Peoples and Cultures of the World
ANTH 205 – Spring 2013

Mondays and Wednesdays, 16:10 – 17:25 PM – NCTM 122
Office Hours Monday 13:30 – 15:00 – Anthropology Bld. 105A
Instructor: Dr. Filipe Castro (fvcastro@tamu.edu)

The course explores four topics from an anthropological perspective. First we will discuss some aspects of the similarities and differences among human cultures, and discuss some cultural aspects that characterize human beings. Second, we will examine the role of colonialism and try to understand why inequities continue to plague the world today. Third, we will examine the victors and the vanquished that resulted from the Age of Discovery and how that period affected traditional societies around the world. Fourth, we will look at a range of global problems and crises that are affecting different cultures in various ways: globalization, terrorism, overpopulation, disease, poverty, warfare, and world debt. The overriding objective throughout the course will be to discuss these topics in a way that will demonstrate how an understanding of culture, history, environment, colonialism, and global problems will help us build a better perspective and understanding of why the world is the way it is today. This is an introductory course and thus there are no prerequisites for taking it.

Learning Objectives of the Course
As a result of taking this course you should gain a basic understanding of different human cultures and the variety of customs, which are considered the norm by some cultures but are not adopted by others. Hopefully, you will gain new insights into how cultures change over time, how historical events have affected human cultures, the important role humans must play in saving our natural environment, the impact of colonialism on today’s cultures and the many global problems that nations face today.
Grades
The course grade will be based on three (3) exams. There will be ten (10) unannounced quizzes. Each exam will be worth one third of your grade (3 x 33.3% = 100%). The quizzes will not be graded. Letter Grades are based on the following scale: 100-90 = A; 80-89.9 = B; 70-79.9 = C; 60-69.9 = D; <60 = F. The final exam is not comprehensive.

Due to security requirements we will not be able to tell you any grade over the telephone or by email. Grades will only be posted on the course website and can be accessed there.

Tests
Each test will consist of 50 to 100 multiple choice questions. Approximately 50% of the questions for each exam will come directly from lectures and any movie or video listed on your syllabus and/or shown during the assigned times. The other 50% of each exam will come from information in the readings.

Note that you must bring a photo ID with you to take each test. We need to be certain who you are and that you are enrolled in the course!

Missed Exams: Students who miss an exam on the scheduled test day must notify the instructor or a teaching assistant as soon as possible. Only students with a valid university excused absence will be allowed to take a make-up exam.

Extra credit projects are not an option in this course. Bonus questions may be available for each test, and will be based on short articles about current issues in anthropology.

Attendance
I do not take attendance, but I am under no obligation to provide any opportunity for the student to make up work missed because of an unexcused absence. Absent students will not be given any opportunity to take the quizzes.

Videos
Some scheduled movies will be shown in class; some you will have to watch in the library, or online.

The End of Poverty? 2011. Dir. Philippe Diaz

These movies are longer than the class duration, so they must be streamed from the Ed MS website, or viewed on line or by going to the library.
Readings

I am basing most of the classes on chapters of two books and one small booklet, which can be downloaded from the National Academy of Sciences website:


The content of my classes will be complemented with a small number of papers and book chapters that will help clarify some concepts. The PDF files will be accessible through Blackboard:


For those interested in exploring the subjects taught in class, there will be extra readings and videos. Some of these materials are videos, sometimes from TED ([www.ted.com](http://www.ted.com)), but there are other sources, mostly available online. An incomplete list is presented below. **These readings are NOT mandatory:**


Diversity Statement

Respect for cultural diversity is a core concept of Anthropology. In this course, each voice in the classroom has something of value to contribute to class discussion. Please respect the different experiences, beliefs and values expressed by your fellow students and refrain from anti-intellectual comments about other individuals, cultures, groups, or viewpoints. The Anthropology Department supports the Texas A&M University commitment to Diversity, and welcomes individuals of all ethnic groups, genders, sexual orientations, and family backgrounds.

