

South Plains College: General Course Syllabus

Department: Behavioral Sciences

Discipline: Humanities

Course Number: Huma 2323

Course Name: World Cultures

Credit: 3 Lecture: 3 Lab: 0

This course satisfies a core curriculum requirement: Yes- Language, Philosophy & Culture

Prerequisites: none for campus; TSI reading for INET

Campuses: Levelland, Reese, INET

Textbooks: Robbins/Dowty, Cultural Anthro 2, 2014, Cengage/Wadsworth. ISBN: 978-133-60672-7

Where Am I Eating? Kelsey Timmerman, 2013, Wiley, ISBN 9781118351154

Course Specific Instructions: INET classes go to Blackboard Learn 9; campus additional materials are available on Blackboard.

Course Description: This course is a general study of diverse world cultures. Topics include cultural practices, social structures, religions, arts, and languages.

Course Purpose: This course is an introductory course designed to provide students with an understanding of how society is structured, as well as an understanding of the theories and language of anthropology. A holistic approach will be utilized to explore ideas of aesthetic and intellectual creation in order to understand the human experience across cultures.

Course Requirements: To maximize the potential to successfully complete this course, the student should attend all class meetings, complete all homework assignments in a timely manner, and complete all examinations including the final exam. Internet courses require the work to be completed in specific time periods.

Course Evaluation: Refer to the instructor's course information sheet for specifics on assignments and testing.

Attendance Policy: Whenever absences become excessive, and in the instructor's opinion, minimum course objectives cannot be met due to absences, the student may be withdrawn

from the course. The typical view of excessive absences is when a student misses more than two weeks of the course.

Student Learning Outcomes/Competencies:

Students who have successfully completed this course will be expected to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of common terms and concepts associated with the study of world cultures.
- Articulate an informed personal response and critically analyze works in the arts and humanities from various world cultures.
- Demonstrate awareness of multiple cultural perspectives by comparing and contrasting the cultural expressions of diverse world communities.
- Analyze various cultures to navigate diverse cultural spaces and recognize different world views.
- Demonstrate an understanding of geography and the location of different cultural groups in the world.

Core Objectives addressed:

- **Communication skills**- to include effective written, oral and visual communication.
- **Critical thinking skills**- to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.
- **Social Responsibility**- to include the demonstrated intercultural knowledge and competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities.
- **Personal Responsibility** – to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

Instructor Policies: Wanda Clark, Ph.D.

Office Location & Hours: AD 134 Levelland campus. (806) 716-2458 voice mail. No regular office hours during summer sessions. Please contact by email or text (contact by email first).

Cell Phone: You may text me at this number. (806) 319-3598. Please remember to identify yourself and the course in which you are enrolled.

Email address: wclark@southplainscollege.edu

Attendance Policy: See College Catalog. Since this course is a virtual classroom, attendance will be taken according to the following:

- Participating in class discussion by posting to the discussion board.
- Taking chapter quizzes on or before the midnight due dates.
- Turning in assignments on or before the midnight due date.

Late work: All work must be posted or emailed by the due dates posted on the calendar to receive full credit. Any late work submitted may receive no more than ½ credit at the discretion of the instructor. Excuses such as "The network was down," or "I could not figure out how to

send the assignment through the assignments function" are not acceptable. In short, plan ahead and do not wait until the last minute to submit your assignments. It is always okay to turn in assignments early although discussion board postings should be done with the calendar schedule. **No late credit will be provided for quizzes.** Discussion posts/essays are the only type of work which may be accepted late and this is at the discretion of the instructor.

“Get out of jail” option for quizzes. You may use your “Get out of jail free” card once during the semester for a missed quiz or a low quiz score you would like to replace (Located on homepage in Blackboard). You must send your requests within one week of the original due date to receive full credit for missed assignments/replacement assignments. Please send requests using the Blackboard email function.

