**ANTH 210:   
COMPARATIVE CULTURES  
CRN # 13695**

Instructor: Bo Bestvina  
 Day/Time: T, R 9:30-10:50 a.m.  
 Room: BC-234

Office: BC-123  
Office Hours: T, R 11:00-12:00 p.m. or by Appointment  
Email: bestvib@linnbenton.edu

Text:

Nanda, S. & Richard W. (2011). Culture Counts: A Concise Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (2nd ed.). Wadsworth

Peters-Golden, H. (2012). Culture Sketches: Case Studies in Anthropology (6th ed.) McGraw-Hill

**Course Overview:**

This course will introduce the concepts, theories and methods Cultural Anthropologists use to understand similarities and differences between cultures around the world. In exploring the range of cultural behavior, we will examine specific cultural dimensions such as social stratification, religious belief systems, subsistence strategies, art and music, economic and political systems, and kinship structures. We will look at diversity in dimensions across cultures, and we will interpret relationships between dimensions in order to better understand and appreciate the ways human groups think and behave.

**To succeed in this course, students should be able to:**

1. Understand how Cultural Anthropologists study and make comparisons between different cultures. 2. Understand some of the core theories Anthropologists use to describe cultural practices. 3. Explain how environmental, historical, and economic circumstances account for differences in cultures. 4. Explain some of the ways different cultural dimensions influence each other. 5. Using more recent examples, students should be able to critically think about the process of cultural change.

**Course Format:**

We will be interacting with the material for this course in a variety of ways. Teaching methods will include discussion, lecture, small group assignments, and short films. Content from class activities may possibly be on a quiz or in an essay prompt. So keeping up with readings and coming to class prepared to participate will drastically improve your chances of success. You will also get more out of the course and have more fun by coming to class and paying attention.

**Course Requirements and Evaluation:**

Course grades will be determined by performance in three areas: quizzes, essays, and class assignments. **Important: Quizzes are given at the beginning of class and essays are due at the beginning of class.**

* Quizzes: Four out of five quizzes at 25 points each for 100 points total. There will be five quizzes throughout the term that will cover the previous 1-2 weeks of class material (i.e., assigned readings, class lecture, videos and discussion). If you complete all 5 quizzes, you will be allowed to drop your lowest quiz score. If you miss one quiz day, that quiz will count as your dropped quiz score. The quizzes will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. You will be allowed 30 minutes to complete the quiz. Quizzes cannot be made up so missing multiple quizzes could seriously affect your final grade.
* Essays: Five Essays. The first four essays are shorter and are worth 15 points each, and the final essay is worth 30 points for 90 points total. Please see handouts for specific essay requirements. Important: Half of this course involves learning the material, and the other half is about communicating your knowledge of the material to me. To that end, you will need college level reading and writing skills to succeed in this course. Please do not hesitate to talk with me or make an appointment with the writing center to improve your essay grades.
* Class assignments (Five at 2 points each for 10 points total). These will be small assignments issued throughout the term to gauge where you are at with the material. These assignments are free points for those who show up and complete them.

The final grade for this course will be based on the sum of all available points according to the following scale:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Below 130=F | 130-139=D | 140-159=C | 160-179=B | 180-200=A |

**Classroom Policies:**Cell phones must be silenced during class. Laptop computers are allowed in class **for note- taking only.** If the temptation to check Facebook or to instant message, text, tweet, etc. is too overwhelming for you, please leave your cell phone and/or computer at home, and plan to take notes the old-fashioned way. I reserve the right to take away computer privileges due to misuse during class. Food and drinks are okay as long as you are not disruptive to others around you.

**Academic Integrity:**  
Academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, fabrication, cheating, etc.) will not be tolerated and will result in a failing grade on a specific assignment, quiz, and/or failure of the course. To learn more about academic dishonesty, please consult Linn-Benton’s student handbook. Violations of these rules will result in disciplinary action in accordance with the university’s procedures and a failure of the assignment.

