

# ANTH 1010: CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY ONLINE

SPRING 2015

**Instructor:** Maureen Boyle

**Email:** maureen.boyle@usu.edu

**Office Hours:** My preferred method of communication in this class is by **Canvas email**.

Office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00-3:00 PM. During this time, I will be available through Canvas email. Outside of office hours, I will respond to emails within 2 days.

## Course Description

This online course introduces concepts and methods in the field of cultural anthropology, which seeks to understand the causes, consequences, and complexities of human cultural variability. During the first portion of the semester, we will examine the core anthropological concepts of cultural relativism, power, gender, kinship, and social inequality, as well as contemporary issues in ethnographic fieldwork, through a close reading of T.W. Ward's (2014) *Gangsters Without Borders: An Ethnography of a Salvadoran Street Gang*. The second portion of the course explores special topics in medical anthropology, including medical belief systems and the relationship between language and health in Navajo society today, as well as issues related to globalization in Hmong traditional medicine.

## Course Objectives

The primary goal of this course is to help students gain an understanding of the concept of culture from an anthropological perspective.

### IDEA Objectives

In accordance with USU's course evaluation system, this course will focus on the following learning objectives:

1. Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends)
2. Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories

3. Developing skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field most closely related to this course
4. Gaining a broader understanding and appreciation of intellectual/cultural activity

IDEA objectives will be incorporated into the course as you gain a basic background in the fundamental concepts and methods of cultural anthropology; develop a holistic, comparative approach to the study of human culture necessary for professional anthropological research; and broaden your understanding of diverse cultural activities ranging from urban gang initiation to Hmong healing rituals.

## Course Structure

This online course is divided into two modules:

- **Module One** focuses on the topic of U.S. urban gang life in anthropological perspective and engages students with a close reading of the contemporary ethnography *Gangsters Without Borders*.
- **Module Two** examines special topics in medical anthropology.

Each weekly unit will differ slightly and may combine any of the following elements: short lectures; assigned readings, online media content, and/or films; and graded assignments.

## Graded Material

There are **no exams** in this class. Grades for this class are based on three individual components: 10 quizzes (20% of your final grade), 10 discussions (30% of your final grade), and three assignments (50% of your final grade). Each quiz is worth 10 points. Discussion forums are worth 20 points. The Kinship Exercise is worth 50 points. The Ethnographic Response assignment is worth 100 points, and the Medical Anthropology Paper is worth 100 points.

### USU Standard Grading Scheme

- A 100% to 94%
- A- <94% to 90%
- B+ <90% to 87%
- B <87% to 84%
- B- <84% to 80%
- C+ <80% to 77%
- C <77% to 74%

- C- <74% to 70%
- D+ <70% to 67%
- D <67% to 60%
- F <60% to 0%

### **Late Work Policy**

You are responsible for all due dates. Once an assignment closes in Canvas, you cannot turn in late work. If an unexpected emergency or other major concern occurs, please contact me as soon as possible so that we can arrange make-up work. I would prefer that you contact me before or during the week of the assignment, if possible. If not, please do contact me regarding a late assignment as soon as you are able.

### **Extra Credit Policy**

I do not offer extra credit. I feel that you can all do well in this course with the given material and that your time should be spent engaging with and understanding that material. Please do not contact me regarding exceptions to this policy.

## **Required Texts**

This course has two required texts. Supplemental readings will be provided through Canvas.

- Emily Schultz and Robert H. Lavenda (2014) *Cultural Anthropology: A Perspective on the Human Condition (Ninth Edition)*, Oxford University Press
- T.W. Ward (2014) *Gangsters Without Borders: An Ethnography of a Salvadoran Street Gang*, Oxford University Press.

## **Canvas**

All coursework will be completed and submitted online via Canvas. During the first week of class, please complete the following two set-up tasks: 1) Set your notification preferences in Canvas choosing how you prefer to receive updates, announcements, reminders, and comments (via email, text, etc.); 2) Choose an Avatar image for yourself, which will help create a more engaging environment for our online discussions. You are responsible for all updates and other information on Canvas. Student tutorials are provided on the Canvas homepage. Address any technical problems to the USU Help Desk (<http://helpdesk.usu.edu> or 435-797-HELP).

### **Computer Requirements for Canvas**

Please visit <https://canvas.usu.edu/support/canvasRequirements.cfm>.

