This course is a general survey of the field of cultural anthropology, and is designed to familiarize you with some of the ways cultures are both similar and different from one another, as well as some of the methods and theories used in studying and explaining these similarities and differences. Exploring a variety of cultural configurations from different societies, we will examine a wide range of topics, including: social structure, kinship, marriage, gender, politics, economics, art, and religion.

The types of questions to ask as fledgling cultural anthropologists include: How does the organization of government relate to the economic structure of a given culture? Since religion is a universal human trait, how has it shaped ideas, customs, and morals? How is gender variance expressed in different societies? Using the comparative, cross-cultural method—distinctive to cultural anthropology—you will explore these and many other diverse ideas and behavior that characterize humanity and the human condition. Using global and holistic perspectives to examine the economic, social, political, cultural, and ideological dimensions of society, this course introduces you to the tools, contents, and methods of Cultural Anthropology—one of four branches of General Anthropology—and its focus on the study of human behavior and the ideas that generate it.

This course thus examines the fundamental questions cultural anthropologists ask, the methods used to answer these questions, and some of the uses and applications of anthropological understandings and knowledge. Inherent to this process, and as evoked by the quotation of Margaret Mead above, self-reflection and critical analysis of one's own worldview, assumptions, and cultural belief systems are fundamental facets and objectives of this course.

Finally, keep in mind that, as much of a cliché as it is, what you get out of this course depends on what you put into it. To start with, make sure to complete each week’s readings before lecture as this will both help you in following and participating in class. Note, however, that you do not need to have answers. That, after all, is why you are taking this course. Asking a good question is often of far greater value than knowing the specifics of any given issue. Lecture is yours—it is your chance to discuss, debate, and grapple with course materials, and I strongly encourage you to take full advantage of class and use it to help both broaden and deepen your understanding of the materials.

Required Texts:

**EVALUATION**

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Contemporary Examination</td>
<td>(5%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper Religion/Ritual Fieldwork</td>
<td>(25%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>(25%)</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>Midterm</td>
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**PARTICIPATION and EXPECTATIONS**

The single best way to prepare for and to succeed in this course, simply stated, is to read the assigned materials in advance and to pay attention in all class meetings. Especially given the vast range of materials pertaining to human existence, it is important to realize that what is covered in class sets the parameters for writings of assignments and exams (making this one of those things where ‘you really had to be there’). You are expected to come to class prepared to participate in informed discussion of the material. Bringing questions to class regarding the various course readings and materials is expected, but also be sure to think about and question how course materials connect to “the real world” as well! Also note that failure to complete the assigned paper or either class exam will result an F for the class.

**Academic Dishonesty** is the highest crime among scholars. Consequences are severe and, at the least, will result in an ‘F’ for that assignment if not for the class. I have also known cases in which one’s higher education degree has been revoked upon discovery of plagiarism, so be aware and beware! (Besides, what you have to say really is much more compelling and interesting anyway!)

As per the Student Academic Honesty Policy:

A. Students are responsible for knowing and understanding the rules of Academic Honesty as outlined in the university catalog, to include fabricating information and data, cheating, facilitating academic dishonesty, and plagiarizing.

B. Students are responsible for communicating with the professor if they do not understand how the policy applies to a particular class or assignment. Students are responsible for utilizing the library resources (e.g. the plagiarism tutorial, consulting a librarian, or referring to a style guide) on academic honesty and plagiarism to fully understand the differences between a citation, giving credit, original writing, and plagiarism.

**GRADING, ATTENDANCE, & MAKE UP WORK**

Work that simply but correctly fulfills the requirements of any assignment will receive a ‘C’, while truly good work will receive a ‘B’. Only exceptional work will receive an ‘A’. Since each class meeting represents an entire week of class, only two absences will be allowed without penalty (with obvious exceptions for hospitalizations and the like) and, as per CSU policies, coming in late and leaving early count as partial absences. Also note that since the paper assignment is known well in advance, late papers lose 1/3 of a letter grade per day (including weekends).

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations must be approved for services by providing appropriate and recent documentation to the Office of Disabled Student Services (DSS). This office is located in Craven Hall 4300A, and can be contacted by phone at (760) 750-4905, or TTY (760) 750-4909. Students authorized by DSS to receive reasonable accommodations should meet with the Department Chair during his or her office hours in order to ensure confidentiality.

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**COURSE SCHEDULE**
Note: always come to class having read the assigned reading for that class!

Week 1 – Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
[in class] Class Syllabus; Annual Editions, Article 29

Week 2 – Online – The Study of Human Diversity
Read: Seeing Anthropology, Ch. 1; AE, Articles 2 & 27; Culture Sketches, Ch. 12

Week 3 – Understanding Culture
Read: Seeing Anthropology, Ch. 2; AE, Articles 9 & 28; Culture Sketches, Ch. 2

Week 4 – Doing Anthropology: Fieldwork and Theories
Read: Seeing Anthropology, Ch. 3; AE, Articles 1 & 3; Culture Sketches, Ch. 14

Week 5 Meanings: Language, Symbols, and Art
Read: Seeing Anthropology, Ch. 4; AE, Articles 5 & 8; Culture Sketches, Ch. 7

Week 6 Psychology and Culture
Read: Seeing Anthropology, Ch. 5; AE, Article 10; Culture Sketches, Ch. 4

Week 7 Patterns of Production
Read: Seeing Anthropology, Ch. 6; AE, Articles 11; Culture Sketches, Ch. 3

Week 8 Distribution and Consumption
Read: Seeing Anthropology, Ch. 7; AE, Article 12 & WebCT (see week 8); Culture Sketches, Ch. 6
[MIDTERM EXAM]

Week 9 Marriage and Family
Read: Seeing Anthropology, Ch. 8; AE, Articles 15 & 18; Culture Sketches, Ch. 13

Week 10 Social Organization and Kinship & Power and Politics
Read: Seeing Anthropology, Ch. 9 & 10; AE, Articles 16 & 17; Culture Sketches, Ch. 9 & “The Kapauku” (on WebCT)

Week 11 Online – Social Organization and Kinship & Power and Politics
Read: Seeing Anthropology, Ch. 9 & 10; AE, Articles 16 & 17; Culture Sketches, Ch. 9 & “The Kapauku” (on WebCT)

Week 12 Facing the Supernatural: Magic, Religion, and Ritual
Read: Seeing Anthropology, Ch. 11; AE, Articles 26 & 30; Culture Sketches, Ch. 1
[PAPER DUE: Ethnographic Field Work, Ritual and Religion]

Week 13 The Cultural Construction of Gender and Sexuality
Read: Seeing Anthropology, Ch. 12; AE, Articles 19 & 21; Culture Sketches, Ch. 8

Week 14 Online – Culture Change
Read: Seeing Anthropology, Ch. 13; AE, Articles 31 & 35; Culture Sketches, Ch. 5

Week 15 Medical Anthropology
Read: Seeing Anthropology, Ch. 14; AE, Articles 14 & 23