Administrative Drop Policy: Due to Financial Aid and South Plains College requirements for participation/attendance a student who fails to turn in 5 assignments during the semester **may** be dropped with a grade of "X" from the course. If missed assignments occur after the final drop date the grade will be "F." Assignments in this context refer to the written chapter assignments as well as quizzes and/or postings to the discussion board.

It is essential that you have reliable access to the Internet. It is not necessary to purchase or own your own computer but you should have a backup plan in place should you encounter computer problems. Firefox is the recommended and supported browser for Blackboard. There are open computer labs available to all enrolled SPC students on all campuses. It is also the student's responsibility to have the required computer skills to complete this course. Should you encounter technical difficulties contact the instructor first, and/or the SPC technical support call (806) 894-9611, ext. 2180. Be sure to include course and section number information when contacting technical support.

Computer Requirements:

Browser Plug-ins and Security Software: Most Web educational experience will require the use of several additional browser plug-ins. It is very highly recommended that you have an anti-virus program on your computer. You may also need Adobe Acrobat for several readings and a multimedia player such as Windows Media Player. Firefox is the supported browser for Blackboard. Please download and use it! Since this course are entirely online, participants are expected to have at least an elementary knowledge of their microcomputer operating system and basic knowledge of software and tools such as a word processor, e-mail, an Internet browser, and search engines.

There are three regular types of assignments required for this course: Chapter quizzes, Timmerman reading assignments and discussion assignments. There is also a term project.

Chapter Quizzes: There is a 50 point quiz (25 questions) for each chapter we will cover in the course. These will be made available to you at the appropriate times during the course. These are 45 minute timed quizzes and you will have two opportunities to take the quiz. These are open book/open note quizzes but it would be best to read the material before attempting to take the quiz. Each quiz is automatically graded and the results are immediately available to you. If you

take the quiz twice, the higher of the two scores will be the one which is recorded in the gradebook. You will also be able to track your progress on the My Grades page located on the course homepage.

Reading Assignments: There are six sections in the Timmerman book and specific question prompts for each section are located under the assignments tab. You are to **complete four of the six section assignments**. Any outside sources should be documented using APA documentation style (see the citing sources page or the SPC library home page for more information on how to do this). Each assignment should make at least three specific references to textbook information. These references must be cited and referenced according to APA style. You may use Word attachments or copy and paste your work directly into the submissions window in the assignments function. These should be presented in essay format using the conventions of standard written English. (i.e. no bullet lists, one sentence paragraphs, text speech or other “shortcuts.”)

Discussion Board postings: There are six of these assigned for the semester. There will be several questions or discussion prompts posted to the discussion board area. The first postings will be individual thoughts or comments and then you should reply to at least two of your classmates. The primary goal for this portion of the course is to “talk” about what you are learning. Please do pay attention to using standard written English and check grammar and spelling. In the initial postings your goal is to link the examples from the video or question to the concepts presented in the textbook. This is also the place to include personal experiences and/or reactions. For the reply postings you should ask questions to encourage other students to think more deeply, constructively disagree at times, apply textbook/course information to others comments, and share your own experiences that relate to the topic of discussion. If you repeat yourself in your reply messages you will only receive partial credit. Also, simply stating “I agree” is not detailed or complex enough to earn points.

All written assignments should be presented using the conventions of Standard Written English.

Writing Tips:

1. All written work should be typed or computer generated with one inch margins in a standard 12 pt. font. Please use Word for attachments.
2. Any references used should be listed at the end of the paper using APA style and within the body of the text according to APA procedure. ***Using reference material without proper documentation constitutes plagiarism which is a serious academic offense.*** Wikipedia is not considered a valid academic source. Do not use it!
3. For the assignments in this class, it is better to write using first or third person pronouns. Therefore it is appropriate to use “I, me, mine” or “he, she, their, we.” It is not appropriate to use “you” or “your.” Please avoid writing in 2nd person.

4. Be sure to proofread your work for grammatical and spelling errors. Use the "enable html" button within the email, assignments, and discussion functions to run a spell check. Also remember that "healthy" paragraphs are usually comprised of at least three sentences organized around a central idea.

