

ANTH 2500B CULTURE AND SYMBOLS

Instructor	Meysoon Amin
Term	Winter 2025
Course Delivery	In person
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce students to the anthropological study of culture and symbols. It will examine the various ways in which anthropologists have approached this relationship, and how it has shaped our understanding and engagement with our social worlds. This will include an exploration into how signs and symbols are created, structured, and interpreted. We will also look at how they give meaning to many aspects of human life such as language, religion, mythmaking, bodily practices as well as other components of culture and society. By the end of the course, students will be able to critically analyze symbolic systems, apply anthropological frameworks to diverse cultural contexts, and develop a deeper understanding of how symbols shape social practices and identities.

EVALUATION

Assignments	Grade Percentage	Due Dates
Reading Reflections and Responses	30%	Continuous
Midterm Test	20%	February 11 th
Annotated Bibliography	20%	March 14 th
Final Essay	30%	April 8 th (Tentative Date)

TEXT

No required textbook. Course materials, including anthropological literature, ethnographies, and multimedia sources, will be provided on Brightspace. Assigned readings will be posted on Wednesdays in the corresponding week's folder. You will have one week to engage with the material.