

BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY FALL 2009

COURSE SYLLABUS

ANTH102: INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

8:40 am to 9:30 am MathGeo 113 Section 003

Kendall House, Ph.D Instructor

Welcome to the new semester! Please treat this syllabus as your first reading assignment. It is filled with information that you really need to know concerning class policies and practices. In fact, your first quiz will cover this syllabus. If you have any questions regarding anything discussed here please contact me and ask for clarification.

Three Ways to Contact Me

I am not employed as a full-time faculty member at Boise State. This matters to you because it means I am usually working *off* campus. **I cannot be on campus outside my scheduled times.** However, we can work around that through email and chat.

- 1 EMAIL ME at khouse@boisestate.edu. My policy is to answer every single email that you send so long as you identify yourself. Please **always include your name and class: I will not respond to anonymous emails.** Remember I am teaching multiple sections so let me know your section (e.g., “8:40 class”). I will usually reply within 24 hours unless I have notified the class otherwise.
- 2 GOOGLE CHAT: Our campus email system has a chat function. **I will have my chat open during my regular office hours, Monday and Wednesday 9:45 – 10:30 am.** If a student is visiting me in the office, my setting will say *busy* and I will not reply until I am free. If you want to chat at a different time we will have to arrange for it via email.
- 3 VISIT FACE TO FACE: If you wish to talk in person, come to the anthropology adjunct office in the Hemingway Center ([see the map](#) – it is just east of the library, just west of the SUB). The adjunct office is downstairs. **I will be there from 9:45 – 10:30 am on Monday and Wednesday only.**

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Methods of Instruction

This course is conducted in person supplemented by significant online activities centering on our Blackboard website. It thus has two basic components.

1. Lecture: This is primarily a traditional lecture course. Attending lecture, asking questions, and taking notes is fundamental. Lecture will *not* be a mirror of the textbooks. But lectures and readings will be broadly complementary. To put it practically, you cannot just skip class and do the readings. You should plan on doing both.

2. Online Instruction via our Blackboard coursesite and other websites is required: This course has a significant, required online component. You will need to log in to the [Blackboard website](#) regularly (use your Broncweb username and password). **Review and reading guides** will be posted on a weekly basis; along with **quizzes** that count toward your course grade; and **other graded online activities**. These will be announced in lecture and on Blackboard as we proceed.

Note that this course **does not** teach Internet skills except incidentally. However, the activities you will engage in are very basic, and Boise State does offer students [training and support for using Blackboard](#). As a fee-paying student, you have the right to utilize any of the [computer labs on campus](#). *All* students have Internet access.

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Required Learning Activities

Completing this class requires participating in the following basic learning activities.

- 1. Completing readings in [the required books](#)** and occasional online sources. Usually you will **not** need to bring your books to class. Occasionally you may also read from the electronic journals at the BSU library. I will provide instructions. I have provided a tentative [outline of readings for the entire semester](#) – this schedule will be refined throughout the semester via announcements in class and weekly Blackboard reviews.
- 2. Online quizzes and other activities** Most weeks, your initial comprehension of our readings will be tested by **repeatable online quizzes**. Quizzes will generally open Saturday at 8 am and close the following Thursday at 8 pm. **You will be able to repeat quizzes four times**. There may also be other required online discussions and websites you will utilize.
- 3. Attending lecture.** I have no plans to provide any materials presented in lecture in any other form at this time. While I use Powerpoint slides I do **not** post them. Similarly, films shown in class usually cannot be viewed outside of class. **[So it is very important to attend class on the days we meet](#)**. On days you are absent try to get notes from other students.
- 4. Exams** Including the final, there will be **four exams this semester**. Your lowest score from the three exams *prior to the final* will be dropped. The final exam score will **not** be dropped. These exams will be objective – this means they will involve multiple choice, true/false, and similar questions. You will take your

exams in the [campus testing center](#) unless I notify you otherwise. To do this you will need to make an appointment with the testing center during the days the test is open. **No make up exams will be offered.** Should you miss an exam prior to the final it will be dropped as your low score.

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Doing Well: What Passing this Class Requires

College does not come easily to everyone. If you are struggling, remember that the most important thing you can do is to **KEEP TRYING!** I am interested and concerned with the performance of all my students, and I've made significant changes to my courses to help students who find them difficult or encounter life problems. But there is no magic wand that can replace your own efforts. Here are five things you can do to do well.

