

**PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY –  
in partnership with the Gap Year Association study abroad**

**ANTH 103: Introduction to Anthropology; How Location Affects Culture**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**CREDITS:** 4 quarter-credits – Continuous Enrollment Course

Students who plan to use this course to fulfill specific curriculum areas should discuss transfer options and obtain written approval from a counselor or study abroad advisor at their own college/ university PRIOR to enrollment in this course.

**PREREQUISITES:** There are NO prerequisites for this course.

**METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:**

This course is field-based. The course instructor will be available via e-mail.

**INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD:**

PSU has approved the following Instructors of Record, one of whom will be assigned to you typically two+ weeks prior to the beginning of your program:

- Britt Basel, MS - [brittbasel@ecothropic.com](mailto:brittbasel@ecothropic.com)
  - Dianna Hahn, MA – [dianna.hahn@gmail.com](mailto:dianna.hahn@gmail.com)
  - Alexander Papouchis, MS - [alexpapouchis@gmail.com](mailto:alexpapouchis@gmail.com)
  - Cam Sylvester, MA – [camsylvester@gmail.com](mailto:camsylvester@gmail.com)
- Office: 503-206-7336  
Web: <https://gapyearassociation.org>  
Address: PO Box 17427, Portland, OR 97217

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

In this 200-division course, students will better understand the ways populations are impacted by their location – environmentally, historically, culturally, and economically. Students will explore how social divisions occur as well as how divisions can be positively addressed. Students will learn about how the local culture has evolved to its present state, and strive to understand what influences environmentally, historically, culturally, and/or economically have influenced it. Supplemental assignments offer opportunities for research and reflection of experiences.

**COURSE EXPECTATIONS:**

- **Environment of Respect:** Disagreement and diversity of opinions are encouraged. You will be challenged to think critically about the impact of cultural differences, which may include gender, race, the roles environment has in business and market development, socioeconomic status, physical and cognitive ability, sexuality and other forms of diversity. You are encouraged to ask difficult questions and engage in discussion and critical reflection. Please be respectful of others, listen, and try to understand differences.
- **Experiential Learning:** In this course, learning is an experiential process in which you have the opportunity to engage in and reflect on a variety of different experiences throughout the term. The richness of this class will depend on the questions, insights, and active participation that you bring.
- **Personal Responsibility:** You are expected to engage fully in this class and take action if you need help. Please communicate any concerns about assignments, deadlines, or classroom activities.
- **Academic Integrity:** Please adhere to university policies. Please take special note of policies regarding plagiarism and course withdrawal. It is expected that each student will prepare his or her own assignments and that any assignments submitted will be the sole work of the student. Academic dishonesty, including cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information, will not be tolerated. The University's Code of Student Conduct may be found at <https://www.pdx.edu/dos/psu-student-code-conduct>.

**STUDENT OUTCOMES:**

Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to:

- Identify key elements in the shaping of local culture, as well as the limitations in such assessments.
- Examine differences and similarities, by working and/or volunteering in an international setting.
- Analyze and summarize insights gained from engaging in varied local cultural experiences.
- Improve cross-cultural communication, interpersonal skills and enhance critical thinking of international development through volunteer activities.

**CONTACT HOURS, EXCURSIONS, AND METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**

A total of 40 contact hours will be facilitated. These hours will come in the forms of:

- Homestays
- Introduction to relevant cultural norms
- Language instruction and individual study on its role on world views
- Excursions to historical sites
- Excursions to markets and culturally significant sites
- Interviews with local contacts
- Service-learning projects focusing on social service
- Service-learning projects with an environmental focus

**STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS:**

**REQUIRED HOURS** – must complete 40 contact hours as detailed above. The Gap Year Association will provide verification of hours.

**A DAILY JOURNAL** in English will be a descriptive and reflective study/journal of your semester. Use it to keep brief narratives of your daily experiences. It should contain notes on places visited, interviews, daily purchases, oral language activities, student observations of different and unique cultural traits, etc. Self-reflection is important and will be a significant part of your journal grade. Self-reflection will involve answering questions that force you to think critically about your experiences. When writing journals consider questions like:

- How is this experience different from my expectations?
- What challenges have I faced throughout this experience? How am I overcoming them?
- Explore differences, similarities to your home culture.
- What have been the most poignant learning experiences? How has that impacted my world-view?

