

(Revised 12/1/10)

CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS  
ANTH 1200 N1 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

**Semester/Year:** FA2015

**Lecture Hours:** 3

**Lab Hours:** 0

**Lab Hours:** 0

**Class Time:** Online

**Instructor's Name:** Leilani E. DeClue, MA

**Instructor's Contact  
Information:**

**Phone:** (307) 268-2280

**Email:**  
[ldeclue@caspercollege.edu](mailto:ldeclue@caspercollege.edu)

**Office:** LH192 **Office hours by appointment**

**Please do not use the link to my email address contained within the Casper College Directory, it does not work, please type in the above email address or contact me through the Moodle mail.**

**Course Description:** Using an ethnological approach (comparative study of cultures), this course surveys the basic concepts of cultural anthropology emphasizing human adaptation to the environment. Also includes cross-cultural investigation of kinship, marriage, language, religion, politics, economics, and culture change.

**Statement of Prerequisites:** None

**General Objectives:** To provide students with a better understanding of the principles underlying the behavior of people in their culture as well as other societies. This knowledge of other cultures is essential if we are to make intelligent decisions and act wisely in our business, political, and social relationships within the global economy.

**Specific Objectives and Outcomes:**

1. Describe the scope of anthropology, explain the four subfields, distinguish cultural relativism, identify applied anthropology, and understand the place of anthropology within the social sciences.
2. Describe the problems inherent in ethnographic fieldwork and why this work is important.
3. Discuss the characteristics of bands, tribes, chiefdoms, and states and describe how cultures move from one social organization to the next.
4. Describe and apply Kroeber's Kinship Classification system and explain its importance in cross-cultural studies.
5. From a cross-cultural perspective, analyze courtship, marriage, and divorce customs.
6. Discuss variations in gender roles from a cross-cultural perspective.
7. Discuss the functions of religion and art in culture.
8. Explain how and why verbal language and kinesics is important in understanding another culture as per the Sapir/Whorf hypothesis.
9. Use appropriate technology and information to conduct research

10. Understand social identity and inequality through race, ethnicity, and class.
11. Understand the close ties between anthropology and the medicine.
11. Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures and historical perspectives

**Casper College may collect samples of student work demonstrating achievement of the above outcomes. Any personally identifying information will be removed from student work.**

**Methodology:** This is an online class and as such you will be responsible for readings from both the Welsch text and the McHugh ethnography. A quiz is required for each chapter we study in the Welsch text. Four forum postings are required for this class based on readings from the McHugh ethnography. You are also required to complete your own ethnology (instructions below).

#### **Required Texts, Readings, Materials:**

- *Cultural Anthropology: Asking Questions About Humanity* by Robert L. Welsch & Luis A. Vivanco 2015, Oxford University Press.
- *Love and Honor in the Himalayas*, by Ernestine McHugh, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2001

#### **Evaluation Criteria:**

**1 Written assignment** (Worth 1/4 of grade) – See attachments for assignment.

**16 Chapter Quizzes** (worth 1/2 of grade)

**4 postings to the Forum** (Worth 1/4 of grade), in answer to questions regarding the readings from *Love and Honor in the Himalayas*—See below for directions regarding posting to the Forum

**Ethnographic Research Paper:** You will be required to complete 1 writing assignment. The directions for the paper are below, please note that there are three options to choose from. You need only pick **one** of the options.

**Quizzes:** You are required to complete **16** chapter quizzes for this course. Quizzes contain 30 multiple choice questions and one essay question and are open book, but there is a time limit (90 Minutes) and you are only allowed one attempt for each quiz so be sure you are very familiar with the information presented within the text.

**Forum Postings:** You are required to complete 4 essay questions regarding the readings *Love and Honor in the Himalayas*. The answers should be well written and well organized; no one sentence answers. You are also required to post comments to the postings of two other students. The due dates are listed below in the instructions for the Forum postings.

**There are three major due dates for this class, these dates do not include the forum postings see below for those due dates.**

**Quizzes Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 are due October 18, 2015 by 10:00PM.**

**Ethnographic Research Paper is due Dec. 6, 2015 by 10:00PM**

**Quizzes Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 are due Dec. 17, 2015 by 10:00PM**

#### **Forum Postings**

**Directions:** The instructor will post a question regarding the readings from *Love and Honor in the Himalayas*, on the Forum. Each student is required to post a response to the question, and respond to the responses posted by TWO (2) other students by the date indicated. Please note: if you are the first to respond or if two other students have not yet posted, you will have to return to the site several times

in order to get all of your responses in. DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST DAY to post your responses, each completed response (your initial response plus 2 responses to other students) is worth 25 points. **Please be aware that I pads, other tablets, and smart phones have not in the past worked well for the forum postings, please use a computer for these posts.** To receive full credit, responses must show evidence of critical analysis and that you have read the course materials. Your response to other students must be more than “I really like your idea.” Why did you like or not like what the other student stated.

