

## Anthropology 102 Human Ways of Life: Cultural Anthropology

### Section 0419

Monday/Wednesday 9:35am-11:00am

Room: Academic Village 111

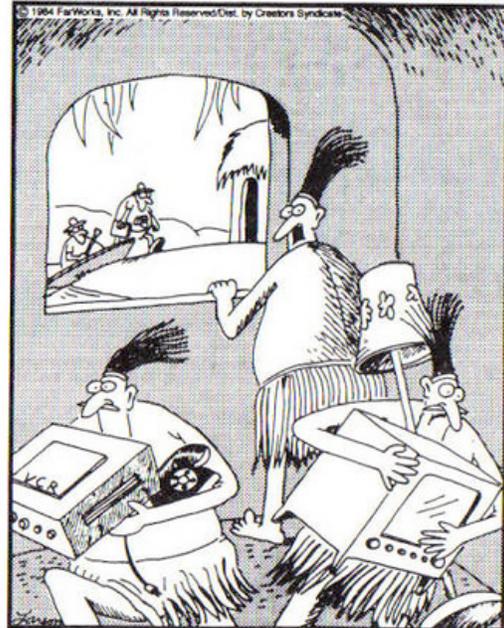
Instructor: Dr. Angela C. Jenks

Contact: [jenksa@lasc.edu](mailto:jenksa@lasc.edu), 323-242-5513

Office: Academic Village 102E

Feel free to visit me: Tuesday, 1-3pm;  
Wednesday, 4-6pm; or by appointment

THE FAR SIDE® By GARY LARSON



"Anthropologists! Anthropologists!"

### Anthro-what?: Course Description and Approach

Welcome to an introduction to sociocultural anthropology! Anthropology is the study of what it means to be human—anthropologists are interested in everything from chimpanzees (our closest primate relatives) to ancient civilizations, religious beliefs and practices, war, and social inequality. This class is focused on current social and cultural practices and institutions around the world as well as the key concepts, questions, and methods that anthropologists have used in their attempts to make sense of cultural difference.

Our goal is not just to understand “others” but to learn to see ourselves, as well, as the products of particular social, cultural, political, and historical processes. We will learn to make sense of beliefs and behaviors that may at first seem strange or meaningless and will try to look at the world from another point of view. At the same time, we will start to question what we see as normal and explore the limits of ideas about “human nature.”

This class is wide-ranging and draws on examples from around the world and from our own everyday lives. Topics covered include the “culture” concept and ethnography; language, family, gender, and religion; social stratification and inequality; economic and political systems; cultural change and contemporary globalization.

## What will you get out of this class?: Student Learning Outcomes and Goals

By the end of this course you should be able to:

- 1) Examine human ways of life holistically and comparatively, applying an anthropological perspective to the analysis of current events and social issues
- 2) Demonstrate an understanding of and respect for human similarities and differences
- 3) Analyze your own cultural biases and perspectives
- 4) Recognize the role of culture in human thought and behavior and identify ethnocentrism
- 5) Describe the principles of ethnography, recognize the importance of ethics in anthropology, and apply the principles of ethnographic research and analysis to the world around you

## What will you need?: Course Materials

- 1) Nanda, Serena and Richard Warms. 2012. *Culture Counts: A Concise Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth-Cengage Learning. ISBN: 978-1-111-30153-8

**Buy it** from the LASC bookstore or from online booksellers like Amazon.com

**Borrow it** from the reserve desk at the LASC library

**Rent it** for \$37.49 at <http://www.chegg.com>

**Get an electronic version** for \$32.99 at <http://www.coursesmart.com>

- 2) Enrollment in the course Moodle site to access online readings and reading quizzes, study materials, and additional resources; see instructions below
- 3) Scantron forms and blue books for in-class exams (available from the LASC bookstore)

## What will we be doing?: Course Requirements

This class will involve a number of different activities that are designed to introduce you to the breadth of cultural anthropology and give you a chance to apply some of the concepts we are learning in class to your own life. Your final grade in the class will be based on the following:

### 1) Attendance (5% of grade)

The two class sessions per week (M/W from 9:35am-11:00am) are a main source of learning for the course. Classroom activities may vary from one session to the next—they will include lectures and presentations, group discussions, and ethnographic or documentary films.

**To get a good attendance grade** you should:



Arrive to class on time and stay for the entire session.



Make sure you have checked in for each class. If you come in late and miss the roll call, come see the professor at the end of the class session.



Make sure your cell phones, mp3 players, etc. are silenced and put away during class. Please do not text or make/accept phone calls during class. Cell phone use will result in no attendance credit for the day and students may be asked to leave the class.

