

San José State University Department of Anthropology
ANTH 11 - Cultural Anthropology
Section 80 (43685), Fall 2021

Course and Contact Information:

Instructor(s):	Prof. Danae G. Khorasani
Office Location:	Online
Email:	danae.khorasani@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Online Mondays from 3:00-4:00pm PT, and/or by appointment via Zoom http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/zoom/
Class Days/Time:	Asynchronous
Classroom:	Online: http://sjsu.instructure.com
Prerequisites:	None
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	Area D1: Human Behavior
Scheduled Final Exam:	TBD

Canvas and MYSJSU Messaging:

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on **Canvas Learning Management System** course website at: <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. As a student, you are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through Canvas (or other communication system as indicated by the professor) to learn of any updates.

Course Description:

Welcome to ANTH 11 – Cultural Anthropology. This course is designed to familiarize students with a basic understanding of anthropology from a cultural perspective in order to understand how and why people practice their daily lives in unique and yet familiar ways. Applying an anthropological perspective to topics such as human diversity, language, social identity, gender, economic systems, kinship, stereotypes, politics, power, violence, religion, and artistic expression help to create a fully formed, cross-cultural understanding of what means to be human. Students will leave this course with a better understanding of anthropology as a discipline and with a greater awareness of the cultural and social diversity that exists in the world.

SJSU Course Catalog Description:

Basic concepts, theories and methods used in the comparative study of socio-cultural systems. Includes cultural ecology and change; political, economic and kinship systems; language, art and religion; cultural perspectives on contemporary issues.

Course Format:

This is a technology intensive, fully online asynchronous course. Internet connectivity and access to a laptop or computer are required in order to participate in the classroom activities and/or submit assignments. All assignments must be uploaded to Canvas in .doc or .docx formats to be graded due to the limitations of the grading software in Canvas. Please save or export documents created in other formats to MS Word before submitting the assignment. Please be aware that the mobile Canvas App does not

include the full functionality of Canvas as seen on a computer and you will not be able to fully participate in the class if using the app only. See [University Policy F13-2](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-2.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-2.pdf> for more details.

ANTH 11 Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives:

Instructor specific student learning goals for this course are as follows:

- Form a basic understanding of anthropology.
- Be introduced to the culture concept and define cultural approaches to understanding human behavior.
- Evaluate the nature of cross-cultural differences both critically and reflectively.
- Improve writing skills, grammar and critical evaluation.
- Apply anthropology principles to enhance an understanding of other academic topics.
- Apply anthropological thinking to careers such as medicine, business, urban planning and development initiatives, as well as other fields.

GE/SJSU Studies Learning Objectives:

As an Area D1 (Human Behavior) course, the content and activities are designed to enable you to achieve the following learning outcomes upon successfully completing this course:

- GELO 1. Students will be able to place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts.
- GELO 2. Students will identify the dynamics of ethnic, cultural, gender/sexual, age-based, class, regional, national, transnational, and global identities and the similarities, differences, linkages, and interactions between them.
- GELO3. Students will evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issues.

SJSU Anthropology Department Objectives:

The goals of the anthropology department include helping students to:

- PLO1. Understanding culture as the distinguishing phenomenon of human life, and the relationship of human biology and evolution.
- PLO2. Awareness of human diversity and the ways humans have categorized diversity.
- PLO3. Knowledge of the significant findings of archaeology, cultural anthropology, and physical anthropology, and familiarity of the important issues in each sub-discipline.
- PLO4. Knowledge of the history of anthropological thought and its place in modern intellectual history.
- PLO5. Comprehension of migration, colonialism, and economic integration as significant phenomenon shaping global society.
- PLO6. Ability to access various forms of anthropological data and literature. Awareness of importance and value of anthropological knowledge in contemporary society, and the ability to apply it to social issues.
- PLO8. Knowledge of the research methods of the sub-disciplines of anthropology, and the ability to apply appropriate research methods in at least one sub-discipline.
- PLO9. Ability to present and communicate anthropological knowledge and the results of anthropological research to different audiences.

Required Texts/Readings:

In an effort to reduce the financial strain on students, this course will be using a free, open-sourced anthropology textbook produced by the American Anthropological Association.