**Forum Posting #1 Due Sept. 13, 2015**

**Forum Posting #2 Due Oct. 11, 2015**

**Forum Posting #3 Due Nov. 8, 2015**

**Forum Posting #4 Due Nov. 29, 2015**

Forum points will be awarded as follows:

One original **well written** post and two responses maximum of 25points. Points will be deducted for a poorly written original post.

One original post and one response maximum 18 points

One original post and no responses maximum 15 points.

No points will be given if you do not post an answer to the Forum question.

**Paper Directions: Select either Option A, B, or C described below**

**Mechanics:** Papers are to be 5 pages minimum; 7-pages maximum, and double-spaced. Papers will be evaluated *holistically*, not only for content and analysis, but also for grammatical form, spelling, sentence structure, and organization. In addition, correctness of citations and bibliography is expected. All submission of assignments or other work must be submitted in Microsoft “Word” document form (those are documents with a .doc or .docx suffix) or as a .pdf. If this is a problem please contact your instructor at the beginning of class. You will receive no points or credit for an assignment submitted in any other format. For example, you will receive no points for submissions in .rtc, .gdoc, or papers formats

Any information you collect through research will require proper APA formatting style, in text citations, and reference list. Refer to the Casper College Writing Center or this site:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/> if you are unsure of the proper citations required for this paper.

**Due Date:** This assignment is to be turned in on **Dec. 6, 2015 by 10:00PM.** Papers should be submitted through the drop box designated for the Ethnographic Research Paper.

**Assistance:** To assist students with their writing projects, Casper College operates a “Writing Center” located in the Student Center (Phone: 268-1610). Students should avail themselves of this free service (but don’t wait until the day before the assignment is due!) Information regarding citations may also be obtained from this site: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

**OPTION A: MODIFIED ETHNOGRAPHIC INTERVIEW**

I. Introduction: Background about your informant and how you met him/her?

- Why did you select this informant to interview?
- II. Historical background (Summarize in one paragraph, if possible)
- III. Language – Name (What language is spoken?)  
How does the language indicate history and relationship with other societies?
- IV. Material Culture  
Subsistence and/or economic base  
Native foods or dishes  
Shelter or housing  
Settlement pattern (e.g. around a plaza)  
Clothing  
Utensils  
Weapons
- V. Arts  
Music and musical instruments  
Dance  
Poetry (written or oral)  
Sculpture, pottery or other popular expression
- VI. Games and play  
Games and sports  
Social significance of outcome  
Social status involved
- VII. Education  
Subjects studied  
School organization  
Graduation requirements
- VIII. Holidays, rituals, celebrations  
What was your informant's most memorable birthday? Why was it so special?
- IX. Conclusion  
What are some examples of ways in which the values of the people that you studied differ from your values? (For example, degree of materialism, importance of family, knowledge of the world, etc.) Why do you think such differences (or similarities) exist?

**OPTION B: MODIFIED ETHNOGRAPHIC SITE STUDY  
(of a ritual, religious service, or ceremony)**

Option B: Students are to attend a ritual, worship service, or ceremony that is unfamiliar to them. For example, if the student normally attends a “mainline” church, they should attend a fundamentalist service and vice versa. Or a student could attend a funeral, initiation, or other ceremony with which they are unfamiliar. This will help to familiarize students with some of the problems, concerns, tension, etc. experienced by an anthropologist studying a “strange environment.” Please obtain the permission of the minister or other ceremonial leader prior to attending the ceremony. **(Please do not contact nor attend Temple Beth-El in Casper. The rabbi does not welcome Anthropology students.)**

If you are not sure the ceremony you want to attend meets the necessary criteria, please discuss your plans with the instructor.