**More than five absences may result in your removal from the class.** However, if you decide to drop the course, it is your responsibility to officially withdraw; all students who are enrolled in the class after the final drop date will receive a grade.

## 2) Reading Quizzes (10% of grade)



**Complete all required reading assignments before each class session and take the weekly reading quiz on the online course Moodle site.**

The textbook and additional assigned readings are essential to your learning in this class. We will not always go over all of the readings in class; we will use class time to expand on the reading and examine certain topics in more depth.

Weekly reading quizzes will be posted **on the online course Moodle site** (see below for instructions on accessing this site). The quizzes must be completed **before** the class period listed in the course calendar.

**No make-up quizzes will be given for any reason, but only your top 10 quiz scores will be included in your final course grade.**

## 3) Exams (40% of grade)

**There will be three exams: two in class and one on the college-scheduled final exam date.**



**No make-up exams will be given for any reason. However, your lowest exam grade will be dropped. Your top two exam scores will be included in your final course grade.**

Exams will include a variety of questions, including matching and multiple choice, identification, short answer, and essays. The exams are not only focused on you repeating factual information, but give you a chance to integrate various issues discussed in class.

You will receive a study guide one week before each exam, but it is best if you do not wait until then to begin to study. Review your reading, lecture, and film notes regularly. Identify the main issues that are covered and the main questions that are addressed. You

may wish to share resources with fellow students and study groups can be very useful. In addition, please feel free to come to my office hours to ask any questions you may have.

### 3) Reflexive Essays (25% of grade)

**Six (6) short written exercises (approximately 500 words or 1 single-spaced typed page) will be required throughout the course.** These exercises are designed to give you an opportunity to apply the concepts we are covering in class to your own life and to the world around you. These assignments are designed to be informal and reflective but should still be professionally presented; **this means they should be neatly typed, proofread, stapled, and follow academic grammatical conventions.**

All assignments are due **at the beginning of class** on the date listed. You may either bring a printed copy to class or submit an electronic copy through the course Moodle site (NOT through email).



**No make-up, late, or e-mailed assignments will be accepted. However, only your top five scores will count toward your final course grade. You may complete the sixth short assignment for up to 25 points of extra credit.**

**See the additional handout for a description of the short assignments.**

### 4) Research Paper: Mini-Ethnography (20% of grade)

Ethnography is the main method and product of cultural anthropology. We will be talking quite a bit about ethnography throughout the course and will be reading many examples of ethnographic research. For your final project in the course, you will complete your own mini-ethnography of some aspect of life in the Los Angeles area.

Choose an unfamiliar public place or event where you can participate or discreetly conduct observations. The setting is up to you—it could be a store, a restaurant, a park, a cultural event, a tourist attraction, etc.

Design your research and turn in a 1-paragraph proposal describing the setting or group you propose to observe. This proposal is due by **Monday, September 26**. Conduct your participant-observation research and write field notes either during your observation or shortly afterward.

Write a **5-7 page paper** (typed, 12pt font, double-spaced, 1-inch margins) in which you report on your research and analyze your data. I encourage you to turn in outlines and rough drafts and to come to office hours to discuss your project. A final copy of your paper is due in class by **Wednesday, December 7**. **Please respect deadlines.** Five (5) points will be deducted for each day your paper is late (including weekends and holidays). If you cannot turn in your paper on time due to extreme circumstances, you must discuss this with me **before** the due date.

We will be discussing this project in more depth throughout the course. Please do not wait until the last minute to begin, though. Feel free to come and see me if you need ideas or would like to talk more about your particular interests and project.

## How will your grade be calculated?: Evaluation

Your final grade in the class will be calculated according to the following point totals.

Attendance/Participation	25 points	5% of final grade
Reading quizzes (top 10)	50 points	10% of final grade
Exams (top 2)	200 points	40% of final grade
Reflexive Essays (top 5)	125 points	25% of final grade
Research Paper	100 points	20% of final grade
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>500 points</b>	

Total points	Percentage	Letter Grade
450-500	90-100%	A (Excellent)
400-450	80-90%	B (Good)
350-400	70-80%	C (Satisfactory)
300-350	60-70%	D (Passing, less than satisfactory)
Below 300	Below 60%	F (Failing)

If you believe your final grade is inaccurate, speak to the instructor and submit a grade change request through the Admissions office.

**An important reminder about academic integrity:** Learning in this class depends on you completing all required assignments yourself. Per the LACCD's Board Rule 9803.28, **violations of academic integrity of any type provide grounds for disciplinary action by the instructor or college.** Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, the following actions: cheating on an exam, plagiarism, working together on an assignment, paper or project when the instructor has specifically stated students should not do so, submitting the same term paper to more than one instructor, or allowing another individual to assume one's identity for the purpose of enhancing one's grade.

