

**World Cultures
Department of Anthropology
Lakehead University
ANTH 1034
Fall 2025**

Instructor: Frederico Oliveira, PhD
Email: foliveir@lakeheadu.ca
Dates of Appointments: September 3 to November 26, 2025
Room Number: OA-1022
Class Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 1 pm to 2:30 pm
Office Hours: Mon & Wed (10 am–12 pm) or by appointment – Office: OR-1041

Land Acknowledgment:

Lakehead University respectfully acknowledges its campuses are located on the traditional lands of Indigenous peoples.

Lakehead University acknowledges the history that many nations hold in the areas around our campuses and is committed to a relationship with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples based on the principles of mutual trust, respect, reciprocity, and collaboration in the spirit of reconciliation.

Course Description and Objectives:

Anthropology is the study of the biological and cultural complexity of human beings, both past and present. Cultural anthropologists are interested in how societies and cultures function – how people in different locations adapt to their environment, the countless symbolic systems they use to communicate with each other, the political and religious institutions that give meaning to their lives, the modes in which families are structured, and the forms they make a living. This course introduces students to the anthropological study of cultural diversity, examining ways to compare and contrast the structures of social relationships and belief systems that operate in different cultural settings. The most important research techniques employed by sociocultural anthropologists will be presented. A special effort will be made to provide a holistic study of humanity and relate sociocultural anthropological notions to contemporary social issues. After we seek to appreciate other cultures on their own terms, we face the dilemma of the degree to which social scientists can develop judgments regarding different cultures and lifeways while preserving objectivity. Students are expected to think critically and apply concepts as they gain aptitude in the vocabulary of anthropology. The course does not intend to provide a complete account of each society encountered or to respond to every question about how such a society functions. It is understood that a successful student is not one who merely meets the minimum grade requirement to be approved. After reading, coming to classes and engaging in the discussions proposed in class, the successful students should be able to:

- a) Expand their horizons by seeing the interconnectedness of humankind beyond the lens of the exotic other, and apply the core concepts in sociocultural anthropology.
- b) Understand, from an introductory level, the relations between the economic, political, religious, cultural, and social systems that contribute to both permanence and transformation in human societies.
- c) Show an understanding of the basics of anthropology and the styles of research and analysis practiced in the discipline.
- d) Describe how personal features such as gender, class and ethnicity influence a person's worldview and how the world perceives the individual.
- e) Learn and apply the key concepts in sociocultural anthropology to critically and respectfully reflect on social problems and cultural differences.

Course Reading:

Kottak, Conrad Phillip

2020 Cultural Anthropology: Appreciating Cultural Diversity, 19th Edition. New York: McGraw Hill.

The textbook costs approximately CAN \$90 if bought on the official McGraw Hill website. Previous editions of the book are also acceptable. If you choose to use an older edition, please check with the instructor before purchasing the book.

In-Class Viewing of Films:

A number of videos will be shown throughout the course, followed by a discussion. Be sure to consider how the films relate to course concepts and readings. The content of the movies is also subject to being covered in the exams.

Course Requirements and Grading:

<i>First Midterm – September 22</i>	Worth 33%
<i>Second Midterm – October 8</i>	Worth 33%
<i>Third Midterm – November 3</i>	Worth 33%
<i>Fourth Midterm – November 19</i>	Worth 33%
Participation	Worth 5% of extra credits

Graded assignments include the following:

The **four midterms** will have a format of Multiple-Choice and true-or-false questions. The final grade will be calculated by keeping the best three marks and discarding the lowest score. The exams will be held in

person in the same room where we have our regular classes. More instructions will be provided as we approach the dates.

Class Participation – Students are expected to attend all classes, critically read the assigned materials prior to class and participate (in their own way) in class discussions. Attendance will be verified using an attendance list that will be circulated in each class.

