

ANTH 1001A
INTRODUCTION TO SOCIO-CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Instructor	Sardar Saadi
Term	Spring 2025
Course Delivery	Online - Synchronous/Asynchronous
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

What does it mean to be human? Anthropologists have approached this question by using the ethnographic method to understand the diverse ways people create shared worlds of meaning. In this course, students will learn how culture shapes experience, and how ethnography describes this process.

This course is designed to introduce students to the central concepts, theories, and debates in Social and Cultural Anthropology. The main goal of this class is to assist students in seeing the world from an anthropological perspective. This means not only making the strange “familiar” but also making the familiar “strange” in an attempt to challenge the “naturalness” of our own beliefs and practices.

Throughout the course of this class, we will explore a variety of issues concerning the social and cultural dimensions of human existence, including: language and communication, economy and politics, and inequality and systems of hierarchy such as race, class and gender. Upon the completion of this class, student will gain a critical and enhanced understanding of both others’ and their own experiences as cultural beings.

EVALUATION

- 30% Short Assignments
 - Short Assignment #1— What is Culture?
 - Short Assignment #2— Ethnography Practice
 - Short Assignment #3— Movie Review
- 30% Take Home Mid-Term Exam
- 40% Take Home Final Exam

TEXT

Nina Brown, Thomas McIlwraith, Laura Tubelle de González. *Perspectives: An Open Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, 2nd Edition*. The American Anthropological Association, 2020.
<https://pressbooks.pub/perspectives/>