Violations of academic integrity will result in no credit for an assignment or exam and possible course failure and referral to the college for disciplinary action. If you are unsure about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism, please see the instructor or complete this useful tutorial: <https://www.indiana.edu/~istd/>.

**How to Approach Controversial Topics:** Anthropology is focused on understanding the diversity of human life. The readings, discussions, and assignments required in this class will address many controversial topics, including sexual behavior, gender norms, and religious beliefs and practices. Many of the examples covered will seem strange and possibly objectionable to you, just as your own way of life may seem objectionable to many others around the world.

This class does not require you to agree with, believe in, or choose to follow any particular way of life and it does not ask you to be uncritical about social or cultural patterns. However, you are expected to approach alternative perspectives with respect and to listen to and seek to understand unfamiliar points of view. You also have the right to have others respectfully listen to and seek to understand your point of view. Please feel free to come and see the instructor at any point in the semester if you have any concerns.

**Last day to add a class: Monday, September 12**

**Last day to drop WITHOUT a “W”: Sunday, September 25**

**Last day to drop with a “W”: Sunday, November 20**

## Where can you get more information or help?: Additional Resources



### Online Resources

**--Course Website:** Information for this course can be found through the LASC Moodle system. The course website will include the syllabus, reading quizzes, other assignments, study guides, and recommended resources.

To access this system:

1. Go to <http://online.lasc.edu>
2. On the left, log in with your user name (your student ID number) and your password (the four digit month and day of your birth)
3. If you are officially enrolled in this course, you should be able to access the course site. It should be listed under “My Courses” as “Anthropology 102 - Human Ways of Life -0419 FA11- Jenks”
4. Click on the course page, and you will see a weekly list of quizzes and materials that can be accessed.

It is always a good idea to anticipate computer and website problems. As in any class, don't wait until the last minute before a deadline to begin an assignment. If you have any problems logging into the course page or with the Moodle system, please contact **Moodle technical support** at [LASCDEHelpDesk@lasc.edu](mailto:LASCDEHelpDesk@lasc.edu).



### Communicate with the Instructor

**Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions that are not answered by this syllabus.** My email address and office phone number are listed at the top of the syllabus.

**--Drop-In Office Hours:** Drop-in office hours will be held on Tuesdays from 1-3pm and on Wednesdays from 4-6pm. These times are when you can find me in my office (Academic Village 102E); you do not need to make an appointment—feel free to stop by during these times. Come in with any questions you have or any topics you would like to go over in more depth. I am also happy to read over and discuss your notes, outlines, rough drafts of papers, or any other materials.

**--Moodle Question Forum:** If you have a general question about the class (for example, about an assignment, activity, or reading), many of your peers may have the same question. **Please post your question on the “Ask your questions here!” forum on the course website.** Another student may be able to answer your question, or I will respond within 24 hours (not including weekends and holidays).

**--Email:** If you need to reach me privately, email is the best way to contact me (jenksa@lasc.edu). I receive a lot of email and often must scan through it quickly to identify important messages. To help with this process, **please place the words “Anth 102, 0419 ” in the subject of your message.** During the week (Monday-Friday), I will respond to your message within 24 hours. If you don’t hear back from me in that time frame, please resend your message. Please note that LASC’s email system is not able to send messages to AOL accounts; if you have an AOL account, you should open a free account at Yahoo or Gmail for this class.



## Campus Resources

**--Library:** The main library is an excellent resource. The assigned textbook for this class is on reserve there and can be checked out for short periods of time. The library collection also contains a number of older biological anthropology textbooks. Many books are available in either print or electronic versions. In addition, the library offers computer access, copy machines, and librarians who can assist with catalog searches. You can find more information and the library catalog at:  
[http://www.lasc.edu/students/library/about\\_library.html](http://www.lasc.edu/students/library/about_library.html)

**--Student Success Center:** The Student Success Center is located on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Cox building and offers individual and group tutoring as well as computer, internet, and printing access. For more information, go to: <http://www.lasc.edu/lasccenter/index.html>

**--Disabled student services:** The disabled students programs and services (DSPS) ensure access to educational programs and resources for all students. Many services are available for qualifying students, including special counseling, note taking services, alternative testing, reading assistance, tutoring, and specialized equipment. Any student who feels she/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact DSPS in room SSB 117 to discuss your specific needs. For more information, go to: <http://www.lasc.edu/dsps/index.html>

**--Behavioral and Social Science department and administration:** If you have any concerns or grievances about this class that are not addressed by the professor, please contact (in the following order), Dr. Tamura Howard, Chair of Behavioral and Social Sciences; Ms. Stephanie Brasley, Dean of the School of Behavioral and Social Science; and Ms. Trudy J. Walton, Executive Vice President.

