

Cultural Anthropology – Anthro 102 #15859, Online

Our course officially begins on February 10th, but some elements of the course are now live for you to get familiar with.

First note:

→ **This is a fully online course.**

→ **Text @2020Anth to 81010 in order to communicate throughout the semester (this must be completed within the first 24 hours of class or else you will be dropped as a no-show).**

Course Overview

Cultural Anthropology (Anthro 102) is a class that introduces students to different human cultures from an anthropological perspective. Our class will have a special theme focusing on “the culture wars” and how political dialogue is strained during the 2020 presidential election cycle.

Topics will include:

- Practicing cultural relativism during political conflict
- How language shapes our mind and political beliefs
- How social norms and “proper” behavior are debated
- How the media’s storytelling shapes our beliefs
- How we allow or deny religious power in our communities
- How race and ethnicity influence our interactions
- How gender roles are debated, denied, or reinforced in political life
- How families are formed, politically reinforced or changed

Students will slowly build up their skills as anthropologists throughout the semester and will ultimately write a 1-2 page paper about their observations about American culture as part of their final grade.

We will meet from February 10 – June 8.

Protecting student voices

You will never, ever be required to share your political views in my classroom (although you are always welcome to share, and I promise to create a safe space for this).

I am deeply committed to creating a learning environment where all students feel respected and empowered. I cherish every opportunity to introduce my students to different forms of human culture.

Workload

This is a fully online course. You will complete the exact same workload as my in-person, classes do. In other words, you'll need to manage your own time because I will not be seeing you in person to help you in the classroom. Please plan to dedicate plenty of time to our course and prepare to manage your time productively.

Online courses are not easier than in-person courses because they require a lot of self-discipline. That being said, I sincerely believe that every single one of you possesses the capacity to succeed with flying colors!

No textbook is required.

Supporting you

I am here to guide you through the course and will be available to you throughout the semester. Please don't hesitate to lean on me for support and please communicate your needs to me as we move through this course together.

I understand that most students have competing priorities (work, family life, other classes, etc.) and firmly believe that online learning can help students thrive. When you log into the class, you'll see variety of tools in our class that make online learning less painful, please let me know what else I can do to support you.

Accommodation/Access

If you are a student with a disability requiring classroom accommodations, and have not contacted SSD, do so in a timely manner. SSD is located in the Student Services Annex, Room 175 or call SSD at (818) 947-2681 or TTD (818) 947-2680 to meet with a SSD counselor. If SSD has already sent the memo to instructor confirming accommodations required by student for this class, please meet with me to discuss arrangements.

Management of Stress and Mental Health

Often the pressure on our students is very strong, involving academic commitments, relationships, outside jobs and family pressure to name a few. The staff and faculty of Los Angeles Valley College are here to see you succeed academically and care about your emotional and physical health. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential student services, including counseling and mental health services available on campus by visiting the Student Health Center at Campus Center Building Room 108. <http://www.lavc.edu/studenthealth/>. The phone number is 818-947-2918.

Also, the National Suicide Hotline number is 1-800-273-8255. All students are encouraged to enter that phone number in their cell phones. You can call when you, or someone you know, is having thoughts of suicide or is in severe distress.

Logging In

The course can be accessed in full via Canvas at www.ilearn.laccd.edu on the first day of the course (some pieces may already be available). Follow the login instructions at the bottom of the screen to log in. For Canvas support, visit, <https://www.lavc.edu/virtualvalley/oei-and-canvas.html>

Time Commitment

Title 5, Section 55002.5 of the California Education Code requires a minimum of 48 hours of lecture, study, or laboratory work for each unit a student is engaged in for a semester (144 hours for 3 unit course).

Students should expect to spend the following amount of time on our course:

- Approximately 75 hours in total working through the regular content modules
- Approximately 2-4 hours taking the Midterm Exam and Final Exam
- Approximately 3-5 hours visiting and observing a cultural organization
- Approximately 5-10 hours conducting independent research for the Emic and Etic Fieldwork Projects
- Approximately 5-10 hours thoughtfully drafting the Emic and Etic Fieldwork Projects
- The remaining 15-40 hours of studying in preparation for quizzes and exams

We will be together for 120 days, so students can factor in an average of slightly less than 1.5 hours each day for this class. You can work at your own pace to make this workload fit into your schedule.

About your instructor

I am your instructor, Amanda Zunner-Keating. I'm a cultural anthropologist with a particular interest in studying the negotiation of power. This year, I'm conducting fieldwork across the country on the political divide with a special focus on the 2020 presidential election cycle. You will have opportunities to engage with this fascinating subject in my class.

I am here to guide you through the course and will be available to you throughout the semester. Please don't hesitate to lean on me for support and please communicate your needs to me as we move through this course together. I'm looking so forward to working with all of you!

Sincerely,

Amanda Zunner-Keating

Text @2020Anth to 81010 in order to contact me.

Amanda.Keating@Canyons.edu (email is not my preferred method of communication)