

ANTH 2202: Cultural Anthropology

Summer 2025

Northland Community and Technical College – Distance Minnesota

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MN Transfer: History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences (5) and Global Perspectives (8). This course is a study of the richness of human cultural diversity and the creativity of adaptation strategies to the physical and social environments. Particular attention is directed to the methods used in cultural anthropology and to the functions and diversity of social institutions such as family, religious, economic, and political organization, as well as other major cultural features. Prerequisites: None

Course Materials: Perspectives: An Open Invitation to Cultural Anthropology. Assigned chapters and supplementary material will be posted on the D2L course site.

Course Overview: It is expected that you will thoughtfully participate in the class assignments and discussions, engage respectfully with class members, and demonstrate the original ability to think critically about the course material. The D2L site for the course contains important course information, documents, and assignments.

Course Grade Information

The study of cultural anthropology is unique in that it serves as a lens through which we can explore the diversity of human experiences, cultural practices, and social institutions. This course is designed to help you critically engage with anthropological concepts and theories to analyze the ways culture shapes individual behaviors, collective traditions, and societal structures. By examining cultural variation across time and place, you will develop the tools to reflect on your own cultural norms and values while gaining the skills to analyze contemporary global and local issues through an anthropological perspective.

A rubric-based grading framework to enhance anthropological understanding is used to assess assignments based on the ability to and applying anthropological theories, conducting ethnographic observation, and analyzing cultural practices and systems. A general grading rubric outlining expectations for each assignment is posted on D2L and will be used to assess submitted work.

Grading Scale:

48–52 points = A

44–47 points = B

40–43 points = C

36–39 points = D

Below 36 points = F

Course Assignments: Assignment types include reflections, ethnographic analyses, and anthropological applications. Each assignment is worth 4 points. One assignment may be skipped or the lowest score will be dropped at the end of the semester.

Classroom Policies:

- To be counted in attendance you'll need to participate in a graded activity during the first week of class. If you don't engage in any graded activities during that time, you may be dropped from the course in accordance with institutional policies.
- All Academic Dishonesty violations outlined in the Student Code of Conduct will be reported.
- Late work: Assignments and discussions submitted late will only be eligible for half credit and will only be accepted up to one week following the original due date. If there are extenuating circumstances that have resulted in late work, please contact me as soon as possible.
- The virtual classroom will remain a secure environment in which cultural, intellectual, and social diversity can be respectfully expressed and appreciated.

A Note on Academic Dishonesty: "Plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to, the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials (Northland Student Code of Conduct). All classroom submissions (via D2L) will be checked for plagiarism, including the use of AI or ChatGPT. Students will receive a grade reduction or zero assignment grade for plagiarized content and will fail the course if the behavior continues. All cases of plagiarism will be reported in accordance with Northland policy.

Policy on CHATGPT or other A.I. created/A.I. Augmented work:

1)Using a product or technology (ChatGPT, Dall-E, etc.) in the course to create or aggregate synthetic content for the course such as any course writing, brainstorming, generating a draft, a works cited source bank, answering discussion groups, substitute or impersonate you in zoom, classroom, breakout rooms, collaboration, group work, or other attendance activities, is considered academic misconduct similar to plagiarism or violations of the honor code.

2)Using a product or technology as identified above to help you edit your work (improve your quality as defined by course instruction, course definitions, standards & expectations, and rubrics) is not a violation of the honor code statement, as long as you cite the tool or identify it as a partner or augmentation in use for a course related activity before submitting your work.

Disability Access and Learning Services: If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Academic Success Center. It is the responsibility of the student to schedule alternative arrangements for assignments with both the instructor and Academic Success Center in advance.

Diversity: It is an integral part of Northland Community and Technical College’s mission to acknowledge, understand, value, and celebrate the diverse heritage, cultures, and individuals within our learning environment and communities. The college views diversity as an essential component of the education experience of our students.

Mental Health: As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learnings, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating, and a lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. A counselor and online options are available. <https://www.northlandcollege.edu/about/offices/counseling-services/>

Learner Outcomes:

In the process of attending class and completing all assignments students will be able to...

1. Identify and explain the goal and practices, subfields and related fields of anthropology.
2. Analyze the concept of culture and draw conclusions regarding the integrated and diverse adaptation mechanism that culture provides for human survival.
3. Analyze and recognize human cultural variation in subsistence, economic and political practices.
4. Discuss cultural, economic, and political differences and the problems and solutions that arise as a result of cultural diversity.
5. (ILO: 3) Analyze and recognize human cultural variation in relation to forms of marriage, family relationships, structures, roles, including gender roles and values, and the different and similar functions fulfilled by kin groups.

Course Topic	Assignment	Due Date @ 11:59PM
Introductions and Expectations	Introductions and Course Expectations Quiz for Extra Credit and First Week Attendance	**Friday, May 23
Introduction to Anthropology	Understanding Anthropology	Sunday, May 25
Fieldwork in Anthropology	Considering Fieldwork	Sunday, June 1
The Culture Concept	Exploring the Culture Concept	Sunday, June 1

Language	Language, Thought, and Worldview	Sunday, June 8
Subsistence	Reflecting on Food and Subsistence	Sunday, June 8
Economic Systems	Economic Systems	Sunday, June 15
Political Anthropology	Observing Power and Authority	Sunday, June 15
Family and Marriage	Kinship Mapping and Reflection	Sunday, June 22
Family and Marriage	Cross-Cultural Marriage Practices	Sunday, June 22
Religion	Observing Religion	Sunday, June 29
Race and Ethnicity	Race and Ethnicity Across Cultures	Sunday, June 29
Gender and Sexuality	Analyzing Gender and Sexuality	Sunday, July 6
Seeing Like an Anthropologist	Seeing Like an Anthropologist	Sunday, July 6
Seeing Like an Anthropologist	Final Anthropological Reflection	Sunday, July 13

**All due dates are Sunday at 11:59PM, with the exception of the first week attendance requirements.

The course schedule is a living document, which means it may be updated or adjusted as we move through the term to ensure we meet the goals and objectives of the course. If you're feeling unwell or unable to complete assignments, please let me know as soon as possible so we can discuss your progress and any necessary accommodations. Due dates and announcements will always be posted on D2L, so be sure to check regularly to stay on track. I'm here to support you—don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions or need assistance! Please communicate with me if you fall behind or there are barriers to your success in this class. I am happy to discuss what may be helpful to you and/or guide you to many of the resources available at Northland.