

15800 Calvary Road
Kansas City, MO 64147-1341

Course: SS237 D(N) Cultural Anthropology
Credit: 3 Semester Hours
Semester: Fall 25, Session 1 (8/18-10/10)
Time: Monday/Wednesday 8:00-9:20
Location: CABRE 100; Online through Canvas/Teams
Instructor: Joshua Paxton, Joshua.paxton@calvary.edu,
(816)679-9387(cell); (816)322-5152 ext. 1353 (office); Office: CABRE 108

I. DESCRIPTION

An introduction to the study of humanity from a cultural viewpoint. The study includes language communication, foods, housing, clothing, marriage, the family, clubs, social classes, government, and religion. Both primitive and developed societies are noted.

This course is offered in two formats: in-person and online. Students registered for in-person attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. For both in-person and online students, assignments and interaction outside of the class period are done in the learning management system.

II. OBJECTIVES

A. General competencies to be achieved:

1. Gain an understanding of the nature of society and culture within the theoretical context of the discipline of cultural anthropology. (PLO 2, 3, 4) (A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
2. Develop an awareness and appreciation for the diversity of human cultures. (PLO 2, 3, 4) (A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
3. Relate your own culture as one of many valid lifeways, thereby overcoming ethnocentric, egocentric and provincial views of life and human relations. (PLO 2, 3, 4) (A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
4. Demonstrate the necessity for understanding and employing the perspectives of cultural anthropology in order to effectively communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ in our own and other cultures. (PLO 2, 3, 4) (A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)

B. Specific competencies to be achieved:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the basic concepts of cultural anthropology as a result of exposure to the content and relevance of the broad field of cultural anthropology. (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4) (A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
2. Analyze the religion and worldview of a specific culture. (PLO 1, 4) (A 4)
3. Explain the unique characteristics of a culture and relate them to one's own. (PLO 1, 4) (A 2, 4)
4. Develop an understanding of the cultural aspects of Christianity in your own cultural context. (PLO 3, 4) (A 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)

Our Mission: "...to prepare Christians to live and serve in the church and in the world according to the Biblical worldview."

III. REQUIREMENTS

1. Reading

Read through the entire textbook *Introducing Cultural Anthropology: A Christian Perspective*. The reading is to be reported along with the Study Questions.

Read through the textbook *Honor & Shame: Unlocking the Door*. Write a five page paper in which you interact with the argument of the book. What do think of Muller's premise regarding the three worldview systems? Do see how these are at work today? In what ways does culture and worldview affect our interaction with Muslims, with others? See schedule for due date.

2. Study Questions

Answer the included study questions and submit them according to the tentative schedule. This assignment **does not** need to be in Turabian, however, they **do need** to be typed. They should be submitted through the appropriate assignment in Canvas.

3. Response to Racism

Following the discussion on Race and Inequality the student will write a 5 page paper in which they argue a Christian response to racism. This paper is in Research Turabian format and should be submitted as an uploaded document in Canvas.

How should Christians approach racism?

What does Scripture say about the topic?

What are some in roads to racial reconciliation?

How can the church begin working towards solving the racial issues in America?

4. Research Paper

Each student will write a 10-page research paper in Research Turabian format in which part of the research will be fieldwork. The student will choose a culture other than their own to research and write the paper on:

- Language
- Social Structure
- Gender and Sexuality
- Production and Exchange
- Authority and Power
- Kinship and Marriage
- Religion and Ritual
- Culture Change, including how Globalization is affecting this culture.

Include also your subjective feelings regarding this culture.

- What surprised you?
- What intrigued you?
- What disturbs you

How does this culture differ from you own?

**SS237 D(N) (Blended) Cultural Anthropology
Syllabus, FA25; Session 1**

Other sources may be included however a large part of the research and writing is to be interviewing people of that particular culture. The student should try to interview at least 5 people of the target culture in order to get a good perspective on the culture as a whole. A guide for the interview is given at the back of the syllabus. This paper should be uploaded through Canvas.

5. Exam

There will be a cumulative Final Exam. The exam is to be taken in Canvas per the schedule. Exams are open notes and open book, however, keep an eye on the clock as there is a time limit and too much searching for one answer could result in running out of time.

6. Participation

Participation in class discussions is a vital part of the learning process. During each class period a discussion question will be given that the student is expected to go to Canvas, find the appropriate discussion forum for that class period and answer the question. Students will be unable to see their classmate's posts until they answer themselves. This assignment is graded.

IV. METHODS

A. In-class methods: listening to lectures, participating in class discussions, writing, and taking tests.

B. Out-of-class methods: reading, writing, research, and studying for tests.

1. Grading:

Points

Reading

- a. Reading.....100
- b. Muller Reading and Paper.....100

Writing

- c. Study Questions.....200
- d. Research Paper.....100
- e. Response to Racism.....100

Exam

- f. Exams.....200

Participation

- g. Discussions.....200

Total **1000**

2. "See Grading Scale in college catalog"

**SS237 D(N) (Blended) Cultural Anthropology
Syllabus, FA25; Session 1**

- C.** The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB, English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.
- D.** All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition. Unless otherwise indicated book reports and study questions may be in non-research format, interviews and other research papers should be in research paper format. A copy of the Turabian Style Guide is available on the Clark Academic Center page of Calvary's website.
- E. Late Assignments:** Assignments will be penalized according to the professor's late policy as explained in Canvas.
- F. Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. Most assignments at Calvary require the student to produce original work. Therefore, unless specifically permitted by the instructor, the use of AI-generated content is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. AI, however, may be utilized in cases where the instructor has explicitly permitted its use to accomplish specific tasks. It is only in these cases that AI-generated (or modified) content may be submitted by the student. If there are any questions as to the permissibility of AI use for an assignment, please ask your instructor for clarification.
- G. Disabilities:** Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support
- H. The Clark Academic Center** (learning@calvary.edu), located in the library building, is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for all CU students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.
- I. Attendance Policy** – Calvary has no official attendance policy, the attendance policy of the professor will be explained in class and in Canvas.

V. MATERIALS

A. Required:

The Bible (Instructor will use ESV)

Brian M. Howell and Jenell Williams Paris, 2010. *Introducing Cultural Anthropology: A Christian Perspective*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2010. ISBN-13:978-0801038877. Retail \$29.99.

Roland Muller, 2000. *Honor and Shame: Unlocking the Door*. Middletown, DE: Xlibtis Corporation, 2000. ISBN-13:978-0738843162. Retail \$20.99.

VI. TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

See Canvas for schedule and due dates