## What should you read, study, and turn in?: Course Schedule and Assignments

Changes to this schedule may be made as necessary

Topic	Date	Readings to Complete before Class	Assignments Due
<b>Week 1: Introduction to the Course and to Anthropology</b>	Mon 8/29	No readings.	
	Wed 8/31	CC: Chapter 1 (pgs. 1-21) Online: "Body Ritual Among the Nacirema"	Log in to the course Moodle site and post in the introduction forum
<b>Week 2: The Concept of Culture</b>	Mon 9/5	NO CLASS: Labor Day	
	Wed 9/7	CC: Chapter 2 (pgs. 23-46)	Reading quiz 1 online
<b>Week 3: Enculturation, Ethnocentrism and Cultural Relativism</b>	Mon 9/12	Online: "Our Babies, Ourselves"	
	Wed 9/14	Online: "Circumcision, Pluralism, and the Dilemmas of Cultural Relativism"	Reading quiz 2 online
<b>Week 4: Doing Cultural Anthropology</b>	Mon 9/19	CC: Chapter 3 (pgs. 47-57)	
	Wed 9/21	CC: Chapter 3 (pgs. 58-72) Online: "Army Enlists Anthropology in War Zones"	Reading quiz 3 online
<b>Week 5: Language and Communication</b>	Mon 9/26	CC: Chapter 4 (pgs. 73-82) Online: "Fighting for Our Lives"	Mini-ethnography proposal due
	Wed 9/28	CC: Chapter 4 (pgs. 82-98) Online: "Whose Speech is Better"	Reading quiz 4 online
<b>Week 6: Marriage</b>	Mon 10/3	<b>Exam 1</b>	Exam 1 in class Reflexive Essay: Everyday Talk due
	Wed 10/5	CC: Chapter 7 (pgs. 151-162) Online: "When Brothers Share a Wife" Online: "Arranging a Marriage in India"	Reading quiz 5 online

<b>Week 7: Family and Kinship</b>	Mon 10/10	CC: Chapter 7 (pgs. 163-178)	
	Wed 10/12	Online: "Death Without Weeping"	Reading quiz 6 online
<b>Week 8: Sex and Gender</b>	Mon 10/17	CC: Chapter 8 (pgs. 179-190) Online: "Strange Country This"	Reflexive Essay: Kinship Chart due
	Wed 10/19	CC: Chapter 8 (pgs. 190-202) Online: "Law, Custom, and Crimes against Women"	Reading quiz 7 online
<b>Week 9: Religion and Ritual</b>	Mon 10/24	CC: Chapter 11 (pgs. 255-268) Online: "Baseball Magic"	Reflexive Essay: Gender Roles due
	Wed 10/26	CC: Chapter 11 (pgs. 268-280)	Reading quiz 8 online
<b>Week 10: Making a Living</b>	Mon 10/31	<b>Exam 2</b>	Exam 2 in class
	Wed 11/2	CC: Chapter 5 (pgs. 99-124)	Reading quiz 9 online
<b>Week 11: Subsistence and Economics</b>	Mon 11/7	Online: "You are What You Grow" Online: "Why Can't People Feed Themselves?"	Reflexive Essay: Religion due
	Wed 11/9	CC: Chapter 6 (pgs. 125-150) Online: "Office Work and the Crack Alternative"	Reading quiz 10 online Reflexive Essay: Food due
<b>Week 12: Political Organization and Social Control</b>	Mon 11/14	CC: Chapter 9 (pgs. 203-218) Online: "Say 'Cheese!'"	
	Wed 11/16	CC: Chapter 9 (pgs. 218-228) Online: "The Modern State"	Reading quiz 11 online Reflexive Essay: Reciprocity due

<b>Week 13: Social Stratification</b>	Mon 11/21	CC: Chapter 10 (pgs. 229-240) Online: "Sick of Poverty"	
	Wed 11/23	CC: Chapter 10 (pgs. 240-254) Online: "Playing Indian at Halftime"	Reading quiz 12 online
<b>Week 14: Globalization and Cultural Change</b>	Mon 11/28	CC: Chapter 12 (pgs. 281-304)	
	Wed 11/30	CC: Chapter 13 (pgs. 305-329) Online: "The Price of Progress"	Reading quiz 13 online
<b>Week 15: Uses of Anthropology</b>	Mon 12/5	CC: Chapter 14 (pgs. 331-354)	
	Wed 12/7	<b>Mini-ethnography due</b>	Mini-Ethnography due

**Final Exam (Exam 3): Wednesday, December 14, 10:15am-12:15pm**