**Information on the Writing Centers:**The Benton Center has highly qualified Writing Center staff for students with varying writing skills. You can also go to LBCC main campus Writing Center, located inside the Learning Center (WH-200). At the Writing Center, a trained writing consultant will work individually with you on anything you're writing (in or out of class), at any point in the writing process from brainstorming to editing. Check out their website at http://www.linnbenton.edu/learning-center/writing-center, call (541) 917-4708, or e-mail WritingCenter@linnbenton.edu

**Diversity:**

LBCC prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, color, religion, ethnicity, use of native language, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, veteran status, age, or any other status protected under applicable federal, state, or local laws.

**Email Policy:**In emails to me, please put the course title in the subject line. Include your full name in all emails. If you have questions on an essay, please let me know as soon as possible. If for example, you email me with a question the night before an assignment is due, you cannot expect me to respond to you before class.

**Civility:**  
To create and preserve a classroom atmosphere that optimizes teaching and learning, all participants share a responsibility in creating a civil and non-disruptive forum. It is likely you may not agree with everything that is said or discussed in the classroom. Courteous behavior and responses are expected. Neither instructor nor student should be subject to others’ behavior that is rude, disruptive, intimidating, or demeaning. Classroom discussion should be civilized and respectful to everyone and relevant to the topic we are discussing.

**Students with Disabilities:**   
Services and accommodations are available to students covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students who may need accommodations due to documented disabilities, who have medical information which the instructor should know, or who need special arrangements in an emergency, should speak with the instructor during the first week of class. If you have not accessed services and think you may need them, please contact Disability Services at 917-4789 or go to Red Cedar Hall, Room 105 (on the LBCC Main Campus).

**INCOMPLETE POLICY:**  
Incompletes are reserved only for those students who have completed the majority of class requirements and have a documented emergency (e.g., illness, family emergency, etc.) that prevents them from completing the course. If you feel that you would qualify for an incomplete grade, you must see me to fill out the appropriate paperwork. \*All remaining coursework must be completed before the end of the next academic term.

**Course Calendar (Items are subject to change)**

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| **Date** | **Topic** | **Readings Due** | **Important** |
| **June 24** | **Course Intro** | **None** | **Come to class!** |
| **June 26** | **General Anthropology** | **Chapter 1, Nanda** | **Essay #1 Handout** |
| **July 1** | **Cultural Anthropology** | **Chapter 2, Nanda** | **Essay #1 Due** |
| **July 3** | **Research Methods** | **Ch. 3, Nanda** | **Quiz #1. Essay #2 Handout** |
| **July 8** | **The Azande** | **Ch. 1, Peters-Golden** | **Discussion** |
| **July 10** | **Subsistence** | **Key Concepts: Ch. 5 in Nanda** | **Essay #2 Due** |
| **July 15** | **The Yanomami** | **Ch. 15, Peters-Golden** | **Quiz #2. Essay #3 Handout** |
| **July 17** | **Economics** | **Key Concepts: Ch. 6 in Nanda** | **Discussion** |
| **July 22** | **The Hmong** | **Ch. 5, Peters-Golden** | **Essay #3 Due** |
| **July 24** | **Stratification** | **Key Concepts: Ch. 10 in Nanda** | **Essay #4 Handout Class Check-in** |
| **July 29** | **Political Organization** | **Key Concepts: Ch. 9 in Nanda** | **Quiz #3** |
| **July 31** | **The Aztecs** | **Ch. 2, Peters-Golden** | **Essay #4 Due Final Essay Handout** |
| **August 5** | **Marriage, Kinship** | **Key Concepts: Ch. 7 in Nanda** | **Discussion** |
| **August 7** | **The Trobriand Islanders** | **Ch. 14, Peters-Golden** | **Film (popcorn?)** |
| **August 12** | **Religion** | **Key Concepts: Ch. 11 in Nanda** | **Quiz #4** |
| **August 14** | **The Roma** | **Ch. 11 Peters-Golden** | **Check-in on Final Essays** |
| **August 19** | **Power and Conquest** | **Ch. 12, Nanda** | **Final Essay Due** |
| **August 21** | **Globalization** | **Ch. 13, Nanda** | **Discussion** |
| **August 26** | **Applying Anthropology** | **Ch. 14 Nanda** | **In Class Review** |
| **August 28** | **Course Summary** | **Review notes from previous class** | **Final Quiz** |