Textbook: Brown, N., McIlwraith, T., & de González, L. T. 2019. *Perspectives: An Open Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*. 2nd Edition. American Anthropological Association. ISBN-10: 1931303673

This text is available online for FREE download as a .pdf or e-Book here:

<http://perspectives.americananthro.org>

Purchase a printed copy here: <https://www.amazon.com/Perspectives-Open-Invitation-Cultural-Anthropology/dp/193130355X>

Additional Readings:

Additional readings are available on Canvas as free .pdf downloads. Readings from the textbook and supplementary materials will be assigned on a weekly basis and should be completed before the class session for which they are assigned. When reading, make sure to highlight important sections, take notes and write down your questions to share with the class.

Library Liaison:

The Anthropology Library Liaison is Silke Higgins, Silke.Higgins@sjsu.edu. Or visit the SJSU library website here: <https://libguides.sjsu.edu/anthropology>.

Course Requirements and Assignments:

The assignments for this course are designed to meet learning objectives and familiarize students with the culture concept and cultural approaches to understanding human behavior in anthropology. Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities. Your final grade will be determined by your performance on two exams (Midterm and Final), an ethnographic interview, bi-weekly quizzes and discussion posts, and an alternative final project. All of the assignments together **total to 300 points**.

Overview of Course Assignments and Total Points:

Eight (8) Quizzes (bi-weekly, every other week), $8 \times 6 = 48$ points
Eight (8) Discussion Posts & Comment (bi-weekly, every other week), $8 \times 12 = 96$ points
One (1) Ethnographic Interview, 20 points
One (1) Alternative Final Project, 40 points
Two (2) Exams - Midterm and Final:
 Midterm: Online TBD, 40 points
 Final Exam: Online TBD, 56 points
Total: 300 points

1. Bi-Weekly Quizzes: The eight (8) bi-weekly quizzes (every other week, alternating weeks) will be available online through Canvas and based on the assigned lectures & readings. The quizzes are brief and will be **no more than 5 questions each quiz**. A single quiz question is worth between 1 to 2 points, depending on difficulty. These quizzes are designed to check that you've actually reviewed the materials and will be available on Canvas for the entire assigned week. The only exception is that there will be no quizzes during Thanksgiving holiday break, or during the mid-term and final exam weeks. The quizzes are graded and **worth 6 points each** and 48 points total.

- Quizzes are **due by 11:59pm PT on the Friday of the week it is assigned**.

2. Bi-Weekly Discussion Posts & Thoughtful Comment: Every other week students are expected to participate and post in a discussion forum online via the Canvas course discussion boards. Your post should be **between 150-200 words** in response to a prompt based on the readings, lecture topic and additional video or audio media. Discussion post questions, rubric and requirements can be found in course modules. Please do not exceed 300 words per post.

- These discussion posts should be **well-crafted, miniature essays that directly responds to the prompt**. To receive full credit for your discussion, the posts must meet the minimum word requirements, demonstrate critical evaluation of the topic and be relevant to the prompt questions. There will also be a final “reflection” discussion post at the end of the course.
- As part of this assignment, you are also expected to post **at least one (1) thoughtful response** (no word count) to discussion posts made by another classmate during the week that discussion posts are due. Your response is part of the discussion post grade. Students are encouraged to post as many times as they would like, but additional responses beyond the first post will not count towards your grade.
- This assignment is graded and **worth 12 points each** and 96 points total.
- **Discussion posts** should be posted by **11:59pm PT on the Thursday of the week it is due** unless otherwise stated.
 - ◊ **Responses to posts** should be made the following day, by **11:59pm PT on the Friday of the week it is due**.

3. Ethnographic Interview: Ethnography is the hallmark technique of socio-cultural anthropology. It is the primary method by which anthropologists come to know about the world, and the mode of communicating that knowledge to others. For this assignment, you will practice ethnographic interviewing techniques with a partner or family member online/over the phone (please maintain safety & social distancing!) with a pre-set format and theme. The theme this year is: purity and danger. During the interview, you should take detailed notes. Based on your notes, you will write a narrative summary of your interview which includes your own observations and cultural analysis of the conversation. I suggest that the person you pick to interview have a difference background or life experience from your own to make the cross-cultural comparison easier. The interview should **not exceed 30-40 mins** and your typed observations and analysis from the interview should be **3 pages double-spaced in 12-point font, or approximately 600 words**. Additional details and rubric for this assignment can be found in course modules. This assignment is graded and worth **20 points total**.

