

Cultural Anthropology Syllabus (ATR 220 - Online)

Elgin Community College

Instructor: Christine McGuire

Classroom: Online

Office Hours: By appointment

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Voice Mail: 847-697-1000 ext. 2165

Required Texts:

Check with the ECC Bookstore: eccbookstore@elgin.edu; 847-214-7395

Other Readings:

Additional articles/readings may be assigned at the instructor's discretion during the course of the semester.

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the diversity of human culture and presents a framework for understanding its differences. Culture, as the adaptive mechanism which provides for survival of the human species, is presented as an ever-changing expression of human values, behavior and social organization. Students will also learn about one of the main research practices of cultural anthropologists--ethnographic fieldwork--by reading ethnographies and by engaging in their own fieldwork project during the semester.

This online class is not self-paced. You still have to meet deadlines and complete work throughout the week. The online course is more flexible in that you can do your work from wherever you have Internet access and you can do it at anytime during the day. Keep in mind that you should be spending approximately 9 - 12 hours a week on this course.

Also, because this is an online course you should not expect for it to be any "easier" than a traditional face-to-face course. On the contrary, it may be more demanding because with an online course, you are forced to be more active in your learning versus passively attending a face-to-face class and just taking it in. All communication in this class is done via reading and writing for the most part. Consider that when you consider how much work it will be. You should be prepared to work very hard in this course.

Credits:

3 credit hours

Course Requirements:

Two Exams

One Ethnographic Research Project

Quizzes/Homework

Participation

Format Requirements for Papers/Assignments:

All written work is to be word processed and submitted in the Dropbox (unless otherwise indicated).

You may use any word processing program you wish; however, you **MUST** save your file as a "rich text format" ("rtf") when you send it to me, and you must include part of the assignment title in the file name along with your last name, for example, Research_Project_Johnson.rtf. If you have questions on how to save as a rich text format please let me know and I can walk you through this.

Attendance Policy/Class Participation:

This is an online course, which means that there are no specific days that we meet in a classroom.

However, participation is required within this course. Participation is done by posting messages in the discussion board and "attending" class. There will be weekly discussion prompts/questions that I will pose throughout the course that you are required to answer. In addition, you are required to respond to at least 2 of your classmates' answers for each of the prompts. (Please feel free to post more!) Your initial response should be posted no later than Thursday of the assigned week. This allows time for your classmates to read your postings and then respond.

Using the discussion board in this manner is a way to generate classroom discussions about topics that we will be covering in class. Attendance is achieved by regularly and actively logging into the class and completing required assignments by their due dates. Your participation grade is based on the quality and substance of your messages (not necessarily just the quantity of messages that you post), along with regular "attendance" and completion of assignments.