Welcome to Anthropology 141 online!

The following is information to help you succeed in this class. Please read it carefully and feel free to email me (Rebecca Stein - steinrl@lavc.edu) if you have any questions.

What you should know about the content of the class
This course presents an anthropological look at the concepts of health, illness and healing in different cultures. Medical systems are a part of the culture of any society and as such affect and are affected by other aspects of culture, including social, religious, technological and political systems. Our goal in this course is to recognize these relationships and the function of medicine as a cultural system of meaning. Through a survey of medical systems in a variety of cultures, we will try to appreciate the diverse ways the topics of health and illness can be approached. In this is included looking at our own society with fresh eyes and appreciating the cultural and ritual aspects of our own health system.

Topics in this course include:

- Evolutionary approaches to health and disease
- Cultural and political ecology
- Plagues and epidemics
- Culture, nutrition and malnutrition
- Gender and women’s health issues
- Belief and ethnomedical systems
- Alternative and complementary medicine
- Religion, health and illness
- Healers in cross-cultural perspective
- Culture and mental health/illness
- Chronic illness and stigma
What you should know about the structure of the class

- The class is entirely on-line – there are no required on-campus meetings.
- The class will be available starting the first day of the semester through the ETUDES website. A link to the website and information on how to figure out your username and password can be found at: http://www.lavc.edu/virtualvalley/studentLoggingInOnline.html.
- A tutorial on how to use ETUDES can be found at: http://www.lavc.edu/virtualvalley/ols/Welcome_Main_Menu.html.
- You will need to log on several times every week. Content and assignments will open and close on specific dates – you can’t do it all the last week. Every week you will be participating in discussions with your classmates – this is one of the best parts of the class (and a large part of your grade) so make sure to show up often and participate!
- Due to the nature of the online environment, there will be a lot of reading and writing involved in this class. Every week there will be modules to read, videos to watch, discussions to take part in, and written assignments to complete.
- An online class is not any easier nor does it take any less time than the in-person version. You need to have the time and be self-motivated and self-disciplined to succeed. If you are not sure if an online class is really for you, take the quiz at: http://www.foothill.edu/fga/pre_assessment.php.
- For resources to help improve your student success skills (e.g., time management, note taking, test taking), check out the College of the Canyons Virtual Learning Lab (http://www.cynosurenewmedia.com/coc_vll/Index.html) and the Dartmouth Academic Skills Center (http://www.dartmouth.edu/~acskills/success/index.html).
- You do need to have (and read) the books – Dancing Skeletons by Katherine Dettwyler (ISBN 088133748X) and The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down by Anne Fadiman (ISBN 0374525641).
What you need to do:

- Make sure that you have easy and reliable Internet access.
- Check to make sure that your computer system is adequate and that you have all the needed software (http://www.lavc.edu/virtualvalley/studentThingsToKnow.html).
- Have a back-up computer (such as the computer labs on campus) in case of problems. Technical difficulties will not be an acceptable excuse for late or missed work.
- Have a working email address that you check regularly and make sure to enter that email address in your ETUDES profile.
- **Log on at least once during the first two days of the semester and post your introduction in the discussion forum** (if you don’t, I will think you are not in the class and will drop you as a “no show”).
- Log on several times a week after that.
- Read all of the content materials (located in the “Modules” online and in the textbook), complete the assignments and exams, and participate in the discussions.
- Ask questions whenever you have them.
- Learn some new interesting, fun and useful things!

How to contact me

I look forward to meeting you all in the discussion forums online during the first week of classes. If you need to contact me before then (or during the class), my email address is steinrl@lavc.edu. During the class, the best way to reach me is by leaving me a private message in ETUDES.

My campus phone number is 818-947-2538 and if you are on campus, my office is in AH&S 305.