



WM 511

Cultural Anthropology

Semester: Winter, 2015
Day: Mondays 2:30-5:15 PM
Room: A1085

Number of credits: 3

Instructor: Dr Ron Brown
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Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the insights of cultural anthropology for intercultural ministry. It includes theories of culture and societies, religion and worldview, kinship and family structure, communication theory and the dynamics of change. Participants are encouraged to explore models useful in ministering to specific societies and cultures.

Further Course Information:

The research method particular to anthropology is participant-observation and the multicultural city of Calgary is a fitting place to learn this method.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

- By the end of the course, the student should be able to:
1. Develop an appreciation for the cultural commonalities and diversities of others and ourselves.
 2. Examine and assess the basic concepts and findings of cultural anthropology.
 3. Demonstrate a knowledge and appreciation of man's cultural diversity.
 4. Relate anthropological insights to the problem of interacting with people of differing cultural backgrounds both at home and abroad.
 5. Acquire a basic understanding of cultural anthropology and its relationship to Christian mission.

Important Dates:

First day of classes: January 7, 2015
Registration revision period: January 18, 2015
Last day to request revised examination: March 2, 2015
Last day to withdraw from course: March 20, 2015
Last day to apply for time extension for coursework: March 30, 2015
Last day of classes: April 10, 2015

Final Exam: April 16, 2015
Time: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Room: A2133

Outline:

Date	Topic	Readings
January 12	Introduction - What is Anthropology?	Ch. 1
January 19	The Concept of Culture / Language	Ch. 2 &3
January 26	Social Structure – race, ethnicity, class	Ch. 4
February 2	Gender and Sexuality	Ch. 5
February 9	Production and Exchange	Ch. 6
Feb 16-20	Reading week – no class	
February 23	Midterm (first hour) & Browns	
March 2	Authority and Power	Ch. 7
March 9	Kinship and Marriage	Ch. 8
March 16	Religion and Ritual	Ch. 9
March 23	Globalization and Culture Change	Ch. 10
March 30	Theory and Anthropology in Action	Ch. 11 & 12
April 16 1-4pm	Final Exam – A2133	
NB	Adjustments in scheduling topics may be made as needed	

Requirements:**1 Ethnography (10%)**

Ethnographic Project: Working with a partner or in groups of three, students will conduct original ethnographic research by doing participant observation. This will be presented orally in class. There will be no written portion of the assignment, other than a single page reflection on the process. Details will be given in class. **Due: February 9, 2015**

2 Cross-cultural worship (10%)

Attend two worship services different than your own and write up a reaction paper with reflections on how it felt to be the minority in the group; how you were or were not able to enter into the worship; what was the most meaningful part of the service for you; were there things in that service that you would enjoy in your own worship service; what were the barriers to you worshipping and other observations. In your report be sure to specify the exact date, time and location of the two services you visited. **Due: March 2, 2015**

3 Case study processing (20%)

Read four case studies and write a one page reflection/solution for each. **Due: March 23, 2015**

4 Reading (20%)

From the list of recommended books read 500 pages (not counting the class text) and submit a one page review of each book, article or individual chapter/section if just reading part of a book. **Due: March 30, 2015**

5 Exams (40%)

Midterm The midterm will cover everything we have dealt with in class, including the weekly assignments, and text book up to the point of the exam. **February 23, 2015**

Final Exam The final exam will cover what we have dealt with in class since the mid-term including the weekly assignments and text book. **April 16, 2015 (1-4pm) in A2133**

Submission of Assignments:

Assignments can be handed in (paper) on the day of class or emailed to me (electronic attachment) on the due date.

Evaluation:

According to above requirements.

Grade Summary:

The available letters for course grades are as follows:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
A+		93-100
A	Excellent	85-92
A-		80-84
B+		77-79
B	Good	73-76
B-		70-72
C+		67-69
C	Satisfactory	63-66
C-		60-62
D+		55-59
D	Minimal Pass	50-54
F	Failure	below 50

Textbooks:

Required Text

Howell, Brian H. and Jenell Williams Paris. *Introducing Cultural Anthropology*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011.

Recommended Texts (*highly recommended)

- *Hiebert, Paul. *The Gospel in Human Contexts: Anthropological Explorations for Contemporary Missions*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2009.
- *Hiebert, Paul. *Transforming Worldviews: An Anthropological Understanding of how People Change*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008
- Hiebert Paul. *Anthropological Reflections on Missiological Issues*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1994.
- Hiebert, Paul, R. Daniel Shaw and Tite Tienou. *Folk Religion: A Christian Response to Popular Beliefs and Practices*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1999.
- Hiebert, Paul. *Anthropological Insights for Missionaries*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1985.
- Miller, Barbara, Penny Van Esterik and John Van Esterik. *Cultural Anthropology*. Toronto: Toronto: Pearson,

2010.

- *Muller, Roland. *The Messenger, The Message, The Community*. CanBooks, 2006.
- *Spradley, James and David McDurdy. *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*. Toronto: Pearson, 2012.
- Winter Ralph and Steve Hawthorne. *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement Reader* (articles on cultural issues). Pasadena: William Carey Library, 2009.

Suggested read

Brown, Ronald. *Intersections*. Global Vault, 2014 (Kindle on www.amazon.ca and print versions at www.lulu.com)

Policies:

All students have received an Ambrose e-mail account upon registration. It is the student's responsibility to check this account regularly as the Ambrose email system will be the professor's instrument for notifying students of important matters (Cancelled class sessions, extensions, requested appointments, etc.) between class sessions. If students do not wish to use their Ambrose accounts, it is highly recommended that they forward all messages from the Ambrose account to the other account.

During the **Registration Revision Period** students may to enter a course without permission, change the designation of any class from credit to audit and /or voluntary withdraw from a course without financial or academic penalty. These courses will not appear on the student's transcript. Courses should be added or dropped on the student portal by the deadline date, please consult the List of Important Dates. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees.

Students intending to withdraw from a course after the Registration Revision Period must apply to the Office of the Registrar by submitting a Request to Withdraw from a Course by the **Withdrawal Deadline**, please consult the List of Important Dates. Withdrawal from courses after the Registration Revision period will not be eligible for tuition refund. A grade of "W" will appear on the student's transcript.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

Students, who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a **Revised Examination** Request form to the Registrar's Office by the deadline date, please consult the List of Important Dates. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; 2) three final exams within three consecutive exam time blocks; 3) the scheduled final exam slot conflicts with an exam at another institution; 4) extenuating circumstances. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

Electronic Etiquette

Students are expected to treat their instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students with respect. It is disruptive to the learning goals of a course or seminar and disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor to engage in electronically-enabled activities unrelated to the class during a class session. Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Please do not use iPods, MP3 players, or headphones. Do not text, read, or send personal emails, go on Facebook or other social networks, search the internet, or play computer games during class. The professor has the right to disallow the student to use a laptop in future lectures and/or to ask a student to withdraw from the session if s/he does not comply with this policy. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Dean. If you are expecting communication due to an emergency, please speak with the professor before the class begins.

Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar. Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.

Extensions

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a “**Course Extension**” from the Registrar’s Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar’s Office by the deadline date, please consult the List of Important Dates. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise “due to circumstances beyond the student’s control”.

Appeal of Grade

An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar in writing within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal to review final grades. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University College as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else’s ideas, words, or work as one’s own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to give credit to another person’s ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student’s permanent record.

Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.

Other

Any added features in the syllabus are optional. You may or may not wish to include elements such as a bibliography, reading list, schedule of lectures/topics, or reporting form.