



# Cultures in Contact

ANT 326L (31225) Fall 2013

LAS 324L (40388)

Samuel M. Wilson

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## Introduction

"Cultures in Contact" is a multi-disciplinary course which combines Historical, Anthropological, Geographical and Literary analyses of the continuing "contact period" in the New World. The issues addressed span the last 500+ years of cultural interaction in the Americas, looking especially at the processes of cultural conflict, competition, cooperation, and synthesis that have taken place among people from the Americas, Europe, Africa, and Asia.

**Books:** Most of the readings will be on-line, linked to the schedule on this site. You need to find a copy of Peter Nabokov (ed.) *Native American Testimony* and you can find many new and used copies on-line. Please make sure that you get the 1999 revised addition (0140281592), not the 1991 edition (0140129863) or any other version. The 1991 version does not contain all of the assigned readings. The book is not available at the bookstore.

**Requirements:** Grades will be assigned on the basis of three exams and twelve short assignments. See the [Assignments](#) page for details.

**Important Details:** This is the main web site for the class, but Blackboard will occasionally be used for posting files and sending out information.

The Teaching Assistant for this class is [Debora Trein](#). She will hold office hours in the Anthropology Department ([Student Activities Center, 4th Floor](#)) Room SAC 4.192 from 11:00 to 12:00 on Tuesday and Thursday, and by appointment if necessary. If you have questions, please contact the Teaching Assistant before contacting the Professor. For questions of interest to the whole class we will try to come up with an answer and then send it out to everyone. Professor Wilson's office hours are Wednesday from 1:30 to 3:00.

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone) or <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd> . Please do this early in the semester.

**Flag:** 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.

***[Obligatory threatening passages]***

Students who miss exams or the due dates of assignments without notifying the professor or Teaching Assistants *in advance* will, under most circumstances, not be allowed to take the exam and will forfeit that portion of their grade.

If you do not hand in a short "activity" report on the day it is due, you may hand it in the next class period. After that the assignment will not be accepted. Activities will not be accepted by email.

We take plagiarism extremely seriously, particularly the use of a sort of "cut and paste" approach to your written "activity" assignments. If you haven't already done so, please review the learning module on plagiarism here -

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/services/instruction/learningmodules/plagiarism/>  
Cases of academic dishonesty are referred to the Dean of Students, whose policies are discussed here:

[http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acadint\\_plagiarism.php](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acadint_plagiarism.php)

Attendance will not be taken, but you should consider being in class to be extremely important. The exams will cover both the reading material and our discussions in class. Powerpoint presentations and other material used in class will not be made available on the web or released individually.

**Other Information:**

The University of Texas has many resources to help you deal with academic and non-academic issues. Here are some resources:

- Center for Strategic Advising and Career Counseling:  
<http://www.utexas.edu/ugs/csacc>
- Undergraduate Writing Center: <http://uwc.utexas.edu/>
- Counseling & Mental Health Center:  
<http://cmhc.utexas.edu/>
- Student Emergency Services:  
<http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/emergency/>
- BCAL - the "behavioral concerns advice line" is a great service to use if someone you know is having real problems or seems to be a possible threat to themselves or others:  
<http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal>

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