4. Final Project: For this final assignment, students are given the option to choose one of three (3) different final projects. Additional details and rubrics for this assignment can be found in the course modules. This assignment is graded and **worth 40 points**. The options are as follows (remember, **only pick one!**):

Option 1. Comic Book - Students will write a fictional comic book story about a topic within cultural anthropology. In your comic book, you should include elements of conflict and resolution, applying sequential writing, using action verbs, and descriptive language, similar to a real comic book format and you must include *original artwork*. You may choose the dimensions of the pictures, but in general each page should have *at least* four to six panels with related captions. The comic book should be approximately **6-8 pages long** and include entertaining material while also applying key terms and themes learned during coursework. In addition to the comic book, you must also include one descriptive paragraph with **2-3 scholarly citations** explaining the anthropological merit and principles used in your comic.

- **Example:** <https://www.imagineforest.com/blog/how-to-create-a-comic-strip/>

Option 2. Podcast- Students create a podcast episode based on a topic in cultural anthropology. Your podcast should be a short (about 5-7 mins) exploration of a topic in anthropology that examines your chosen topic using narrative, storytelling, and auditory effects. Your podcast should address the topic from an educational standpoint, but also detail the possible conversations or controversy around it while applying key terms learned during coursework. Your podcast should also have an invented introduction and official name, similar to a real podcast. Bonus points if you can have original opening theme song (sometimes also called bumper music, intros/outros). I suggest to students choosing this option to include another person in their segment to enhance the listening experience for the audience. In addition to the podcast, you must also include one descriptive paragraph with **2-3 scholarly citations** explaining the anthropological merit and principles used.

- **Example:** <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/19/learning/lesson-plans/project-audio-teaching-students-how-to-produce-their-own-podcasts.html>

Option 3. Traditional Research Paper- Students write a more traditional anthropological research paper structured around the topic of “Cultural Materialism.” For this option, you are expected to pick one common material object and explain its unexpected historic and cultural significance from the theoretical perspective of an anthropologist. Your topic should be interesting and include specific references to key terms and themes learned during coursework. Your paper should be about 5-6 pages double-spaced in a **12-point font** normal font, or **approximately 1,250 words**. Your research paper should also include in-text citations and a bibliography at the end of your paper with *at least* 3-4 scholarly sources. The bibliography should not be applied towards your total word count.

- **Example:** <http://fzydesign.com/portfolio/from-fortune-cookies-to-culture-influences-on-food-industry-in-contemporary-america/>

5. Final Examination - Midterm and Final:

The Midterm and Final exams will utilize multiple choice, short answer and true/false questions to assess your ability to meet Area D1 Learning Objectives and your mastery of key topics in cultural anthropology. The exams will be based on the readings, materials and lectures from the course. Both exams will be administered online through Canvas.

- The Midterm is graded and worth 40 points.
- The Final is graded and worth 56 points.
- See *University Policy S06-4* (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S06-4.pdf>) states that “There shall be an appropriate final examination or evaluation at the scheduled time in every course, unless the course is on the official List of Courses in which a final is optional.”

Determination of Grades:

As stated earlier, this course is graded out of 300 points, which will be converted to a traditional grading scale with associated letter grades (e.g. roughly 70-72 = C-, 73-76 = C, and 77-79 = C+), please see table below and *University Grading System Policy F18-5* (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F18-5.pdf>).

A	B	C	D	F
97-100% = A plus	87-89% = B plus	77-79% = C plus	67-69% = D plus	Below 60% = F
93-96% = A	83-86% = B	73-76% = C	63-66% = D	
90-92% = A minus	80-82% = B minus	70-72% = C minus	60-62% = D minus	

Late Assignments and Papers:

Late assignments/papers will only be accepted with **grade penalty** up to 2 days past the assignment due date, unless a genuine emergency arrives with documentation, or you have received an extension from the instructor in advance. If you are having trouble getting assignments submitted on time, you should discuss your situation with the instructor.