5. Text message language and abbreviations are not standard written English and therefore are not acceptable in this course.

Academic Integrity—see the College catalog "Offering the work of another as one's own, without proper acknowledgement, is plagiarism..." Students found guilty of plagiarism will fail the work in question for the first offense and will be dropped from the course with an "F" should a second offense occur. For further information and examples please see <http://www3.southplainscollege.edu/plagiarism/> or <http://tlt.its.psu.edu/plagiarism/tutorial>

Student Appeals—see College catalog "The student should schedule an appointment with the instructor of the course to discuss the final grade or disciplinary action. If the student is still not satisfied, he/she should schedule an appointment with the appropriate departmental chairperson to discuss the situation...If the student is still not satisfied, he/she should schedule an appointment with the Divisional Dean to discuss the situation...If the student is still not satisfied, he/she should be advised of the formal appeal process."

Student Conduct—"Failure to comply with lawful directions of a classroom teacher relative to maintaining good order is considered misconduct on the part of the student. Repeated violations of disrupting a class will result in the student being dropped from the course" (Student Guide). Please note that this is an online environment and others will see your comments posted to the discussion board area and/or in e-mail communications. Do not post any pictures, comments or data that others may find offensive.

Equal Opportunity: South Plains College strives to accommodate the individual needs of all students in order to enhance their opportunities for success in the context of a comprehensive community college setting. It is the policy of South Plains College to offer all educational and employment opportunities without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability or age. In addition, this instructor will not tolerate remarks nor gestures that can be construed to be sexist, racist, heterosexist or in any way disparaging to another person in this classroom. Students who exhibit such behavior will be dropped from the class with a semester grade of "F" regardless of race, ethnicity, sex, religion, or sexual orientation. . In short, "Bigotry will not be tolerated." (Student Guide)

ACCOMMODATIONS: ADA Statement

Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland Student Health & Wellness Center 806-716-2577, Reese Center (also covers ATC) Building 8: 806-716-4675,

Plainview Center Main Office: 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611, or the Health and Wellness main number at 806-716-2529.

Grades: It is possible to earn up to 1000 points in this course.

- 8 quizzes @ 50 400
- Reading assignments 4 @ 75 300
- 6 dis. postings @ 50 300

Points necessary for each grade: A= 1000-900, B= 899-800, C= 799-700, D= 699-600, F= 599 and below.

Discussions

Discussion topics are listed in the Discussion Tool. Most discussion topics will require viewing a video and the links are provided in the discussion topics instructions. To receive the full 40 points for participation each assignment you must post an original message and two reply messages.

Original message requirements:

- Due as indicated on the calendar at midnight.
- 200 – 300 words in length.
- Make direct connections between the video AND text information.
- Include personal experiences and/or reactions. CAUTION: remember to use an anthropological (See Chapter 1) perspective in all of your course work.
- Worth up to 25 points

Reply message requirements:

- Two replies are due at midnight as indicated on the course calendar (Min. 100 words each)
- Ask questions to encourage other students to think more deeply.
- Share your own experiences that relate to the topic of discussion.
- Constructively disagree at times.
- Refer to class course work (text or video information) and apply the information or ask other students how they are applying course information.
- If you repeat yourself in your reply messages you will not get credit for one of them.
- Worth up to 15 points

You will not be given full credit for postings that do not meet the above criteria. Also, the use of short, choppy sentences put down that do not show careful thought will NOT earn you full credit. It is appropriate to use sentences like, "I agree" but those sentences do not meet the requirements for grading purposes. See the Grading section below for more information.

ONLINE ETIQUETTE:

A few words about communication and online discussion are in order. As you imagine, some conversations easily become emotional, especially if we touch on people's deeply held beliefs. Unfortunately, online postings can mislead one into thinking that cyberspace is an "anything goes" kind of forum. This isn't the case. Civil interaction is as much expected here as in the "traditional" classroom. Below I provide some guidelines for communicating more effectively online. I will deduct points from posts that violate the spirit of these suggestions.