Policies and Procedures:

General Course Policies:

1. Avoid disrupting class by arriving late or leaving before the end of the class. Disruptions will result in a warning initially, followed by a 5% penalty to the student's final grade. If the student's behaviour is disturbing the learning environment of the class, they will be asked to leave.
2. It is expected that students will be respectful of their fellow students, their instructor, and cultures and traditions which are not their own.
3. Plagiarism consists of passing off as one's own the ideas, words, writings, etc., that belong to someone else. In accordance with this definition, you are committing plagiarism if you copy the work of another person and turn it in as your own, even if you should have permission from that person. This is a serious issue. Violation of the university's policy will result in a grade penalty or failure of the course. This type of violation will stay on your academic record.
4. Students will be allowed to take a make-up exam only in the case of documented emergencies. Each situation will be analyzed on a case-by-case basis. If you miss a test due to an emergency reason, approach the instructor as soon as possible to discuss your situation. It is at the instructor's discretion to select the format of the make-up exam that will be held in the final week of classes.
5. Students are responsible for taking their own lecture notes. Course outline and class slides will be posted online on Desire2Learn at least one week prior to the due date.
6. The primary communication tool between the instructor and students is Lakehead University's e-mail account. Students are asked to check their LakeheadU e-mail account and Desire2Learn regularly (including before class) for unforeseen changes to the class due to weather conditions or other reasons. As a general rule, student questions sent 24 hours prior to an assignment or test will not be replied. Grades are supposed to be returned to the students for a maximum period of two weeks after the assignment is delivered.
7. Students are welcome to schedule appointments to discuss any topic related to their academic progress or course content.
8. This syllabus is subject to minor changes during the course of the semester.

Course Schedule

Week 1:

(Sept-3) Introduction and Course Outline Presentation

Week 2:

(Sept-8) Kottak (Chapter 1: What is Anthropology?)

(Sept-10) Kottak (Chapter 2: Culture)

Week 3:

(Sept-15) Kottak (Chapter 3: Method and Theory in Cultural Anthropology)

(Sept-17) Film

Week 4:

(Sept-22) **First Midterm (covering the content of Chapters 1, 2, 3 and the Week 3 film)**

(Sept-24) Kottak (Chapter 4: Applying Anthropology)

Week 5:

(Sept-29) Kottak (Chapter 5: Language and Communication)

(Oct-1) Kottak (Chapter 6: Ethnicity and Race)

Week 6:

(Oct-6) Kottak (Chapter 7: Making a Living)

(Oct-8) **Second Midterm (covering the content of Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7)**

Week 7: **Reading Week**

(No Class: Thanksgiving & Fall Reading Week, Oct. 13-17)

Week 8:

- (Oct-20) Film
- (Oct-22) Kottak (Chapter 8: Political Systems)

Week 9:

- (Oct-27) Kottak (Chapter 9: Gender)
- (Oct-29) Kottak (Chapter 10: Families, Kinship and Descent)
Kottak (Chapter 11: Marriage)

Week 10:

- (Nov-3) **Third Midterm (covering the content of Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11 and the film of Week 8)**
- (Nov-5) Kottak (Chapter 12: Religion)

Week 11:

- (Nov-10) Film
- (Nov-12) Kottak (Chapter 13: Arts, Media and Sports)

Week 12:

- (Nov-17) Kottak (Chapter 14: The World System and Colonialism)
Kottak (Chapter 15: Global Issues Today)
- (Nov-19) **Fourth Midterm-covering the content of Chapters 12, 13, 14, 15, and the Week 10 film**

Week 13:

- (Nov-24) Film
- (Nov-26) Wrap-up and evaluation of the course
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Desire2Learn

The course uses Desire2Learn for its course website. To access the course website or any other Desire2Learn-based course website, go to the LU portal login page at <https://myinfo.lakeheadu.ca/> and log in using your LU username and password. Once you have logged in to the portal, look for the **mycourselink** module, where you'll find the link to our course website along with the link to all other Desire2Learn-based courses you are registered.

Use of AI

Generative artificial intelligence (Generative AI or GenAI) is a category of AI systems capable of generating text, images, or other media in response to prompts. These systems include ChatGPT and its variant Bing (built by OpenAI) and Bard (built by Google), among several others. Other Generative AI models include artificial intelligence art systems such as Stable Diffusion, Midjourney, and DALL-E. **Any use of GenAI systems to produce assignments for this course is not permitted.** All work submitted for evaluation in this course must be the student's original work. The submission of any work containing AI-generated content will be considered a violation of academic integrity ("Use of Unauthorized Materials").

Accessibility Needs

Lakehead University is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible.