

# Course Syllabus

## For ANTH 220 Sociocultural Anthropology

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## Overview

Welcome to "Sociocultural Anthropology." The focus of this introductory course is the study of human culture from a global perspective grounded in the belief that an enhanced global awareness is essential for people preparing to successfully take their place in the fast-paced, increasingly interconnected world of the twenty-first century. The course draws upon classic and recent research in biological, cultural, linguistic, social, economic, and political anthropology, and religion to produce a holistic and global perspective of humanity. The design of the course focuses students in assigned readings, conceptualization activities, vocabulary building, and upon leading issues.



U.S. Government. "Mayan Funerary Urn." Pottery. (December 2004). This public domain image was retrieved from Wikimedia Commons.

## Course catalog description for this course

This course introduces the nature of human culture from a global perspective. Emphasis is on cultural theory, methods of fieldwork, and cross-cultural comparisons in the areas of ethnology, language, religion, and the cultural past to produce a holistic and global perspective of humanity. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate enhanced global awareness including an understanding of basic cultural processes and the methodologies involved in the collection and analysis of cultural data.

## Prerequisites and corequisites

There are no prerequisites or corequisites for this course.

## Course credit

**Three (3) semester hours.**

## Instructional objectives

A student who finishes this course has maintained active participation and has demonstrated that he or she is able:

1. To identify and demonstrate the great cultural diversity of humankind;
2. To identify, in spite of the many differences, in what ways humans are fundamentally similar;
3. To demonstrate the effects of interactions between different peoples (i.e. reach an understanding of the process of globalization);
4. To demonstrate the holistic nature of anthropology as an interdisciplinary field;
5. To identify the diachronic perspective and the comparative approach of anthropology; and

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6. To state the definition of basic terms.

### Your instructor

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The instructor of record for this course is Dr. Michael P. Germano. To contact him on course details and issues please use the email program in the e-learning system (Populi) or [mgermano@livinguniv.com](mailto:mgermano@livinguniv.com). His telephone is 704-708-2291.

Dr. Germano held responsibilities in Ambassador University's involvement in archaeological excavations at the south Temple Mount directed by Benjamin Mazar, the Umm el-Jimal Project directed by Bert de Vries, the Mozan Expedition directed by Giorgio Buccellati and Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati, and the Hazor Excavations in memory of Yigael Yadin directed by Amnon Ben-Tor. His research focus has been on early church history and archaeology.



Based on his research in Jerusalem he presented a paper "The Ancient Church of the Apostles: Revisiting Jerusalem's Cenacle and David's Tomb" to the Near Eastern Archaeological Society (NEAS) and has a book in preparation detailing the history of the first era of the Church (31-135 CE) entitled *The First Christians: History, Myths and Traditions of the Apostolic Church*.

Ordained in 1983, Dr. Germano is an elder in the Living Church of God and serves as President of Living University.

### Students with disabilities

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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. Students who believe they have a disability requiring an accommodation, should inform the instructor through the email feature in the e-learning system (Populi). On the course "Info" webpage, simply click on the instructor's name and then select Send Email.

### Technology access

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This course requires web access and the student also has to have an established email account. The Adobe Acrobat Reader is necessary to view documents that are PDF files. It may be downloaded free at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>, which may then be installed and used to access PDF documents on this site.

### Course evaluation

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Student input is welcome for improving this course. Making suggestions by email is helpful. Our goal in this course is to facilitate the successful achievement of all instructional objectives by all students. At the end of the course students have the opportunity of assessing the

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course. We want to make distance learning courses as effective as we can. We may also ask some other questions concerning a student's experience in distance learning to help us improve our program. We appreciate students letting us know how we can improve our products and services for them and other distance learners.

### Textbooks

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The textbook for this course is:

**Scupin, Raymond. *Cultural Anthropology: A Global Perspective*. 7th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2007. ISBN: 9780132301749.**

A word of caution, the textbook used in this course is a commercial publication. It represents the views and ideas of its authors, editors, and publishers. Living University does not endorse the text nor vouches for its accuracy. We simply employ it in helping students master the content of the course.

### Withdrawing from or dropping this course

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It is the responsibility of a student to drop a course if he or she cannot meet the requirements of the course. Any student who stops attending a course without officially withdrawing from it risks receiving a punitive grade for that course. A student who finds it necessary to drop a course after the Late Registration (Drop/Add) Period must notify the Registrar's Office in writing. This action is sufficient for ensuring any refund owed you. Please note the following:

- If a student drops a course on or before the "Last day to withdraw from a course without a grade penalty" as published in the University Academic Calendar, even if his or her work is not of a passing grade, then a "W" is recorded.
- If a course is dropped after that date, but before the last 21 calendar days of the semester, then the instructor determines the grade. The faculty member will at this time record a grade of "W" if passing (not computed in GPA) or "WF" if failing (computed in GPA).
- Students who drop a course, yet remain in one or more other courses during the last 18 calendar days of the semester, will receive a grade of "WF."
- Students who completely withdraw from the University at any time during the semester may be given a grade of "W" on all courses.

If students do not initiate the withdrawal process, the instructor is required to initiate the administrative process and to record a grade of "W" or "WF" for the course depending on the date the faculty member drops the student from the course. Students who register for a course as an audit, but then withdraw will be assigned a grade of "W" for the course.

### Attendance in this online course

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One of the most vital aspects of the college and university experience is attendance and punctuality in the learning environment. Regularity of attendance is necessary for students to

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derive maximum benefit from a course and to maintain a satisfactory academic record, whether in an online course or in an on-campus course. We have noticed that students who fall behind in their coursework typically drop out. Therefore, we highly encourage you to complete your assignments on time as we want you to succeed. Remember Ecclesiastes: 9:10: "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, where you go."

Please be aware that all students who fall behind in an online course and do not complete twenty-five percent (25%) or more of the total assignments and other required activities for a course, on or before "Last day to withdraw from a course" as set forth in the University Academic Calendar, will receive a grade of "W" for it. After that date, the grade will be a "WF" and counted in a student's GPA. Moreover, an instructor may drop a student from a course whenever the instructor concludes that a student's class attendance or punctuality endangers the student's success or places other students at risk.

### **Icebreaker assignment**

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To officially begin this course you must complete an icebreaker assignment by which you introduce yourself to your classmates through posting a short autobiography on the course Discussion Forum. A student can earn 30 points by posting the Icebreaker assignment on time. These points could make the difference between an A or a B, or passing or not passing this course.

- The icebreaker assignment must be submitted not later than Friday, January 22.
- Post your biography as a reply to the "Icebreaker" topic on the lesson "Welcome and Overview" Discussion Forum.
- Please read and comment on at least two other bios by the due date in order to get credit.
- Full credit for this assignment will only be given if all three of the above requirements are met.

Do NOT create a NEW discussion. Simply tell the class about yourself and your goals. This is not the place for a profession of faith, or the details your conversion experience, or problems you have had with previous fellowships, as that information is more of a private nature. Here you inform your classmates what you would like them to know about you. As we have people from all over the world enrolled in this course each autobiography will help us know, understand and appreciate each other.

### **Course requirements and grades**

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#### **Due dates and extensions**

Students must complete the course by the last official day of instruction as set forth in the academic calendar.

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### **Reading assignments**

Specific assignments and due dates are set forth in each published lesson.

### **Exams**

Each of the five lessons has an associated online exam of not more than 20 questions. They are closed book exams. Under no circumstances are students to print the exam. Students are allowed sixty (60) minutes to complete each exam. Exams are made up of objective questions covering lectures, readings, and vocabulary words.

### **Study tips**

Distance learning emphasizes self-motivation. The instructor functions as a facilitator with the student as the driving force in mastering course content. Students are encouraged not to put off completing their readings and assignments. While there are many different learning styles, the following strategy should serve the needs of most students.

- Look over assigned readings.
- Read the assigned readings making notes before viewing the assigned lecture.
- Define terms in the assignment. The exams will specifically test basic terminology. Students should develop their biblical and theology vocabulary as they proceed assignment by assignment.
- As students view lectures, they should complete their notes.
- Each week students should review notes, geographical terms and locations, and the words they defined.

If a student has a question, ask. Questions should arise in the teaching-learning process. By bringing questions to our attention, students not only acquire assistance but they also maintain the interaction necessary in higher education. To submit a question just click on the instructor's name on the course "Info" page and send your question by email through the Populi system.

