

Anthropology 302: (31090) (31095) (31100) (31105)

Cultural Anthropology

Spring 2013

M/W 11:00-12:00, College of Liberal Arts Bldg. (CLA) 0.112

F Discussion Section Meetings: Variable

Professor Circe Sturm

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:00-3:00 and by appointment.

Graduate Teaching Assistants:

Chelsi West

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Tane Ward

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Course Description

By studying a range of selected topics and case studies, this course introduces you to the cultural diversity of human beings and will provide you with tools for thinking critically about the classic concepts, theories and methods of cultural anthropology. Our primary objective will be to understand both the universal manner in which all human beings constitute themselves through culture, and the great diversity of specific cultural expressions that have resulted from these processes. In the past anthropologists have pursued these ends by studying distant and “exotic” peoples, the more different from “us” the better. In this class we will critically examine this “we/they” dichotomy and how it has shaped the discipline. We will also explore what happens when we turn the anthropological lens back on our own societies and experiences.

This course carries the flag for Cultural Diversity in the United States. Cultural Diversity courses are designed to increase your familiarity with the variety and richness of the American cultural experience. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one U.S. cultural group that has experienced persistent marginalization.

Readings

1. Conrad P. Kottak (2013), *Cultural Anthropology: Appreciating Human Diversity*, 15th edition. McGraw Hill Publishers, Guilford, CT.
2. Bourgois, Philippe (2002) *In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio*, 2nd edition. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge.
3. Selected Chapters from Welsch, Robert L. and Kirk M. Endicott (2006). *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Issues in Cultural Anthropology*, 2nd edition. McGraw-Hill Publishers: Guilford, CT.