## Logging onto Canvas

Homepage: <http://canvas.usu.edu> (or via MyUSULink on USU homepage)

Username: A-number

Password: USU strong password

## Emailing in Canvas

Canvas is the preferred method of communication for this class. You can send messages in Canvas in two ways:

1. Create a Conversation by clicking on the "Inbox" tab located on the upper right side of the homepage (near the Search bar) and typing in recipient(s) names.
2. Alternatively, you can create a Conversation by clicking on the "People" tab located in the Canvas Sidebar of the homepage. Click on a name in the list that appears and then click on the "Send Message" button.

## Your Grades in Canvas

Your scores for graded assignments will be displayed in the Canvas gradebook.

## Discussion Guidelines

This class is largely discussion-based. We will have twelve discussion forums and one additional discussion for your Ethnographic Response assignment. Your participation is required and welcomed.

### Discussion Forum Format

For each discussion forum, there will be a discussion prompt posted on Monday relating to your readings, online media content, and/or films for that week. Each discussion has two parts:

1. You will complete one original, paragraph-length response to the discussion prompt, which will always be due by Wednesday of that week.
2. You will respond to **two** of your peers' original posts in this order: respond to the two people who have posted their original post *after* you. If you are the last person to post in your group then go back to the top and begin your responses there. There is no set length requirement for your responses, but they should be substantive. In other words, your responses must be more than just an "I agree" or "I liked your post" opinion. They should engage with the original post: you may choose to draw a parallel example from your own life; you're encouraged to challenge and expand on your peer's ideas. Constructively, of course! We're not writing a term paper in our discussion forums so write clearly but conversationally. By completing readings *beforehand*, you will vastly

improve the quality of our discussions.

Discussion forums will follow this schedule: Original Post due by Wednesdays at 11:59 PM, and Responses due by Sundays at 11:59 PM.

NOTE: The discussion portion of your Ethnographic Response will differ from the discussion forum format and schedule. Please refer to the Course Schedule for due dates and the Canvas Assignment for instructions.

### **Discussion Etiquette**

This class focuses on the study of cultures that differ from and intersect with your own and, for some of you, that *are* your own. Be courteous and respectful to your fellow peers. Share your ideas. Do not make personal attacks. Avoid racist, ethnocentric, sexist, homophobic, classist, ageist, and ableist language.

## **Quizzes**

You will have frequent short quizzes in this class, which are designed to test your knowledge of the textbook and supplemental readings. Each quiz consists of five questions and is worth 10 total points. You will have 10 total quizzes. The quiz schedule is as follows: On the given week, the quiz will be available to take in Canvas beginning on Monday and is due on Friday by 11:59 PM.

## **Course Schedule**

| <b>MODULE ONE: GANGSTERS WITHOUT BORDERS</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Week 1<br>January 7-9                        | Welcome and Introduction to the Class<br>What Is Culture?<br>READINGS:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Schultz and Lavenda (2014) Chapter 1</li></ul> ASSIGNMENT: Introduce Yourself |
| Week 2<br>January 12-16                      | READINGS:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Schultz and Lavenda (2014) Chapter 2</li></ul>                                                                                             |

|                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Papachristos (2005) "Gang World"</li> </ul> <p>ASSIGNMENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quiz 1</li> </ul>                                                                                                                    |
| <p>Week 3<br/>January 19-23</p> | <p>Ethnographic Fieldwork</p> <p>READINGS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schultz and Lavenda (2014) Chapter 3</li> <li>Ward (2014) Chapter 1</li> </ul> <p>ASSIGNMENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion Forum 1</li> <li>Quiz 2</li> </ul>      |
| <p>Week 4<br/>January 26-30</p> | <p>Locating Culture in History</p> <p>READINGS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schultz and Lavenda (2014) Chapter 4</li> <li>Ward (2014) Chapter 2</li> </ul> <p>ASSIGNMENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion Forum 2</li> <li>Quiz 3</li> </ul> |
| <p>Week 5<br/>February 2-6</p>  | <p><i>Hard Times</i></p> <p>READINGS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ward (2014) Chapter 3</li> </ul> <p>FILM: <i>World's Most Dangerous Gang</i></p> <p>ASSIGNMENT: Discussion Forum 3</p>                                                                            |
| <p>Week 6<br/>February 9-13</p> | <p>Culture &amp; Power</p> <p>READINGS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schultz and Lavenda (2014) Chapter 8</li> <li>Ward (2014) Chapter 4</li> </ul>                                                                                                                  |