**Fieldwork Outline**

- I. Introduction: Where are you conducting your field work and why did you select this particular site?
- II. Physical appearance of the Place Where the Ceremony is Held: (keep this section brief)
  - Layout, architectural detail, construction material
  - Presence or absence of furnishings, seats, altar, etc.
  - Kinds of window or decorative details
  - Lighting fixtures, candles
- III. Human dimension:
  - Number of people in attendance
  - Gender, age, and racial composition of participants
  - Seating arrangements (do people cluster by age, sex, family, etc.?)
  - Characteristics of the leader and other ceremony assistants
  - Clothing – apparel of leader, participants and others
- IV. The Ceremony
  - Describe the ceremony in general
  - Kind of music, musical instruments used; dance; purpose of music?
  - Specialized participants, such as choir, readers, dancers etc.
  - Who conducts the ceremony? What part do the other participants play?
  - Length and content of prayers, singing, speeches, dancing, etc.
  - What special implements, utensils, etc. are used for the ceremony?
- V. Interview with Ceremony Participants
  - Talk to 2 or 3 other individuals attending the ceremony. How did you select them?
  - Why were they attending the ceremony? How did they become a member of the group?
  - How often do they participate? Did they come with family, friends, or alone? In their own words, what is the ceremony all about? (You do not need to be concerned whether they agree with your interpretation at this point in your paper.)
- VI. Intent: (Note: This section is the most important part of your paper.)
  - What was the message given in the speeches, sermons, and other ceremonial activities.?
  - What was the “tone” of the ceremony? (upbeat? depressing? etc.)
  - What was the purpose or function of this ceremony in your estimation? Did your idea(s) regarding the purpose or intent agree or disagree with other participants? How?
  - Would you want to attend this ceremony again? Why or why not?
- VII. Reflections as an Anthropologist: How did you feel as an “anthropologist” conducting fieldwork? What *practical* advice would you give to other “anthropologists” about to engage in similar fieldwork? Would you like to practice anthropological fieldwork as a profession? Why or why not?

### OPTION C Desk Based Ethnographic Research Paper

Choose a *living* culture (*people you could talk to or visit today*) in which you are very interested and about which you would like to learn more. Search the internet, local library, and or the Casper College Library for information regarding this culture. **Wikipedia and other online encyclopedias will not be accepted as sources for this paper.** For this paper your research may be based on the

main aspects of a society's culture or perhaps you are interested in an obscure subculture operating within a larger society. This paper will require proper APA format, in text citations, and reference list. Refer to the Casper College Writing Center or this site:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/> if you are unsure of the proper citations required for this paper. Your paper should include the as much of the following information as possible:

- I. Introduction, who have you chosen to write about, why you chose them, why do you find them interesting.
- II. Historical background (Summarize in one paragraph, if possible)
- III. Language – Name (What language is spoken?)  
How does the language indicate history and relationship with other societies?
- IV. Material Culture
  - Subsistence and/or economic base
  - Native foods or dishes
  - Shelter or housing
  - Settlement pattern (e.g. around a plaza)
  - Clothing
  - Utensils
  - Weapons
- V. Arts
  - Music and musical instruments
  - Dance
  - Poetry (written or oral)
  - Sculpture, pottery or other popular expression
- VI. Games and play
  - Games and sports
  - Social significance of outcome
  - Social status involved
- VII. Education
  - Subjects studied
  - School organization
  - Graduation requirements
- VII. Holidays, rituals, celebrations  
What is significant about this culture's holidays, rituals, or celebrations
- VIII. Conclusion  
What are some examples of ways in which the values of the people that you studied differ from your values? (For example, degree of materialism, importance of family, knowledge of the world, etc.) Why do you think such differences (or similarities) exist?

**Class Policies:**

**Last Date to Change to Audit Status or to Withdraw with a W Grade: Nov. 12, 2015**

**Student Rights and Responsibilities:** Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College Student.

**Chain of Command:** If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor to attempt to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you

should then take the matter through the appropriate chain of command starting with the Department Head/Program Director, the Dean, and lastly the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

**Academic Dishonesty: (Cheating & Plagiarism)** Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course in which the offense was committed or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct for more information on this topic.

**Official Means of Communication:** Casper College faculty and staff will employ the student's assigned Casper College email account as a primary method of communication. Students are responsible to check their account regularly. This is where you will find course evaluation link(s) during course evaluation periods.

**ADA Accommodations Policy:** If you need academic accommodations because of a disability, please inform me as soon as possible. See me privately after class, or during my office hours. To request academic accommodations, students must first consult with the college's Disability Services Counselor located in the Gateway Building, Room 344, (307) 268-2557, bheuer@caspercollege.edu . The Disability Services Counselor is responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting accommodations, determining eligibility for accommodations, and helping students request and use appropriate accommodations.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE  
INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY  
ANTH1200 N1 FA2015**

Week 1 – Aug. 24 to Aug. 30, 2015

Introduction and Syllabus

Chapter 1 – Anthropology: Asking Questions About Humanity

Quiz Chapter 1 – Due Date Oct. 18, 2015 by 10:00PM.