1. MAINTAIN A POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND DON'T QUIT! Students with dismal attitudes usually do poorly, as do all students who stop trying. The course is not over until the final grades are assigned. If you are struggling, increase your effort and remain confident in your ability to prevail. The odds are very much on your side. Nearly all who persist succeed.

2. ATTEND CLASS, ON TIME Maintaining **excellent attendance is a basic expectation in this class.** Punctuality is equally important: please **arrive on time, and avoid leaving early.** When you arrive late, or leave early, you create a disturbance (you *can* minimize this if you are considerate) and this negatively impacts the learning of everyone else. It also displays the wrong attitude. Making the extra effort to get to class on time *will* influence the way you approach your studies generally. **Make getting to class on time a basic goal.** Take school seriously, and your grades will reflect it.

3. FIND TIME TO STUDY OUTSIDE LECTURE Most learning in college takes place outside of class in individual self-directed study. This requires taking good lecture and reading notes and going over them on a regular basis: rewriting them, organizing them, and thinking about the material. If you find the course difficult, or read slowly, or struggle to understand the material, try to allow *more* time for studying. This might involve taking fewer classes (if you receive financial aid, you may be required to maintain a minimum enrollment). You will gain more by doing well in a few classes than failing many.

4. USE THE COURSE STUDY MATERIALS I will post **lecture reviews and guides to the coming week** on a weekly basis and offer **online quizzes** to help you prepare and focus. Make use of them. In addition, supporting websites will be available for certain portions of the course.

5. TRY TO TAKE ALL OF YOUR EXAMS UNLESS YOU ARE ILL OR IN CRISIS Although your lowest score prior to the final will be dropped, it is better to take all of the required exams unless you are prevented by life from doing so. But if you do have a family crisis or illness when an exam is scheduled, let it go and stay home. **I will not**

offer make-up exams, but your lowest midterm score will not count. Stay home and rest because in my experience make-up exams following illnesses or family crises are the lowest scores students achieve (and thus are dropped anyway). It is very unlikely that circumstances will cause you to miss two exams. Missing two exams will make it necessary to repeat the course.

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Tutoring and Academic Support

Yes, Boise State does offer [tutoring services](#)! But I cannot guarantee a tutor can be recruited, especially late in the semester. My role is limited to helping identify possible tutors. If we do manage to recruit a tutor, treat them with great care and respect! They are making a sacrifice to help you. [Contact me](#) for more information.

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Our Learning Objectives

So, what should you expect to learn by the time you complete this course? The learning objectives of core courses are multiple. Core courses serve both to widen your horizons beyond any single discipline, and develop your general skills as a scholar. There are thus some objectives that are quite specific to this course, and others that are of broader application. By the end of this course, you should minimally be able to do the following:

1. List, define and critically compare the basic methods that anthropologists use to study human cultures using concrete examples.
2. List, define, and critically compare key methodological and theoretical differences between humanistic and scientific approaches to conceptualizing and studying culture.
3. Summarize and discuss how human cultures vary along key dimensions such as food systems, language, religion, and social and political organization.
4. Make critical comparisons between your own culture and those of other peoples we have studied during this course.
5. Discuss and give examples of how globalization relates to cultural differences and the basic environmental and political challenges we face in the coming century.

In the course of learning the content of this course, you will also develop your general skills, including:

1. Organizing and analyzing information derived from diverse sources including readings, websites, and direct observations.
2. Critically evaluating and contrasting opposing intellectual perspectives
3. Observing and analyzing events in the world around you from a cultural perspective.

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Where is a Schedule of Readings, Lectures, and Quizzes?

I have placed a tentative schedule of events on Blackboard in the Syllabus folder. You can view it there all semester or print a copy. But remember that **the primary schedule**

of the course will be delivered via weekly assignments posted on the Blackboard website.

Required Books and Materials

You will need to buy three books this semester

There are three required books and one required online film. You *will* need them to do well. This is most easily accomplished if you own personal copies. If you plan to purchase them at [the campus bookstore](#), purchase them early, because the bookstore returns books to the publishers and they will **not** be available later in the semester.

You may also be able to order your books from online bookstores. **Wherever you find them, it is your responsibility to have these books at hand.** Not having books will not excuse you from any assignments in any fashion, and I do not have extra copies on hand to lend.

