

Cultural Anthropology

course # ICS2003-1 FA14
credit hours: 3
location: Campus Center 228
time: Fall Semester, 3:20p-4:20p

instructor(s): Matt Price
Office: Campus Center 253
Office Hours: 4:30-5:30 M-W-F
School of Theology

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Course Description

This course is an introduction to the tools anthropologists use to gain insight into individual's faith and to discover appropriate means of expressing the truth of the Gospel.

Special emphasis is given to the dimensions of culture, worldview issues, contextualizing the Gospel, and the incarnational paradigm.

Furthermore, the course will explore the variety of human cultures found around the world by allowing students to investigate cultural similarities and differences.

They will not only understand others better but also gain insights into their own cultural background. This course will also introduce students to the methods used by cultural anthropologists to understand the diversity present in our world.

Course Outcomes

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Grasp the basic knowledge necessary to study aspects of culture and worldview from an anthropological perspective.
- 2) Conduct basic research using ethnographic and library research.
- 3) Associate key ideas from anthropology with other experiences and issues in religion, language, health, and communication. (Integrative Thinking, Stewardship)
- 4) Integrate essential elements of anthropological literature to the broader human experience. (Integrative Thinking, Adaptability and Problem Solving)
- 5) Appreciate the breadth of anthropological research and its value in helping connect people of various cultural backgrounds. (Diversity)
- 6) Discern how to observe culture through the lens of one's own perspective as well as that of a cultural other. (Diversity, Citizenship)

This course fulfills the University Core requirement for Explorations in the Social Sciences, and it is a required course in the Intercultural Studies major. It is open to any student without a prerequisite.

Course Textbooks

Barley, Nigel. 2000. *The Innocent Anthropologist: Notes from a Mud Hut*. Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland Press. (DT571.D68B36 2000; ISBN: 1-57766-156-7)

Howell, Brian M. and Paris, Jenell Williams. 2011. *Introducing Cultural Anthropology: A Christian Perspective*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic. (ISBN: 978-0-8010-3887-7 / LOC: BR115.C8 H69)

Collateral Choices:
Van Gennep et al. (1961). *Rites of Passage*. University of Chicago Press.
Nathan, Rebekah. (2006). *My Freshman Year*. Penguin Books.

Three Ways to Explore the Course Outcomes (James 1:2-8)

Skimmers show a curious interest in the course subject. They will skim the reading, attend class, & learn the main concepts but stay near the surface without venturing far from familiar shores. They will earn an average grade at best.

Snorkelers will move beyond the shallows to probe below the surface, examine the concepts they find, make connections within the course, and try to apply them. They will spend more time on the readings, ask more **WHAT** and **HOW** questions, and participate actively in class.

Deep divers will critique what they find and how to apply it while seeking new insights and integrating them with previous learning, asking **WHY** questions, spending more time on assignments and conducting research beyond the minimum.

NOTES:

COURSE PROJECTS

Reading Reflection Paper for Nigel Barley *Innocent Anthropologist & Collateral Book*. You will write two book reflections of 1000 words each. Use the three-step outline given below. The first paper is on Barley's *Innocent Anthropologist* (required) and then another book chosen from the list below (no exceptions—all collateral choices are available on OhioLINK).

Collateral Choices:

Rites of Passage by Arnold van Gennep (1961)

My Freshman Year by Rebekah Nathan (2006)

READING REFLECTION WRITING GUIDE

Summary (100 words) -- What is this book about? What are some unique characteristics about the author? Why do you think the author wrote the book?

Critique (600 words) – What does this book say specifically about anthropological research? What does this book say specifically about other cultures? What are some insights from Barley that help you better understand how to interact with other cultures? What were some of the disagreements you had with the author

Application (300 words). *In what ways has the author challenged your previous thinking about yourself, other cultures, and God? What are some connections between the course presentations, discussions and readings and what you've read from the author? How might you change your mind and possibly your life in response to what you've read? How could you apply their ideas into your personal and professional life?*

Fieldwork Projects (Course outcomes 2, 5, 6). By the end of the semester, you will make an attempt at fieldwork by putting into practice several types of anthropological research techniques. Directions for each project will be available on Moodle (also completed work will be submitted there). See Course Schedule for Due Dates. Complete in any order.