Love and Honor in the Himalayas—Chapter 1

Week 2 – Aug. 31 to Sept. 6, 2015

Chapter 2 - Culture: Giving Meaning to Human Lives

Quiz Chapter 2 – Due Date Oct. 18, 2015 by 10:00PM.

Love and Honor in the Himalayas—Chapter 2

Week 3 – Sept. 7 to Sept. 13, 2015

Chapter 3 - Beyond Nature and Nurture: The Individual, Biology, and Culture

Quiz Chapter 3 – Due Date Oct. 18, 2015 by 10:00PM.

Love and Honor in the Himalayas—Chapter 3

**Forum #1 is Due Sept. 13, 2015 by 10:00PM**

Week 4 – Sept. 14 to Sept. 20, 2015

Chapter 4 - Linguistic Anthropology: Relating Language and Culture

Quiz Chapter 4 – Due Date Oct. 18, 2015 by 10:00PM.

Love and Honor in the Himalayas—Chapter 4

Week 5 – Sept. 21 to Sept. 27, 2015

Chapter 5 - Ethnography: Studying Culture  
Quiz Chapter 5 – Due Date Oct. 18, 2015 by 10:00PM.

Week 6 – Sept. 28 to Oct. 4, 2015  
Chapter 6 - Globalization and Culture: Understanding Global Interconnections  
Quiz Chapter 6 – Due Date Oct. 18, 2015 by 10:00PM.  
Love and Honor in the Himalayas—Chapter 5

Week 7 – Oct. 5 to Oct. 11, 2015  
Chapter 7 - Foodways: Finding, Making, and Eating Food  
Quiz Chapter 7 – Due Date Oct. 18, 2015 by 10:00PM.  
**Forum #2 is due Oct. 11, 2015 by 10:00PM**

Week 8 – Oct. 12 to Oct. 18, 2015  
Chapter 8 - Environmental Anthropology: Relating to the Natural World  
Quiz Chapter 8 – Due Date Oct. 18, 2015 by 10:00PM.  
Love and Honor in the Himalayas—Chapter 6  
**Quizzes Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 are due Sunday, October 18, 2015 by 10:00PM.**

Week 9 – Oct. 19 to Oct. 25, 2015  
Chapter 9 - Economics: Working, Sharing, and Buying  
Quiz Chapter 9 – Due Date Dec. 17, 2015 by 10:00PM.

Week 10 – Oct. 26 to Nov. 1, 2015  
Chapter 10 - Politics: Cooperation, Conflict, and Power Relations  
Quiz Chapter 10 – Due Date Dec. 17, 2015 by 10:00PM.  
Love and Honor in the Himalayas—Chapter 7

Week 11 – Nov. 2 to Nov. 8, 2015  
Chapter 11 - Race, Ethnicity, and Class: Understanding Identity and Social Inequality  
Quiz Chapter 11 – Due Date Dec. 17, 2015 by 10:00PM.  
**Forum #3 is Due Nov. 8, 2015 by 10:00PM**

Week 12 – Nov. 9 to Nov. 15, 2015  
Chapter 12 - Gender, Sex, and Sexuality: The Lives of Women and Men  
Quiz Chapter 12 – Due Date Dec. 17, 2015 by 10:00PM.  
Love and Honor in the Himalayas—Chapter 8

Week 13 – Nov. 16 to Nov. 22, 2015  
Chapter 13 - Kinship, Marriage, and the Family: Love, Sex, and Power  
Quiz Chapter 13 – Due Date Dec. 17, 2015 by 10:00PM.

Week 14 – Nov. 23 to Nov. 29, 2015  
Chapter 14 - Religion: Ritual and Belief  
Quiz Chapter 14 – Due Date Dec. 17, 2015 by 10:00PM.  
**Forum #4 is Due Nov. 29, 2015 by 10:00PM.**



Week 15 – Nov. 30 to Dec. 6, 2015

Chapter 15 - Medical Anthropology: Health, Illness, and Culture

Quiz Chapter 15 – Due Date Dec. 17, 2015 by 10:00PM.

**Ethnographic Research Paper is due Dec. 6, 2015 by 10:00PM**

Week 16 – Dec. 7 to Dec. 13, 2015

Chapter 16 - The Arts: Objects, Images, and Commodities

Quiz Chapter 16 – Due Date Dec. 17, 2015 by 10:00PM.

Week 17 – Dec. 14 to Dec. 18, 2015

**Quizzes Chapters 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 are due Dec. 17, 2015 by 10:00PM**