1. Peoples, James & Garrick Bailey 2009 *Humanity: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology* 8th edition. ISBN 9780495508748

This is the main text for the class. You can also purchase this book as an *e-Book* chapter by chapter or in its entirety from [iChapters.com](#) at substantial savings (note that an e-Book cannot be resold at the end of the semester).

2. Lee, Richard B 2003 *The Dobe Ju/'hoansi* 3rd edition ISBN 0155063332 OR the 1993 2nd edition ISBN 0030322847

(the title of this book is pronounced Doe – bee zoot – wah – zee). I have to order the newer, 3rd edition, but you can use the older 2nd edition equally well, and it is very inexpensive online. A new chapter has been added to the 3rd edition, but otherwise the content is identical.

3. Lansing, J. Stephen 1995 *The Balinese* ISBN 0155002406

There is only one edition of this book. I recommend checking for an inexpensive copy online.

4. Film: *A Perfect Order: A Thousand Years in Bali* ASIN B001KW0KNO DVD Film

During the final segment of the course, we will view this film. But it is fairly complex and you will benefit by viewing it several times on your own. It can be [downloaded for 7 days via Amazon for \\$1.99](#). (You can also purchase an MP3 version or a DVD at a higher cost if you choose). I have also located it on two sites that appear entirely free – the quality seems a little lower: [ForaTV](#) and [DOTsub](#).

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Methods of Assessment, OR, All About Grades

Your grade in this class will be based on three things: (1) your performance on the exams, (2) your scores on online review and preparatory quizzes, and (3) your performance on other online activities as assigned. *Exams* will consist of objective questions and I will try to give most through the campus testing center. *Quizzes* will

usually be delivered online via Blackboard, though occasionally they might be given in class. Other activities will be detailed as we proceed.

Allocation of Point Values used to Calculate Your Grade

- I. MIDTERM EXAMS 300 points possible** Four midterm exams will be given prior to the final, worth 100 points each. Your single lowest score will be deleted, so that your pre-final grade will be based on your two best performances.

There will be no make-ups exams. Not on the final exam, and not on any of the in-class exams. However, because only 3 of the 4 exams prior to the final count, one missed exam will not count against you. Your zero for missing that one exam will be dropped and will not affect your final grade. Missing more than one exam will make passing the course unlikely. If you can demonstrate hardship, you may be able to petition for withdrawal from the course.

- II. FINAL EXAM 100 points possible** The final exam will be partly cumulative, and will consist of objective questions. It will be worth 100 points. Otherwise, it will be just like the prior midterm exams. The final is required of all student and cannot be made-up. You should **not** assume that your final score will be dropped if it is lower than your prior exams.
- III. QUIZZES 50 points + an undetermined amount of extra credit possible.** There will be quizzes! Students who complete all their quizzes may be able to earn extra points beyond the 50 points indicated. Any such points will be accessible to *all* participating students.
- IV. OTHER ONLINE ACTIVITIES & IN-CLASS SPOT QUIZZES 50 points** I am working on developing additional online components of the course (for example, small group discussions) – these will be announced on Blackboard and in class as we proceed. In addition I will occasionally give unannounced spot quizzes in class – if you are absent you will miss out on those points. **Spot quizzes cannot be made up.**

A note on extra credit: Any extra credit will be announced and will be available to *all* students participating in class. I do **not** provide extra credit on an individual basis.

Course grades will be based on the 500 point scale below. I've already bent the 90%-80%-70% scale to accommodate marginal cases. **So 446 is an A-, while 445 is a B+, 396 is a B-, while 395 is a C+, and so forth. If you want the higher grade, accumulate points adding up to the higher score.** It's straight-forward and as fair as life as a whole.

500-481 = A+
480-461 = A
460-446 = A-

445-426 = B+
425-406 = B

405-396 = B-

395-376 = C+

375-351 = C

350-336 = C-

335-320 = D+

320-301 = D

300-280 = D-

279 and below = F

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Campus Climate: The Importance of Being Polite and Respectful

Boise State is a learning community based on mutual respect. Please review the [Statement of Shared Values](#) at Boise State University. Remember that the same behavioral expectations that hold in a face-to-face classroom also hold in an online environment. It is very important to treat your classmates with respect and consideration in all campus domains.