|                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                  | <p>ASSIGNMENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion Forum 4</li> <li>• Quiz 4</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <p>Week 7<br/>February 16-20</p> | <p>Gender &amp; Kinship</p> <p>READINGS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schultz and Lavenda (2014) Chapter 10</li> <li>• Ward (2014) Chapter 5</li> </ul> <p>ASSIGNMENT: Kinship Exercise due by <b>Sunday, February 22 at 11:59 PM</b></p>                                                                     |
| <p>Week 8<br/>February 23-27</p> | <p>Social Inequality</p> <p>READINGS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schultz and Lavenda (2014) Chapter 12</li> <li>• Ward (2014) Chapter 6</li> </ul> <p>ASSIGNMENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion Forum 5</li> <li>• Quiz 5</li> </ul>                                             |
| <p>Week 9<br/>March 2-6</p>      | <p><i>Becoming Calmado</i></p> <p>READINGS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ward (2014) Chapter 7 &amp; Epilogue</li> </ul> <p>ASSIGNMENT: Ethnographic Response – Response papers are due by <b>Monday, March 2 at 11:59 PM</b>; Discussion Responses 1 and 2 are due by <b>Friday, March 6 at 11:59 PM</b></p> |
| <p>Week 10<br/>March 9-13</p>    | <p><b>SPRING BREAK—NO CLASS</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

|                                                |                                              |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>MODULE TWO: MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY</b></p> |                                              |
| <p>Week 11<br/>March 16-20</p>                 | <p>Medical Anthropology</p> <p>READINGS:</p> |

|                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schultz and Lavenda (2014) Chapter 13</li> <li>• Alvord and Pelt (1999) Chapter 1 "Chantways"</li> </ul> <p>ASSIGNMENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion Forum 6</li> <li>• Quiz 6</li> <li>• Choose a topic for your Medical Anthropology Paper and select your source</li> </ul>                                                                    |
| <p>Week 12<br/>March 23-27</p>           | <p>Healing Rituals</p> <p>READINGS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schultz and Lavenda (2014) Chapter 6</li> <li>• Excerpt from Fadiman (2012) <i>The Spirit Catches You</i></li> </ul> <p>ASSIGNMENT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion Forum 7</li> <li>• Quiz 7</li> <li>• Topic Statement for Medical Anthropology Paper due by <b>Friday, March 27 at 11:59 PM</b></li> </ul> |
| <p>Week 13<br/>March 30-<br/>April 3</p> | <p>Medical Belief Systems</p> <p>READINGS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schultz and Lavenda (2014) Chapter 7</li> <li>• Miller and Karkazis (2012) "Health Beliefs and Practices in an Isolated Polygamist Community of Southern Utah"</li> </ul> <p>ASSIGNMENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion Forum 8</li> <li>• Quiz 8</li> </ul>                                         |
| <p>Week 14<br/>April 6-11</p>            | <p>Language &amp; Health</p> <p>READINGS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schultz and Lavenda (2014) Chapter 5</li> <li>• Alvord and Pelt (1999) Chapter 6 "Ceremony Medicine"</li> </ul> <p>ASSIGNMENTS:</p>                                                                                                                                                                                             |



|                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion Forum 9</li> <li>• Quiz 9</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <p>Week 15<br/>April 13-18</p> | <p>Natural Resource Development &amp; Public Health</p> <p>READINGS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schultz and Lavenda (2014) Chapter 9</li> <li>• Brugge (2002) "The History of Uranium Mining and Navajo People"</li> </ul> <p>ASSIGNMENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion Forum 10</li> <li>• Quiz 10</li> </ul> |
| <p>Week 16<br/>April 20-24</p> | <p>Globalization &amp; Health</p> <p>READINGS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schultz and Lavenda (2014) Chapter 14</li> </ul> <p>FILM: <i>The Split Horn</i></p> <p>ASSIGNMENT: Work on your Medical Anthropology Paper, which is due next week</p>                                                                                          |
| <p>April 27-May 1</p>          | <p>MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY PAPER due by <b>Friday, May 1 at 11:59 PM</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

## University Policies and Procedures

### Academic Integrity

Each student has the right and duty to pursue his or her academic experience free of dishonesty. [The Honor Pledge](#) establishes the higher level of conduct expected and required of all Utah State University students.