Visit: [http://diversity.tamu.edu/WhatsDiversity/CommitmentToDiversity.aspx](http://diversity.tamu.edu/WhatsDiversity/CommitmentToDiversity.aspx).
Course Schedule

1. **Intro 2011**
   No readings other than the Syllabus

2. **The Discipline of Anthropology**
   Readings:
   - Class Notes

3. **A Short History of the Past**
   Readings:
   - Class Notes

4. **A Quick Look at Diversity**
   Readings and PBS Video:
   - Class Notes
   - Allport 1956 – *The Nature of Prejudice* – Chapter 1 – Preferential Thinking.
   - Watch PBS Video: A Class Divided, Parts 1- The Daring Lesson; and 2 – Day Two: [http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/divided/](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/divided/)

5. **Video: Race, the Power of an Illusion**
   Readings:
   - *Ten things everyone should know about race*: [http://www.pbs.org/race/000_About/002_04-background-01-x.htm](http://www.pbs.org/race/000_About/002_04-background-01-x.htm)

6. **Culture**
   Readings:
   - Class Notes
   - Kottak 1999 – Chapter 2 – Culture.
7. Kinship
   Readings:
   - Class Notes
   - Kottak 2011 – Chapter 7 – Families, Kinship, and Marriage.

8. Bands and Tribes
   Readings:
   - Class Notes
   - Kottak 1999 – Chapter 6 – Political Systems

9. Chiefdoms and States
   Readings:
   - Class Notes
   - Kottak 1999 – Chapter 6 – Political Systems

10. First Exam

11. Money and the Rise of Capitalism
    Readings:
    - Class Notes
    - Sernau 2009 – Chapter 1 – Class: A World of Rich and Poor.

12. ‘Haves’ and ‘Have Nots’
    Readings:
    - Class Notes
    - Sernau 2009 – Chapter 1 – Class: A World of Rich and Poor.

13. Religion
    Readings:
    - Class Notes
    - Sernau 2009 – Chapter 8 – Ethnicity and Religion.
    - Kottak 2011 – Chapter 9 – Religion
14. Marriage and Sex
    Readings:
    - Class Notes
    - Sernau 2009 – Chapter 3 – Gender and Family.

15. Colonialism
    Readings:
    - Class Notes
    - Kottak 2011 – Chapter 10 – The World System and Colonization
    - Video: *The End of Poverty?*

16. Age of Discovery and New Spain
    Readings:
    - Class Notes
    - Sernau 2009 – Chapter 6 – War.

17. Movie: *The Mission*
    Readings:
    - Movie *The Mission* Notes

18. Settlement of New England
    Readings:
    - Class Notes

19. Settlement of Canada
    Readings:
    - Class Notes

20. Movie: *Black Robe*
    Readings:
    - Movie *Black Robe* Notes

21. Indian Acculturation
    Readings:
    - Class Notes
    - Sernau 2009 – Chapter 8 – Ethnicity and Religion.

22. Second Exam
23. Anthropology of the American Diet
   Readings:
   - Class Notes

24. World in Crisis I
   Readings:
   - Class Notes
   - Sernau 2009 – Chapter 2 – Work.
   - Sernau 2009 – Chapter 4 – Education.

25. World in Crisis II
   Readings:
   - Class Notes
   - Sernau 2009 – Chapter 9 – Urbanization.

26. Why Are There So Many People?
   Readings:
   - Class Notes
   - Sernau 2009 – Chapter 11 – Technology and Energy.

27. World in Crisis III - Pollution
   Readings:
   - Class Notes
   - Sernau 2009 – Chapter 12 – Ecology.

28. World in Crisis IV - Trade
   Readings:
   - Class Notes
   - Sernau 2009 – Conclusion.

29. Final Exam
Aggie Code of Honor

An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate those who do. The Aggie Code of Honor affirms values that apply to students, faculty, and staff alike. This simple statement exemplifies two of our core values—excellence and integrity—and underscores our commitment to ethical conduct and compliance with laws and official policies.

These core values forge a strong base to embrace our other core values of leadership, loyalty, respect, and selfless service (see web site: http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor).

Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, in Cain Hall, Room B118, or call 845-1637. For additional information visit: http://disability.tamu.edu.

I hope you enjoyed the class!