

Northwestern Michigan College
Course Syllabus – Cultural Anthropology – ANT 113
3 Credits

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Course Description

The study of the role of society and culture in humankind's adaptation to a variety of environments is the focus of this course. A variety of cultures are studied, utilizing cross-cultural comparisons. Among other topics considered are field methods, theories of cultural evolution, the family, kinship, economics, religion, political organization and language.

Anthropology is the study of all human cultures. The field's knowledge base is as diverse as all the cultures of humans on Earth. This is a central fascination to anthropology: diversity. The strength of Anthropology as a partial online course is that a great diversity of human beings will be brought to your experience through video, creating an effect that cannot be captured in a text book. This course will take you to India, Indonesia, New Guinea, Mexico, the North Pole, Scotland and many other places. It will also take a closer look at "Western" society in the context of a global understanding.

This course takes a unique approach to studying undergraduate-level anthropology in that it focuses on developing practical ethnography skills. This is accomplished through group discussions, online exercises and classroom discussion. While the online activities give a broad introduction to anthropology, time in the class room is spent discussing how to put the theory into practice. Many cultures from around the world are examined but special emphasis is given to the people of pre-contact Americas, pre-contact Michigan and modern-day Scotland.

Online courses are very different from regular courses. There are advantages and disadvantages which you should be aware of before you make a commitment to take this course.

Advantages: Firstly, if you are an independent person who likes the freedom to do your work when you are ready to do it (and have that kind of self-discipline) an online course will accommodate your style. Secondly, if you are busy with a tight schedule of responsibilities, the flexibility of an online course will work around your schedule. Thirdly, although they are dated, these anthropology videos bring the cultures alive in a manner in which traditional textbook learning cannot.

Challenges: Firstly, online courses are for independent learners with a great deal of self-discipline. The "class" will primarily be the web based exercises that you do online, so "class" meets when you are online. Therefore, it is up to you and only you to initiate when class starts. Secondly, it's up to you to read the text book. Some of this material is not covered on the web site, so if you have trouble learning material without a verbal explanation you may find an online course to be difficult and not appropriate for your style of learning.

Help: I will be available for you via email.

Course Objectives

The course aims to provide students with the knowledge to:

1. Understand the concept of culture from an anthropological perspective including the following: to gain a broad cross-cultural background, to know the meanings of the basic concepts and terms used by cultural anthropologists, and to understand research methodology used by anthropologists in studying cultures.
2. Recognize underlying similarities as well as the wide range and variability of human cultures and to recognize, with "cultural relativity," that there are a number of valid "cultural solutions" to living on earth.
3. General Education Outcome Designation for all three Cultural Diversity Outcomes.

Topics Covered

- Practical Field-Anthropology
- Michigan Native American Culture
- The Pre contact Americas
- Terminology used by anthropologists
- Methodology used by anthropologists

Core Competencies

How to learn effectively:

ANT 113 provides students with the opportunity to examine cultures from many different locations and time periods. It is hoped that students will learn to interpret these cultures for a fuller appreciation of the prehistory and history of specific locales. Further it is hoped that students will be able to use their new vocabularies and knowledge to interpret and examine cultures in specific regions.

How to solve problems:

Using anthropological methodologies, students will understand how to interpret cultural patterns as well as how anthropology adds to our understanding of history, culture, and society. In answering these questions students delve into logical reasoning that fortify their abilities to determine cause and effect.

How to interact with the world:

ANT 113 increases a student's awareness of other people, places, times and cultures that are generally overlooked in broader mass media and historic studies. Detailed knowledge of these "hidden" cultures is essential in forming a complete picture of regional history and cultural heritage of both Michigan and the world. Therefore, with increased knowledge, students form a basis upon which they may open their minds to Michigan's history and other peoples, cultures and times.

Primary Texts

Haviland, W. A. *Cultural Anthropology*, 10th ed. 2002 Wadsworth
ISBN: 0-15-508550-6
Newer editions will also work.

Mann, Charles C: *1491 New Revelations of the Americas*, 2005 Random House

Other Optional Texts

Cleland, Charles: *Rites of Conquest*, 1992, University of Michigan Press.