### Academic Dishonesty

The instructor of this course will take appropriate actions in response to Academic Dishonesty, as defined the University's Student Code. Acts of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to:

- **Cheating:** using, attempting to use, or providing others with any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, examinations, or in any other academic exercise or activity. Unauthorized assistance includes:

- Working in a group when the instructor has designated that the quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity be done “individually;”
- Depending on the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments;
- Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, in taking an examination or preparing academic work;
- Acquiring tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty member, staff member, or another student without express permission;
- Continuing to write after time has been called on a quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity;
- Submitting substantially the same work for credit in more than one class, except with prior approval of the instructor; or engaging in any form of research fraud.
- **Falsification:** altering or fabricating any information or citation in an academic exercise or activity.
- **Plagiarism:** representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one’s own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes using materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in the sale of term papers or other academic materials.

## Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is defined by the Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as any "unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature." If you feel you are a victim of sexual harassment, you may talk to or file a complaint with the Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Office located in Old Main, Room 161, or call the AA/EEO Office at (435) 797-1266.

## Withdrawal Policy and "I" Grade Policy

Students are required to complete all courses for which they are registered by the end of the semester. In some cases, a student may be unable to complete all of the coursework because of extenuating circumstances, but not due to poor performance or to retain financial aid. The term ‘extenuating’ circumstances includes: (1) incapacitating illness which prevents a student from attending classes for a minimum period of two weeks, (2) a death in the immediate family, (3) financial responsibilities requiring a student to alter a work schedule to secure employment, (4) change in work schedule as required by an employer, or (5) other emergencies deemed appropriate by the instructor.

## Students with Disabilities

Students with ADA-documented physical, sensory, emotional or medical impairments may be eligible for reasonable accommodations. Veterans may also be eligible for services. All

accommodations are coordinated through the Disability Resource Center (DRC). Please contact the DRC prior to or as early in the semester as possible. Alternate formats for course content are available with advanced notice.

Contacting the Disability Resource Center (DRC):

- On Campus: Room 101 of the University Inn
- Phone: 435-797-2444
- Website: <http://www.usu.edu/drc/>

Disability related resources for current students:

- [DRC Student Handbook](#)
- [Deaf and Hard of Hearing Student Handbook](#)
- [Disability Related Scholarships](#)
- [Campus Resources](#)
- [Documentation Guidelines](#)
- [Online Resources for Students with Disabilities](#)

## Diversity Statement

Regardless of intent, careless or ill-informed remarks can be offensive and hurtful to others and detract from the learning climate. If you feel uncomfortable in a classroom due to offensive language or actions by an instructor or student(s) regarding ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation, contact:

- Student Services: <http://www.usu.edu/student-services/>, 435.797.1712, [studentservices@usu.edu](mailto:studentservices@usu.edu), TSC 220
- Student Advocates: <http://www.usu.edu/ususa/legal/>, 435.797.2912, TSC 340,
- Access and Diversity: <http://www.usu.edu/accesscenter/>, 435.797.1728, <mailto:access@usu.edu>; TSC 315
- Multicultural Programs: <http://www.usu.edu/accesscenter/multiculture/>, 435-797-1728, TSC 315
- LGBTQA Programs: <http://www.usu.edu/accesscenter/lgbtqa/>, 435-797-GAYS, TSC 314
- Provost's Office Diversity Resources: <http://www.usu.edu/provost/faculty/diversity/>, (435) 797-8176

You can learn about your student rights by visiting:

The Code of Policies and Procedures for Students at Utah State University: <http://www.usu.edu/student-services/studentcode/>

## Grievance Process

Students who feel they have been unfairly treated may file a grievance through the channels and procedures described in the Student Code: [Article VII. Grievances](#).

Full details for USU Academic Policies and Procedures can be found at:

- [Student Conduct](#)
- [Student Code](#)
- [Academic Integrity](#)
- [USU Selected Academic Policies and Procedures](#)
- [USU Academic Policies and Procedures](#)
- [Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibility Policy](#)