### **Terms and phrases**

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Each assignment includes a set of terms and phrases for you to learn. This exercise is to help you develop and expand your biblical and theological vocabulary as you proceed through the seven assignments and to help you focus on the context of the content you are reading. Examinations will specifically test your mastery of the basic terminology of this course. Many students find looking over vocabulary words just as they go to bed at night and as they arise in the morning helps commit them to memory. Be sure to review your definitions before an examination.

For some terms and phrases, we have given a scriptural link. We selected the NKJ, the New King James Version, as our default for scriptural text. When alternate scriptures appear we provide the appropriate link as NASB, KJV, RSV, NIV, and the like.

## **Grading**

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A course grade will be determined based on the number of points a student has earned over the semester as follows:

Icebreaker Assignment (30 points)

Exams (five, each worth 98 points, for a total of 490 points; online, closed book, only exam 5 to be proctored]

Discussions (five, each worth 10 points for a total of 50 points)

Course Evaluation (30 points)

TOTAL POINTS: 600

50 extra credit points can be earned in this course in five assignments each worth 10 points.

Grades are assigned in the traditional American style of an A, B, C, D, or F. In distance learning we believe that mastery of the subject matter is achieved when a student can demonstrate that they have achieved 80% of the objectives for a course. That means that we want students to earn at least 400 points in this course. If they do not do so then they have not developed the mastery we would like them to have.

We want this course to be competency-based and so it is possible for the entire class to receive an A or a B. There is no artificial curving of scores in the assignment of grades (if you don't know what that means, don't worry about it). Mastery of the material is what one's goal should be.

Grades are assigned by points as follows:

A 540-600 points

B 480-539 points

C 420-479 points

D 360-419 points

F Below 358 points

## **Academic irregularity**

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Students have the responsibility for conducting themselves in such a manner as to avoid any suspicion that they are improperly giving or receiving aid on any assignment or examination. An academic irregularity not only includes cheating but also includes plagiarism (taking another's ideas and/or words and presenting them as if they were the writer's own) and the submitting of the same paper in separate courses without prior consent from the faculty members concerned.

### What is Plagiarism?

- Plagiarism in academia is the act of stating or implying that another person's work is your own. You commit plagiarism if you:
- Submit a paper to be graded or reviewed that you have not written on your own.
- Copy answers or text from another classmate and submit it as your own.
- Quote or paraphrase from another paper without crediting the original author.
- Cite data without crediting the original source.
- Propose another author's idea as if it were your own.
- Fabricate references or use incorrect references.
- Submit someone else's presentation, program, spreadsheet, or other file with only minor alterations.

### Why is Plagiarism Wrong?

Below are some reasons why plagiarism is considered wrong and unethical. When you commit plagiarism, you hurt yourself and others in the following ways:

1. You deny yourself the opportunity to learn and practice skills that you may need in the future.
2. You deny yourself the opportunity to receive honest feedback on how to improve your skills and performance.
3. You invite future employers and faculty to question your integrity and performance in general.
4. You commit fraud on faculty who are evaluating your work.
5. You deprive another author due credit for his or her work.
6. You show disrespect for others who have done their own work.

### Penalties

In cases of suspected academic irregularity, faculty members may refuse to grade such papers, completely or in part, or examinations, and to record each of them as a failure. If an academic irregularity is sufficiently serious, the University may take one or more of, but not limited to, the following actions:

- Drop the student from the course with a grade of F;
- Place the student on academic probation; and/or
- Dismiss the student from the University.

### Course outline and assignments

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**Required reading assignments are to be completed before viewing the lecture.**

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### Lesson 1 Basic Concepts in Anthropology

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**Topic 1 Introduction to Anthropology**

**Topic 2 Human Genetics**

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### Lesson 2 Basic Concepts of Culture and Society

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**Topic 1 The Nature of Culture**

**Topic 2 Language**

**Topic 3 Anthropological Explanations**

**Topic 4 Analyzing Sociocultural Systems**

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### Lesson 3 Prestate Societies

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**Topic 1 Band Societies**

**Topic 2 Tribes**

**Topic 3 Chiefdoms**

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### Lesson 4 State Societies

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**Topic 1 Agricultural States**

**Topic 2 Industrial States**

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### Lesson 5 Globalization and Its Impact

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**Topic 1 Globalization and Culture**

**Topic 2 Globalization in Latin America, Africa, and the Caribbean**

**Topic 3 Globalization in the Middle East and Asia**

**Topic 4 Contemporary Global Trends**

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