While we are expected to intellectually engage and challenge one another, and explore ideas that not everyone will find palatable, it is not acceptable to insult, intimidate, ridicule or abuse other students (or faculty and staff). Challenging and questioning ideas and opinions is fundamental and basic to our mission. No one in a university environment has a right to intellectual isolation. However, name-calling is never acceptable. Remember that even when you are online you are in a classroom setting, that you are not anonymous, and behave accordingly. Both students and instructors can file complaints regarding inappropriate behavior via the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Violating conduct expectations can result in your expulsion from this course or from the university. Please review the [Student Conduct Code](#) at Boise State University.

In addition, it is important to show consideration for your peers by **avoiding distracting behavior during class**. This includes arriving to class late, leaving early, talking during lecture, and similar behaviors. You have the privilege of attending lecture but you do not have the right to diminish the educational experience of other students. If you behave inappropriately I will first warn you and then ask you to leave the room. You are encouraged to visit with me after class concerning your status. If needed I will file a report with the [Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#) and penalties may include removal from the class or expulsion from the university.

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Academic Integrity: The Importance of Being Honest

No form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated in this class. You should expect any instances of dishonesty might become known and will have consequences. Do the right thing. Do your own work, and do not allow others to do your work nor complete the work of others. Don't plagiarize: attribute all words and ideas to their sources (remember that it

is very easy for me to Google your written work to see if you have copied and pasted it from Internet sources). Any material that you have not created should be referenced to the source where you obtained it. And don't misrepresent your circumstances – and this includes claiming technical failures to excuse a late assignment. I will post further guidelines online including an honesty agreement relative to the in-class exams.

Any observed academic dishonesty will be reported to the [Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#). Depending on the circumstances, penalties can include failing this course, or suspension / expulsion from the university. Students who observe academic dishonesty on the part of others should contact their instructor privately, but students as well as faculty can file complaints for academic dishonesty.

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Personal Crisis / Late Withdrawals / Incompletes

Unfortunately we all occasionally experience personal or family tragedies or severe illnesses that interfere with our ability to complete our work. In this class it is very important to attend and not fall behind. In some instances I may be able to work with you to maintain your participation. However if life circumstances prevent your participation for more than two weeks, a withdrawal from the course *may* be the most reasonable accommodation. If the last date for withdrawal has passed, you will need to file a petition for late withdrawal with the [Associate Dean of the College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs](#). The forms needed are available from the [Office of the Registrar](#) (click on the link titled “Dropping a class after the deadline”).

What about an incomplete? Incomplete grades are often misunderstood. They apply only to the final weeks of the course, and are only available to students with passing grades and solid attendance prior to the final weeks. See the [registrar's discussion](#). In general, incompletes are rare events and should be avoided if at all possible. An incomplete does not in any way allow you to retake any portion of the course. It simply defines a deadline for completing the closing assignments of the course (usually the final exam). In my experience, students usually are better off **not** taking incompletes. It is very hard to come back to an exam a month or more after the course has ended. Much gets forgotten! Incompletes are at my discretion and are not automatically granted. [Contact me](#) as needed.

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Disability Services

Students needing accommodation must work through the Boise State [Disability Resource Center](#). I am very willing to work with you via Disability Services to arrive at a classroom setting and practices that work for you. Feel encouraged to visit with me about anything I can do to help.

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Student Privacy Notices

When you are using our Blackboard website, you will need to enable cookies and scripts that track your activities. Please review Boise State's [Student Online Privacy Notice](#) in this regard.

Releasing student academic information is governed by [the FERPA Act](#). In compliance with this act, I cannot provide information to you regarding your grades or performance unless you contact me using your official Boise State email address. I also cannot provide academic information to your parents, spouse, employer, or anyone else unless you provide me with a written release. If you need me to write a letter on your behalf, please provide me with a written release specifying what you are enabling me to do. Otherwise I cannot comply.

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Instructor's Right to Revise this Syllabus

I reserve the right to modify and revise this syllabus as needed during the semester. All such revisions will be (1) posted in the Blackboard Announcements and (2) distributed to your Blackboard linked email account via Blackboard's email function.

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Printing or Saving this Syllabus

This syllabus is an ephemeral document. I will maintain an accessible copy at Blackboard during the current academic term. Preserving access to a copy of this syllabus *after* the current academic term has expired is the responsibility of the student. If you want to access this syllabus after this term ends please print and / or save a copy for yourself now. Why might you want to do this? It is often the case that students transferring between universities must present a syllabus from their courses to receive transfer credit.

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