Incompletes:

Incompletes will be granted only if the professor has been notified in a timely manner and has approved. Students with missing major assignments (over 50 points) will receive a WU (unauthorized withdrawal). **No work will be accepted after the final.**

Extra Credit:

Extra credit may be offered at the instructor's discretion.

Classroom Protocol:

Because this is an asynchronous, online course, attendance is not required. Participation is also not graded, except for your participation in the online forums as part of your discussion post grade. When participating online, make sure to practice netiquette when replying to others, purposefully inflammatory, hateful, racist and anti-black statements will not be tolerated. Group study before the midterm and final is permitted. Weekly lecture videos with slides will be available for viewing asynchronously through the Canvas course modules.

Covid-19:

In the event that you or a close family member contracts Covid-19, please notify the instructor **as soon as possible** and accommodations will be made for your situation.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material:

[University Policy S12-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>), requires students to obtain instructor's permission to electronically or digitally record the course:

“Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

University Policies:

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>.

ANTH 11 / Cultural Anthropology, Fall 2021 Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice and notifications will be made online through Canvas announcements.

Course Schedule:

Week/Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	08/19 - 08/20/21	**Thursday is the first day of instruction** Chapter 1. INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY In <i>Perspectives: An Open Introduction to Cultural Anthropology</i> by Brown et al. DUE: Introductory Discussion Post and Week 1 Quiz on the Syllabus
2	08/23-08/27	Ch 2. THE CULTURE CONCEPT Raybeck, “The Dawn of Interest”
3	08/30 - 09/03	Ch 3. DOING FIELDWORK: METHODS IN CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY Abu-Lughod, “Fieldwork of a Dutiful Daughter” DUE: Discussion Post and Week 3 Quiz
4	09/06 - 09/10	Ch 4. LANGUAGE Saussure, “Nature of the Linguistic Sign” *No class Monday, September 6 th for Labor Day*
5	09/13 – 09/17	Ch 5. SUBSISTENCE DUE: Discussion Post and Week 5 Quiz
6	09/20-09/24	Ch 6. ECONOMICS Film(s): <i>The Real Piggy Bank – Vanuatu</i> (2012)
7	09/27 - 10/01	Ch 7. POLITICAL ANTHROPOLOGY: A CROSS-CULTURAL COMPARISON Film(s): <i>Nai! Story of a Kung Woman</i> (1980) DUE: Discussion Post and Week 7 Quiz
8	10/04 - 10/08	Ch 8. FAMILY AND MARRIAGE Goldstein, M. C., “When Brothers Share a Wife” Film(s): <i>The Land Where Women Rule: Inside China's Last Matriarchy</i> (2016) DUE: Midterm Exam
9	10/11 - 10/15	Ch 9. RACE AND ETHNICITY Bernier, “A New Division of Earth” Film(s): <i>Race, Power of an Illusion</i> (2003) DUE: Discussion Post and Week 9 Quiz
10	10/18 - 10/22	Ch 10. GENDER AND SEXUALITY Oyěwùmí, “The Invention of Women” DUE: Ethnographic Interview
11	10/25 - 10/29	Ch 11. RELIGION Douglas, “The Abomination of Leviticus” DUE: Discussion Post and Week 11 Quiz
12	11/01 – 11/05	Ch 12. GLOBALIZATION Bestor, T. C., “How Sushi Went Global” Film(s): <i>Life and Debt</i> (2001)
13	11/08 - 11/12	Ch 13. THE HISTORY OF ANTHROPOLOGICAL IDEAS Corbey, R., “Ethnographic Showcases, 1870-1930” DUE: Discussion Post and Week 13 Quiz DUE: Draft Alternative Final Project Proposal *No class November 11 th for Veterans Day*

Week/Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
14	11/15 - 11/19	Ch 14. ENVIRONMENT DUE: Work on Final Project
15	11/22 - 11/26	**No class due to Thanksgiving Holiday! Work on Final Project **
16	11/29 - 12/03	**No readings** Review for Final Exam and finish Final Project DUE: Final Project DUE: Reflection Discussion Post and Week 16 Review Quiz
Final Exam 17	12/06 - 12/10	**No readings** **December 6th is last day of instruction** DUE: Final Exam TBD