tuesday, Sept 8

Last date to drop a 1<sup>st</sup> 8 Week class with a "W" is Friday, Oct 9

Please remember it is ultimately the student's responsibility to drop a course that you do not plan on completing. If you are on the roster after Oct 9, you will be assigned a grade for the class.

### **Course Outline**

To keep up with readings, modules, discussions, and tests for this course, complete each no later than the week listed. Work ahead whenever possible.

All chapter readings listed are from the required textbook "Mirror for Humanity" 8<sup>th</sup> edition by Conrad Kottak.

As Instructor of the course I reserve the right to modify the assignments and the course schedule. I will notify you in writing via the Announcements tool if there are any changes.

### **Week 1**

Reading: Course Syllabus - Accept

Module: Getting Started - all sections of this first module

Discussion: D1- Essay 1 & Essay 2

Reading: Chapter 1 and Module1

Test: T1

## **Week 2**

Reading: Chapter 2 and Module 2

Discussion: D2 - Essay 1 & Essay 2

Test: T2

Reading: Chapter 3 and Module 3

Test: T3

## **Week 3**

Reading: Chapter 4 and Module 4

Discussion: D3 - Essay 1 & Essay 2

Test: T4

Reading: Chapter 5 and Module 5

Test: T5

## **Week 4**

Reading: Chapter 6 and Module 6

Discussion: D4 - Essay 1 & Essay 2

Test: T6

Reading: Chapter 7 and Module 7

Test: T7

### **Week 5**

Reading: Chapter 8 and Module 8

Discussion: D5 - Essay 1 & Essay 2

Test: T8

Reading: Chapter 9 and Module 9

Test: T9

### **Week 6**

Reading: Chapter 10 and Module 10

Discussion: D6 - Essay 1 & Essay 2

Test: T10

Reading: Chapter 11 and Module 11

Test: T11

### **Week 7**

Reading: Chapter 12 and Module 12

Discussion: D7 - Essay 1 & Essay 2

Test: T12

### **Week 8**

Reading: Chapter 13 and Module 13

Test: T13

## **Accommodations**

If you are a student with a disability and require accommodations, please contact the Disabled Students Programs & Services (DSP&S) Office. The DSP&S Office provides special assistance in areas including: registration assistance specialized tutoring, academic and career guidance counseling, instructor liaison, special instruction and testing assistance.

For more information:

DSPS page <http://www.wlac.edu/dsps/>

Office Location, Student Services Building (SSB 320)

Telephone (310) 287-4450

Department Email - [dsps@wla.edu](mailto:dsps@wla.edu)

## **Communication Policies**

**All students will please follow these policies for all private messages, emails, and discussion communications:**

1. No profanity or foul language of any kind at any time
2. Please politely address everyone by formal name
3. Under no circumstances may you use the classroom forum to ask for a classmate's personal contact information or in any way ask for a personal meeting or date
4. Do not include in your signature or other material in your messages any kind of sales solicitations, information about a business, or a political or religious message of any kind. Do not include a blind or other kind of hyperlink to such information
5. Please use common sense and common courtesy. Please check with me first if you have any questions about what is appropriate
6. The instructor maintains the right to delete any public posting deemed inappropriate

## **Communications with the Instructor:**

Please, do not email, private message, or post a message to the instructor as you would text a message to your friend. Please follow these basic rules:

1. Sign off with your full name - first and last
2. If emailing, state in which class you are enrolled
3. Do not tell me to reply ASAP or make other demands
4. Do a spell check on your communications
5. Use upper- and lower-case letters as appropriate in any formal academic written communications (this includes "I")

I will reply to your messages as quickly as possible, and with every effort to do so within 48 hours during weekdays (except holidays).

## **Academic Integrity Statement**

The following is from LACCD student code of conduct as it relates to student dishonesty (Board Rule 9803.28):

"Violations of academic integrity of any type by a student provides grounds for disciplinary action by the instructor of college. Violations of Academic Integrity include, but are not limited to, the following actions: cheating on an exam, plagiarism, working together on an assignment, paper or project when the instructor has specifically stated students should not do so, submitting the same term paper to more than one instructor, or allowing another individual to assume one's identity for the purpose of enhancing one's grade. For more information on the Standards of Student Conduct refer to the college catalog available in hardcopy and online at [www.wlac.edu](http://www.wlac.edu)."

Academic integrity is a fundamental value of higher education and WLAC; therefore, acts of cheating, plagiarism, falsification or attempts to cheat, plagiarize or falsify will not be tolerated in this course. It is your responsibility to understand what plagiarism is and you can read about it here: <http://www.plagiarism.org>.

Any student cheating or plagiarizing will be subject to disciplinary action.