Project: Examining Folklore

Project: Participant Observation

Project: Ethnographic Interview

Unit Quizzes

Several objective-response quizzes will cover textbook vocabulary and other important information from class presentations and assigned readings. Pay particular attention to italicized words, personalities, and landmark research. They will be available on Moodle on the dates given in the Course Schedule. You may repeat a quiz for a higher score.

Final Exam Essay

On Moodle under final exam, you will find an article by Clifford Geertz, called "The Impact of Culture Upon the Concept of Man." After reading the article at least twice, complete the following assignment:

- 1) Make an outline of the Geertz article.
- 2) Using Geertz, Howell & Paris, Barley, assignments and class notes on your learning from the course to answer the question: "What does it mean to be human?" in an essay with no fewer than 1500 words.
- 3) Conclude with a summary paragraph with your position on what it means to be a human who is Christian.
- 4) Make sure to interact with the article and course materials since this is a comprehensive exam. (Hint: Include lots of relevant citations and your thoughts on those citations.) Use consistent MLA or APA citations and works cited.

"The purpose of anthropology is to make the world safe for human differences." – Ruth Benedict

Course Evaluation

Assignments	Points	Learning Hours
Attendance (-50 pts for each unexcused absence; -25 pts for excused absences)	--	40
Assigned Reading ((261+ 190 = 451) + Collateral (196/174)=625 to 645 at 15pph)	--	43
Unit Quizzes (6 x 50 pts)	300	9
Book Reflection Papers (150 pts x 2)	300	10
Fieldwork Projects (3 x 100 pts)	300	18
Comprehensive Final Exam Essay	100	10
TTOAL	1000	130

Grading scale is:

A	1000-930	B	879-830	C	749-720	F	599>
A-	929-900	B-	829-800	C-	719-700		
B+	899-880	C+	799-750	D	699-600		

One course learning hour equals . . .

- 10-15 pages of reading (1000 level) (300 page book = 30 learning hours)
- 15 pages of reading (2000 level) (300 page book = 20 learning hours)
- 15-20 pages of reading (3000 level) (300 page book = 15-20 learning hrs)
- 20-25 pages of reading (4000 level) (300 page book = 15 learning hours)
- 2 pages of writing (500 words) (add one hour of research for every research page written, no extra hours added for reflection papers)
- 1 minute of video
- 3 minutes of presentation with visual aids (Powerpoint, Prezi, object lesson, skit, illustration, dialogue, etc.)
- 60 minutes of class seat time or online posting for attendance
- 60 minutes of research
- 60 minutes of exam time

All scheduled time spent in seminars/conferences/field trips (e.g. LEAP seminar should be added into total course work hours) excluding travel

Grading Rubric

A—Critical thinking and superior analysis, proper format and citations, new insights, good application, shows integration of outside sources, on time.

B – Solid work but misses the mark, few connections, no insights or integration, not formatted correctly, grammatical errors

C—Meets bare minimum expectations, summarizes without adequate analysis or application, many errors

Course Policies (A.A.A.A.)

Attendance Policy Regular attendance and participation is expected. The course is taught in an asynchronous format, meaning students may decide what time of day works best for them in order to participate. A minimum of three days of posting and regular reading will give the student much to do but also much time to complete assignments. No extensions will be given due to the accelerated nature of the course. The MVNU policy on class attendance, however, provides excused absences for these reasons:	1) participation in official university organizations (e.g. sports teams) and pre-arranged course trips; 2) severe emergencies or death in the immediate family; 3) legal responsibilities; or 4) extended personal illness when an authorized medical official requires confinement to home, room, or hospital. (NOTE: The following are not excused absences: Weddings, birthdays, school functions, holiday celebrations, work obligations, volunteer work, job interviews, hospital visits, feeling sick or tired).	Assignment Submissions Assignments are due on the due date at class time. No exceptions. Nothing accepted by email, either. Standard submission will be paper copy in class and/or to Moodle (TurnItIn) unless otherwise noted. 12pt font, double-spaced, proper APA or MLA citations, no grammar or spelling errors
		Accommodation See the instructor if you need accommodations, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and then follow the Disability Services Policies and Procedures as put forth by the office of Academic Success office or search for page on the MVNU web site. Instructors are generally able to accommodate as needed.