McCrone, David: *Living in Scotland: Social and Economic Change since 1980*, 2004
Edinburgh University Press

Class Format

- Learning is accomplished in a variety of ways, and students vary in their preferred learning “style”. Therefore, this class will make use of as many learning formats as possible: lecture, discussion, reading, visual, and writing. Each of these learning modes requires your **participation**.

Evaluation

- 40% of the course grade will be based on participation on the learnarchaeology.com web site, completion of quizzes, and viewing of web based material.
- 60% of the course grade will be based on three exams (20% each). Each of the 3 exams for this course are proctored and you must take them at the NMC Testing Center located in the Osterlin Library on the dates that they are assigned. You may take them anytime the Testing Center is open on those days.
- Course grades will be assigned as a percentage of total points as follows:
4.0: 90% - 100% 3.5: 86% - 89% 3.0: 80% - 85%
2.5: 76% - 79% 2.0: 70% - 75% 1.5: 66% - 69%
1.0: 60% - 65% 0.5: 50% - 59% 0.0: 0% - 49%

Extra Credit

- Up to 10% of the course grade can be based on a research paper as an extra credit. The paper will be 6 – 8 double space pages in length, 12

point, Times New Roman font. Subject matter will be determined between the student and the instructor. The writing assignments will be awarded a % grades. An 100% grade will be given if the assignment contains all of the desired elements of the assignment, 80% if it is completed on time and most of the items are present, and 50% or less if the assignment has few of the requested elements.

This course has three other options to obtain extra credit. An extra credit of 2% may be obtained for each option. See the bottom on the main page for details.

Ethics Policy

Ideally learning takes place in a forum where students are able to freely exchange ideas with the instructor and each other. In order to maintain an atmosphere of civil discourse, we must all strive to listen closely to what is being said by others and then respond in a critically constructive way. In short, we must respect each others' words as we attempt to find our own voice. To this end, guidelines have been presented in your student handbook and include the following:

- *Disruptive Behavior:* Student behavior that is detrimental to an environment conducive to learning or to the maintenance of a reasonable level of order on the campus or in the classroom shall be considered disruptive conduct. Students involved in disruptive conduct will be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the handbook and which includes suspension or dismissal.
- *Cheating and Plagiarism:* Dishonest scholarly practices include, but are not necessarily limited to taking, using, copying another's work and submitting it as one's own, intentionally falsifying or taking another's idea with the intention of passing ideas in class as one's own. If a student is caught cheating they will receive a 0 for the assignment in question and the Dean of student services will be informed.

Other General Information

- **General Education Outcomes:** NMC has established 3 General Education Outcomes for all students. They are: communication skills, critical thinking skills and cultural perspectives skills. This course contains aspects of all three, but is specifically directed toward Cultural Perspectives, level 3: The student evaluates the impact of diverse cultures in the context of one or more disciplines or perspectives. It is also directed at Critical Thinking level 2: Students will analyze their own thinking and the thinking of others, constructing arguments, evaluating claims, and developing conclusions using evidence and logic.

- **Activity Schedule:** This schedule is a basic plan for the material covered in class. There may be additional readings, or activities added at the instructor's discretion. Students are expected to keep up with the readings so that they may make meaningful contributions to classroom discussion.
- When weather conditions appear hazardous the college may decide to close (or delay opening) or an individual instructor may decide to cancel his or her class. Should any of these situations occur Monday through Friday, the information will be communicated to a 24-hour telephone line at (231) 995-1100 and NMC's homepage at: <http://www.nmc.edu/students/class-cancellations.html>.
- **The transfer of NMC courses is determined by the transfer institutions in cooperation with NMC. To check the transferability of this course, visit the web site www.nmc.edu/counseling/transfer.htm**
- **Student Rights and Responsibilities:** NMC is dedicated to creating an academic community which promotes intellectual inquiry, encourages vigorous discourse, and respects individual freedom and dignity. Students are integral members of this community and are expected to participate in sustaining its values. A copy of the Student Rights & Responsibilities handbook is available at <http://www.nmc.edu/policies/nmc/D-602-01.pdf>.
- **Academic Assistance:** NMC is committed to helping students develop the skills necessary to be successful by creating a supportive learning environment that fosters growth. For more information about NMC's tutoring services visit <http://www.nmc.edu/tss/> or call 231 995 1138.
- **Students with Disabilities Support:** Northwestern Michigan College offers a wide range of services for students that have appropriately documented disabilities and/or need accommodations in order to achieve their academic goals. For further information visit <http://www.nmc.edu/tss/services.html> or call 231 995-1138.

Class Success

- Keep up with the assignments

This schedule is a basic plan for the material covered in this course. There may be additional assignments added at the discretion of the instructor. They include supplementary readings, mapping exercises, and group activities which are designed to help you focus on particular concepts or information presented in your assigned readings and lectures. These assignments will help you focus on material that is important for your class participation, individual research paper, and group site report.

- Enjoy the Experience of learning:

Not only have you committed financial resources to your education, you have also decided, by attending an institution of higher education, to change your understanding of the world. This commitment to learning is probably one of the most important decisions that you will make in your lives. It will not only help you earn a living it will also help you learn how to live. It is my hope that through your associations with fellow students, instructors and course work you will enrich your life, resulting in a greater appreciation of the world around you.


- Get help at the Writing Center:

Not all of us have an easy time writing papers. I myself have always found writing to be a very challenging task that I do not enjoy. Fortunately NMC has people at the writing center that can help! This is a fantastic free resource that you should take advantage of in order to improve these very necessary skills and maximize your grade. You can find information at:

<http://www.nmc.edu/student-services/writing-center/>

I hope that you enjoy this class and the time that you spend studying cultural anthropology.

Cheers,



Dr. Mark W. Holley Ph.D., B.A., CREA, CRA, IFA, FSA(Scot)

Ant 113 Cultural Anthropology
General Instructions / Frequently Asked Questions:

Exams:

There are three exams in this course; you must take them on campus at the testing center. The reason that you must take a proctored exam is to ensure that this course will transfer to major universities who do not allow you to take exams without a proctor. This is college you must prove what you have learned!!

Do to the volume of content that we cover in this course, exams are not cumulative. They only cover the sections indicated in the instructions. The final exam only covers the last third of course.

If you live a considerable distance from Traverse City, I will allow you to take the exams at another college or university testing center. However, you must arrange to have that testing center contact me a minimum of a week before you take the exam. I will determine if their proctoring procedures are adequate. I will not allow you to make these alternative arrangements at the last minute and under no circumstances on the day of the exam.

You must take each of the exams on the days that they are scheduled. If you choose not to take the exam on the day(s) scheduled you will receive a 0 for it. No exceptions.

No notes or aids of any kind are allowed for the exam. During the exam you may not access anything online other than the exam.

If the proctor at the testing center determines that you have cheated on any exam (this is determined solely by them), you will automatically fail the course and the Department of Academic Affairs at NMC will be notified.

Assignments:

On most weeks you will have to complete 4 quizzes and answer occasional questions. These assignments are time sensitive and will disappear at the date indicated. You will do poorly in this course if you choose not to do these assignments.

ALL MODULES, VIDEOS AND QUIZES WILL DISSAPPEAR ONCE THE EXAM OPENS. To avoid disappointment, do your studying well before the day of the exam.

Read the instructions for each assignment carefully and follow them. Your grade will suffer when you do not follow instructions.

One of your first assignments is to upload a picture of your face to your profile. This is so I can recognize you and give you credit for answering questions in class. Please follow this instruction; I do not want a picture of something else.

Reading:

By its very nature anthropology is a reading intensive subject. It would not be cost effective to travel and visit each of the cultures that we discuss, but we can read about them. The reading for this course is light compared to similar courses offered at major universities. The amount of reading required must be at this level to ensure transferability.

Problems:

When you have a problem attending a class, completing an assignment or taking an exam contact me immediately and let me know the circumstances. Most of the time I am happy to make other arrangements if there is (in my opinion) a good reason for the delay. If I have to find you I will be much less lenient.

Students who stay in contact with me are rewarded. Students who disappear and do not contact me until the last minute are not.

Content:

This is an introductory course and we cannot cover every culture on the planet in a single undergraduate course. This is just an overview of the subject; we will jump from culture to culture very quickly and not spend a significant time on any one. We will only scratch the surface of Anthropology as a discipline. The topics that we cover each week could easily be turned in to individual courses.

However, one of the research questions that we will be investigating in this course is where did the first Americans come from? To help answer this question you must complete the readings in the Mann 1491 book.

Due to the volume of material that we are covering, not all topics will be covered equally in this course. A significant focus will be in archaeology.