Contact Information: Email for all three of us can be accessed through the "mail" function in blackboard or see individual email addresses below:

Instructor:
Dr. BEVERLY ANN DAVENPORT
email: bad@unt.edu
940-565-2292
Department of Anthropology
Chilton Hall, Room 330G
Office Hours: Tuesdays 11-1, Wednesdays, 12:00 - 3:00 or by appointment

Teaching Assistants:
Ms. JO AIKEN - For all students with last names beginning A-L
email: jonieaiken@gmail.com
214-888-6835
Jo is a graduate student who is doing her field research down in Houston, so she will not have office hours but she can be reached through email or by phone, 214-888-6835

Ms. NICOLE COLLIER RYAN - For all students with last names beginning M-Z:
email: collier.nicole@gmail.com
Nicole is an online graduate student living in Hawaii and so she will not have office hours but can be reached through email or by phone, 805-265-0293.

Our roles: The TAs are primarily responsible for grading your assignments and tests. They are also available to answer questions you may have about the course or your individual grade on an assignment. Your instructor will supervise their work and will make decisions about things that you may want to appeal. She will also answer any overall grade questions.

If you have a problem, PLEASE email one of us first. You can expect a reply from one of us in NO LATER THAN 48 hours. If it is an emergency, you may call Dr. Davenport or YOUR TA.

We have set up a Discussion Forum called "Main" on which you can anonymously comment about anything that's on your mind -- click on "Discussions" in the course tool section to the left and take a look. BUT PLEASE DON'T USE THIS FOR IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS; email or call one of us instead!!!

REQUIRED MATERIALS


PLEASE NOTE: Films and video clips in the lessons are required. This visual material is included in the lesson. The visual documentation throughout the course can be accessible by the links specified in the lesson.
COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course presents what people in the USA and from the outside perceive and encapsulate in the term “American culture.” Students are briefly exposed to basic concepts and theoretical models used in the anthropological discipline to approach the understanding of cultural values considered to be at the core of American culture. The purpose is to show students the cultural historical processes from which these cultural values have emerged and how these values have been transformed and are expressed in contemporary times through different themes such as: family, ethnic and cultural diversity, consumerism, entertainment and technology, among others. Learners in this course explore the complexities embedded in the concept of “culture” as it is exercised in the USA context. A very important companion for learners in the adventure of looking at American culture through anthropological glasses is the use of popular culture in its multiple manifestations (cartoons, Disney movies, films, music, etc.).

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:
- Culture is not static, it is in constant transformation. The core societal values constantly change and reflect life styles and social movements.
- To understand the present, we need to look and analyze the past. The historical past of cultures contains the key for understanding of the origin of core cultural characteristics and values.
- Just as important, the present political and ideological contexts shade our views of the past.
- Popular culture is expressed in objects, activities and communicative media. It offers significant insights for cultural understanding, history and humanity in general.

HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THIS COURSE
1. Read the lesson and any other assigned materials (book chapters, website links, etc.)
2. If a video clip is part of the lesson, WATCH IT.
3. All the content you need for this class is on the home page, in the folder labeled "LESSONS."
4. Due dates for all assignments and exams are in this syllabus, below.
5. Don't forget the GLOSSARY! This is a great tool for learning the language of anthropology, which is absolutely essential for getting the most out of this class.
6. Participate fully in the course. Your ideas, comments and feedback expressed in your assignments and shared by faculty and classmates are important and valued.
7. Log into online course more than twice during the week to check for ANNOUNCEMENTS, work on assignments and post them.
8. Manage your time wisely in order to complete your assignments well before the last minute.
9. WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE ON FRIDAYS AT 11:59 PM. LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
10. Seek assistance immediately if you are experiencing any difficulties. If it is technical, start with the Blackboard Help Desk. Otherwise, your teaching assistant and/or instructor can help you in solving the problem.

After completing the course students will:
- Have learned basic anthropological concepts and theoretical models
- Be able to apply basic anthropological concepts to the analysis and understanding of cultural processes in the past and present of the USA.
- Be able to identify cultural characteristics and values of the USA culture
- Be able to use popular culture to analyze USA cultural characteristics and values. Cultural phenomena for study includes: popular and ethnic music, sports, television, advertising and film.
**Acceptable Student Behavior:**
Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.unt.edu/csrr

**HOW YOU WILL BE GRADED**

**Evaluation:**
- **Weekly Assignments:** 40% of final grade - 12 weekly assignments worth 10 points each
- **Test 1:** 30% of final grade
- **Test 2:** 30% of final grade

**Extra Credit Opportunities:** TO BE ANNOUNCED

**General Grading Scale:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>270-300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>240-269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>210-239</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>180-209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-179</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The grading scale can be adjusted downward if the class does not perform as well as usual.

