Cultural anthropology describes and explains the varieties of human belief and behavior and the meanings that people from different societies ascribe to their experiences. The concepts and methodologies of cultural anthropologists are used throughout this course in order to understand these beliefs, behaviors, and meanings that populations assign to family relations, gender identity, marriage, religion, subsistence, economics, and politics. The lessons of anthropology are relevant well beyond the classroom. This course will offer you an important opportunity to apply an anthropological perspective to the world around you. You can use anthropological research findings to help you understand contemporary social issues and to see the world from different points of view.

Anthropology 250 is an approved diversity course meeting the G.E. requirement for Block D (Social Sciences). Anthropology 250 also is a required lower division course for the major in Anthropology as well as a required course for Liberal Studies: Cultural Studies of Option II: Elementary Subject Matter Teacher Preparation Option.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives:
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe the diversity of cultures in the world as well as cultural universals
- Identify and describe characteristics of human culture
- Use a holistic perspective integrating all cultural elements including religion, language, technology, political structure, subsistence, art, and social organization to teach others about your own culture or a different culture
- Discuss the dynamic nature of culture and processes of culture change
- Describe the kinds of work that anthropologists do and how they can influence societies
- Analyze your own cultural biases and perspectives

**Topic 1.** Overview of the course and requirements

Introduction to anthropology; what anthropology is, the scope of anthropology, its approach to the study of populations, the four fields of anthropology

History of the development of anthropology as a discipline

Concept of culture
Assigned
Readings: Lenkeit - Chapters 1,2

**Topic 2.** Concept of culture (continued)
Anthropological methodology; hypothesis testing, doing ethnography, participant observation,
The nature of fieldwork

Assigned
Readings: Lenkeit - Chapters 3,4


**Topic 3.** Enculturation and socialization
Rituals; Rites of Passage

Assigned

Little Red Riding Hood.

**Topic 4.** Gender differences and social roles
Division of Labor

Tuesday, July 11th meet with Catherine Haras at Library (Basement of Library North) to learn how to searche using the library’s databases

Assigned
Readings: Lenkeit - Chapter 9.

**Topic 5.** Marriage, kinship, and family structure

Assigned
Readings: Lenkeit - Chapters 7,8.

**MIDTERM EXAMINATION**

**Topic 6.** Means of Subsistence and Socioeconomic systems
Hunters and gatherers, pastoralists, horticulturalists, agriculturalists, industrialized society

Assigned
Readings: Lenkeit - Chapters 5,6

**Topic 7.** Socioeconomic systems (continued)
Allocation of land; peasant societies Reciprocity

Assigned Readings: Lenkeit - Chapter 5
**Topic 8.** Political systems  
**Law and conflict resolution**

Assigned  
Readings: Lenkeit - Chapter 10  

**Topic 9.** Magic and religion/Supernaturals

Assigned  
Readings: Lenkeit - Chapter 11

**Topic 10.** Culture Change  
**Trends in technological change**

Assigned  
Readings: Lenkeit - Chapters 12, 13

**Finals Week.**

**FINAL EXAMINATION:** Tuesday, June 9, 2014 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

**Required Readings:**


ASSIGNED ARTICLES:  
Weekly assigned readings in addition to the Lenkeit text will be announced. These readings will be available on Moodle. Please read the articles and text for the specified week of class and be prepared to discuss them.

**Grading:** Grades will be based on the curve of two examinations (midterm and final), and one writing assignment. The final will test material covered after the midterm but not prior to the midterm.

- Midterm =100 points  
- Final = 100 points  
- Quizes = 20 points  
- Papers = 100 points

**TOTAL = 320 points**

Final Grade Assignment:  
A: >= 88% of total points (282-320)  
B: 78-87% of total points (250-279)  
C: 68-77% of total points (217-247)  
D: 55-67% of total points (176-215)  
F: < 55% of total points (<176)

**Examinations and Papers:** Examinations consist of multiple choice questions, true false, and fill in the blanks. Questions will come from lectures as well as assigned readings, movies, and any other class related materials. Make-up examinations will be given only for verifiable catastrophes.

All papers are **due at the very beginning of the class period, between 11:40-11:45 am.**
Assignments not turned in when the instructor collects them are marked "LATE." Late papers are accepted by the next class session and are graded downward by one full grade. Papers sent by e-mail are not accepted.

**Attendance:** Class attendance is mandatory. Periodically, roll will be taken at the beginning of the class. To receive attendance credit, students must be seated by 11:45 am and stay the entire period. Students with good attendance will be given the higher grade if they are near, but slightly below, the border between two grades. Students with poorer attendance are not graded downward, but students with poorer attendance miss important announcements and class content that affects class performance and grades. It is nearly impossible to receive a good grade without attending every class session.

Current CSULA deadline dates regarding dropping and adding classes may be obtained at [https://get.calstatela.edu/Registrar.htm](https://get.calstatela.edu/Registrar.htm)

**Attendance During the First Week of Class:** Please note, instructors can drop students during the first week of class. Students who are absent, late, or who leave class early during the first week (at either or both of the first two meetings) will lose attendance credit and may be dropped.

**Moodle Learning System:** You will need a CSULA NIS account in order to access the extensive Moodle System (formerly WebCT) that I have created for your class. I keep readings, class handouts, syllabus, announcements, discussions, and in general, all sorts of helpful items on Blackboard.

**University Learning Services:** University Tutorial Center, located in the Palmer Wing 1039 of the Library (323-343-3971) offers individual and group tutoring for Anth 250. The Center also provides workshops covering a variety of topics including study skills, notetaking, and test taking.

University Writing Center, located in the Palmer Wing 2098 of the Library (323-343-5350) provides individual and group tutoring, help with writing and revising papers, and also offers writing workshops to meet the needs of Anth 250 students.

University Advisement Center (Academic Advisement Center for Undeclared Majors) is also located in the Palmer Wing 1040 of the Library (323-343-3150). The AAC offers 3 quarter plans, help with selecting a major, getting students off probation and other services.

The Veterans Affairs Office is responsible for ensuring student military veterans have access to a streamlined system of support. Contact them at ADM 146 323-343-3900.

**Office for Students with Disabilities.** Students with disabilities are advised to register with OSD if they think they may require academic accommodations. They are located in Student Affairs Room 115. Telephone 323-343-3140. email address: [OSD@calstatela.edu](mailto:OSD@calstatela.edu)

**Policy on classroom distractions:** The time you are in class, is the time you have committed to learning so please be on time. I try to minimize the classroom distractions for all in attendance at lectures. In order to accomplish this, persons are not allowed to enter our room once class starts. The official start time is 11:40 am but I actually start class at 11:45 am because I understand that students may need a bit of extra time to get here. Late arrivals may enter together at 12:00 pm.

Please, let’s all be thoughtful about creating an environment that’s respectful of others and conducive to learning.

**Reservation:** This course syllabus is a tentative syllabus; it may be subject to changes announced in class.