Academic Integrity

MVNU seeks learners committed to honesty among students, faculty, and staff, as a standard governing expectations for all campus and educational activities. As a Christian community, there is a moral and ethical responsibility to uphold this standard as found in the Academic Catalog (for examples of violations). All course work submitted to instructor(s) should be evidence of personal learning endeavors.

Course Schedule ICS2003 – FALL 2014 MWF 3:20p-4:20p							
Date	Topic	Reading	What's Due	Date	Topic	Reading	What's Due
Unit 1 Worldview & Culture							
Sept 1 M	Course Overview			Oct 20 M	NO CLASS	Midterm Break	
Sept 3 W	WhyAnthropology			Oct 22 W	Expression – Art		Fieldwork Project
Sept 5 F	Intro to Fieldwork	Howell & Paris, c1, c11		Oct 24 F	Play & Sports		Unit Quiz on Moodle
Sept 8 M	Defining Culture	Howell & Paris, c2		Unit 5 Illness & Health			
Sep 10 W	Which View of Worldview?	Kraft 1 & 2 on Moodle		Oct 27 M	Health, Illness, and Dis-ease		
Sept 12 F	Cultural Relativity	Beine on Moodle	Unit Quiz on Moodle	Oct 29 W	Folk Medicine in North America	Hand on Moodle	
Unit 2 Communication & Symbols				Oct 31 F	Excluded Middle	Hiebert on Moodle	
Sep 15 M	Contextualization			Nov 3 M	WV Conceptual Grid		Collateral Reading Reflection
Sep 17 W	Form & Meaning	Moodle video		Nov 5 W	"Horse Boy" video		
Sep 19 F	Receptor Oriented Communication			Nov 7 F	Cont'd		Unit Quiz on Moodle
Sep 22 M	"American Tongues" video		Fieldwork Project	Unit 6 Myth, Ritual & Folklore			
Sep 24 W	Language	Howell & Paris, c3	Video Notes	Nov 10 M	Purity & Pollution	Moodle video	
Sep 26 F	Cont'd		Unit Quiz on Moodle	Nov 12 W	Ritual Theory	Howell & Paris, c9	
Unit3 Social Structures—Power, Gender, Family, Kinship				Nov 14 F	Power of Myth		
Sep 29 M	<i>Power & Authority</i>	Howell & Paris, c4, c7		Nov 17 M	Folklore Analysis		Fieldwork Project
Oct 1 W	<i>Race?</i>	Diamond on Moodle		Nov 19 W	Native Am Rock Art		
Oct 3 F	Gender Identity	Howell & Paris, c5		Nov 21 F	Celtic folklore		Unit Quiz on Moodle
Oct 6 M	"Divorce Iranian Style" video		Video Notes	Unit 7 Urbanization, Globalization, & Technology			
Oct 8 W	Marriage/Kinship	Howell & Paris, c8	Barley Book Reflection	Nov 24 M	Urbanization		
Oct 10 F	Cont'd		Unit Quiz on Moodle	Nov 26 W	NO CLASS	Thanksgiving Break	
Unit 4 Expression & Production				Nov 28 F	NO CLASS	Thanksgiving Break	
Oct 13 M	Cultural Variables	Moodle video		Dec 1 M	Globalization	Howell & Paris c10	
Oct 15 W	Economy & Production	Howell & Paris, c6		Dec 3 W	Technology	Howell & Paris, c12	
Oct 17 F	Dependency	Knight on Moodle Maranz on Moodle		Dec 5 F	What does it mean to be human?		
				Dec 8 M	FINAL Essay	Geertz on Moodle	Due at 5:10 pm NO MEETING