Keep in mind:

- There will be disagreement and this is good, otherwise we will be bored.
 - Disagreement can be very constructive; it encourages us to reconsider our own positions and either recommit, expand, or discard them.
 - I must at all times hear/see you debating the IDEA and not making a personal attack on an individual. Note that this is a skill to learn like any other – how to debate and get your point heard.
 - Personal insults and attacks impede the development of critical thought. Avoid "you" statements, which can be more easily interpreted as accusations ("you don't know what you're talking about", "the problem is people like you," etc., etc.). Try, instead, to use "I" statements ("I disagree with your position on "X" or "I find that Durkheim was actually saying blah...").
 - In addition, people have to be given the benefit of the doubt on occasion. Because this is an online class and we cannot see each other's facial expressions or hear the tone in our voices, it is important to clarify issues that are confusing. Before jumping to a conclusion and putting words in someone's mouth, ask them to clarify their point. And if someone asks you to restate your opinion, do not be afraid to restate it.
 - Finally, I will be most impressed with individuals who can incorporate course materials into their posts. A key skill you should leave college with is the ability to support your positions; this online forum is an appropriate place to hone this skill. Refer to readings and module material to support your points.
- *Adapted from Soc 101: Introduction to Sociology An Online Course, by Professor Marisol Clark-Ibanez, Ph.D.

Reading Assignments: (75 points each)

Each assignment will involve responding to specific questions regarding the assigned reading in Timmerman. You may directly quote the book as long as it is correctly cited using APA documentation style. The goal of these assignments is to demonstrate you have read and understand the ideas presented in the text. Please respond to the questions using complete sentences (i.e. no bullet lists or abbreviated sentences).

- See the Assignments page for the specific options available for each section of Timmerman. There are six sections in the book. **You are responsible for completing four of the six.**

- These should be polished writing assignments which use the written standards of conventional English (i.e. spelling and grammar count!).
- Be sure and address textbook information in your assignment. You need to make at least 3 direct references (with page numbers listed) to course material. Bring the information into your discussion to show understanding. Strive for a balance between personal experiences or examples and textbook information. Do not just make a passing reference with no discussion. All outside sources and information, including the textbook, must be correctly cited using APA documentation style. If you do not know how to do this please review the information on the resources link or at the SPC library reference page <http://www3.southplainscollege.edu/plagiarism/>.
- Points are deducted for length, spelling, grammar, paragraph form, etc.

Date Due	Chapter assigned	Work Due
June 10	Chap. 1 Culture and Meaning	Chap. 1 quiz, *Intro posting with 2 replies on discussion board
June 14	Read any one of the six sections in Timmerman "Where Am I Eating?"	Reading assignment #1
June 17	Chap. 2 The Meaning of Progress and Development	Chap. 2 quiz Discussion #2 with replies due
June 21	Chap. 3 Globalization, Neoliberalism, and the Nation-State	Chap. 3 quiz Reading Assignments #2
June 24	Chap. 4 The Social and Cultural Construction of Reality	Chap. 4 quiz Discussion 3 with replies due
<i>June 26</i>	<i>Last Day to Drop a course</i>	
June 28	Read any one of the six sections in Timmerman "Where Am I Eating?"	Reading Assignment #3
July 1	Chap. 5 Patterns of Family Relations	Chap. 5 quiz Discussion #4 with replies due
July 5	Chap. 6 The Cultural Construction of Identity	Chap. 6 quiz
July 8	Chap. 7 Cultural Construction of Social Hierarchy	Chap. 7 quiz Discussion # 5 with replies due
July 10	Read any one of the six sections in Timmerman "Where Am I Eating?" Chap. 8 The Cultural Construction of Violent Conflict	Reading Assignment #4 Chap. 8 quiz Discussion #6 with replies due
July 11	Grades Assigned	