**Weekly Assignments – Comments and General Instructions**

1. The weekly assignments are short essays on topics specified in each lesson. Please submit your assignments using the Turnitin icon also located within the lesson.
2. Each essay should be 350 to 500 words. Longer papers will not be penalized.
3. An "essay" is usually at least 5 paragraphs. This means that you should write an introduction AND a conclusion to your remarks.
4. Essays should be double-spaced with 1 inch margins.
5. Please read instructions carefully and answer all parts of the question.

An essay that is well-written, comprehensive in its approach to the questions asked, and generally free of grammar or spelling errors will receive full credit.

**Points will be deducted as follows:**

1. Student does not follow instructions at all: 5 to 10 points deducted
2. Student does not completely follow instructions: 2 points deducted
3. Student makes no reference to the assigned readings and course materials in the body of the essay: 1 to 5 points deducted
4. Grammatical errors: 1 to 5 points deducted, depending on how bad it is. Use grammar check and spell check!! That's what modern technology is for!!
5. Spelling errors: 1 point deducted

6. Plagiarism is not tolerated. Any assignment with greater than 15% unoriginal content submitted in Turnitin will be reviewed for plagiarism. See the statement below on Academic Honesty. You can expect to receive feedback on your essay’s grade about a week after its due date.
**Academic Honesty:**
You will be part of an academic community so you are expected to exercise honesty and integrity. The Department of Anthropology does not tolerate plagiarism, cheating, or helping others to cheat. **All work that you submit should be your own. When your ideas and comments are inspired or based on another's work, make sure to cite references appropriately** (see [http://www.library.unt.edu/citations-style-guides](http://www.library.unt.edu/citations-style-guides) for help in citing appropriately). **Plagiarism is not tolerated.** Plagiarism is using another's words or paraphrasing another's work without giving proper credit through the use of citations. Turnitin detects internet content, articles and submissions from prior courses. **Do not copy from any source.**

Students suspected of plagiarism will be provided the opportunity for a hearing; a guilty finding will merit an automatic “F” in the course. The instructor has the right to pursue further disciplinary action within the UNT legal system, which may result in dismissal from the university. For more information on paper writing, including how to avoid plagiarism, and how to use citations, see [http://www.unt.edu/anthropology/writing.htm](http://www.unt.edu/anthropology/writing.htm). For information on the University’s policies regarding academic integrity and dishonesty, see the UNT Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities, [http://www.unt.edu/csrr/](http://www.unt.edu/csrr/).

**IMPORTANT:** The Learn website automatically goes down at 11:59 Central Time every Saturday night. It is down for 2 hours. **Don't get caught completing TESTS** (assignments are due on Friday nights) **at the very last moment as your clock may be different from the university computer clock. Never wait til the last minute to submit tests or assignments. This is your responsibility!**

**COURSE ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES**
Please remember that reading requirements for each lesson are located in the assignment found at the end of each lesson. All written assignments can be turned in **any time before the due date. You are encouraged to work ahead, as no late submissions will be accepted.**

Week 1: Week of January 13: Familiarize yourself with the course plan. Purchase YOUR BOOKS!!!!
Week 2: Lesson 1 Assignment due FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 11:59 PM.
Week 3: Lesson 2 Assignment due FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 11:59 PM.
Week 4: Lesson 3 Assignment due FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 11:59 PM.
Week 5: Lesson 4 Assignment due FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 11:59 PM.
Week 6: Lesson 5 Assignment due FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 11:59 PM.
Week 7: Lesson 6 Assignment due FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 11:59 PM.
Week 8: March 3-7: Test 1 Review– Review Lessons 1 through 6.

**Test 1 may be taken between THURS., MARCH 6 and SAT., MARCH 15, 11:59 PM**
*Don’t forget Blackboard goes off line on Saturdays at 12:00 AM!*
*Yes, we know March 10-14 is Spring Break, that's why we opened the exam early!*

Week 9: Lesson 7 Assignment due FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 11:59 PM.
Week 10: Lesson 8 Assignment due FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 11:59 PM.
Week 11: Lesson 9 Assignment due FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 11:59 PM.
Week 12: Lesson 10 Assignment due FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 11:59 PM.
Week 13: Lesson 11 Assignment due FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 11:59 PM.
Week 14: Lesson 12 Assignment due MONDAY, APRIL 25, 11:59 PM.
Week 15: April 28-May 2: Test 2 Review – Review Lessons 7 through 12

**Test 2 MUST be taken between SUNDAY, MAY 3 and SATURDAY, MAY 10, 11:59 PM**