**REQUIRED READING** – must read at least 1 book from the Recommended Reading list and demonstrate knowledge learned and/or perspectives expressed (with citations) in your FINAL REPORT.

**FINAL REPORT** of insights gained from this international service experience. Our expectation is that the papers you submit will reflect college-level writing. Your report will be 8-10 pages in length. Reports must be typed (double spaced) with a cover page that includes your name, the quarter (eg. fall 2021), the international program attended, and course number.

**Submit a comprehensive report analyzing one culture that you have direct experience with while on your program. How does this group identify itself? How is this group seen as by other groups? What has influenced the formation of this group in each of the following four categories: environmental, historical, cultural, economic? What are the limits to your ability to understand how the culture has come to be?**

Final Report will be graded as follows:

- Objective description of the culture - 10%
- How has the culture been influenced by each of the following:
  - Environment – 10%
  - History – 10%
  - Culture (local, regional, global) – 10%
  - Economics – 10%
- Self-evaluation and reflection of limits of conclusion- 20%
- Clarity and Organization of Ideas - 20%
- Ability to Demonstrate Knowledge from the Required Readings - 10%

### **DUE DATES, SUBMITTING JOURNAL AND FINAL REPORT:**

#### **Calendar/Schedule:**

All course requirements must be submitted by:

- Fall Semester: January 20th
- Spring Semester: June 20th

#### **Submitting Journals & Final Reports:**

Please email your final report to the instructor, and post any necessary journals or supportive documents to:

Gap Year Association  
PSU Grading Instructor  
PO Box 17427  
Portland, OR 97217

\*\*\* Purchase tracking for anything you post as some materials have gotten lost in the past.

#### **COURSE EVALUATION CRITERIA:**

- Daily Journal (30%): Evaluation criteria include, but are not limited to, clearly presented observations, creative thought and appropriateness.
- Final Report (70%); Evaluation criteria include, but are not limited to, insight, format, content appropriateness, organization skills, and analysis of topic.
- Required Readings: This is a requirement for successful completion of this class.
- Required Hours: The Gap Year Association will provide verification of these hours.
- Grading: This course is graded with letter grades; A - F. See more details about PSU's grading system [here](#).

#### **READING LIST:**

**Students must read and cite at minimum ONE book in the final assignment. The following books have been approved for this course. Any other books not a part of this list must first be approved by the field instructors.**

#### **All Regions:**

The Anthropology of Globalization: Cultural Anthropology Enters the 21st Century. Author: Ted Lewellen  
Through multiple examples, selected from the latest ethnographic research from all over the world, Lewellen examines the ways that globalization impacts migrants and stay-at-homes, peasants and tribal peoples, men and women.

Guns, Germs, and Steel. Author: Jared Diamond

Jared Diamond convincingly argues that geographical and environmental factors shaped the modern world.

Collapse. Author: Jared Diamond

the author explores how climate change, the population explosion and political discord create the conditions for the collapse of civilization

Cultural Anthropology: 10: Jack David Eller

This concise and accessible introduction establishes the relevance of cultural anthropology for the modern world through an integrated, ethnographically informed approach.

Cultural Anthropology: A Toolkit for a Global Age : Kenneth J. Guest

This book shows students that now, more than ever, global forces affect local culture and that the tools of cultural anthropology are essential to living in a global society.

Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind: Yuval Noah Harari

Through interesting ideas and a touch of humor, Harari details human development through three “Revolutions”: the Cognitive, the Agricultural, and the Scientific.

Social and Cultural Anthropology: A Very Short Introduction: Peter Just

This book provides overview of the field combines an accessible account of some of the discipline's guiding principles and methodology with abundant examples and illustrations of anthropologists at work.

Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology: James W. Spradley Late and David W. McCurdy

For over 40 years, the best-selling Conformity and Conflict has brought together original readings and cutting-edge research alongside classic works as a powerful way to study human behavior and events.

The Tapestry of Culture: An Introduction to Cultural Anthropology: Abraham Rosman and Paula Rubel

The Tapestry of Culture provides the student with the basic concepts necessary to understand these different cultures while showing that cultural variations occur within certain limits.

Time and the Other: How Anthropology Makes Its Object: Johannes Fabian

Time and the Other is a critique of the notions that anthropologists are “here and now,” their objects of study are “there and then,” and that the “other” exists in a time not contemporary with our own.