

## SSC195 Cultural Anthropology



# Pathways

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For the Acadeum Course Sharing Consortium



*We're delighted to have you study at RMC! Please note the following policies:*

We try our best to ensure you get the most from the courses in which you are enrolled and welcome your feedback.

### **Online Courtesy**

As beings created in the image of God, we all deserve to be treated with the utmost respect whether we are a facilitator or a student. Online courses give us the opportunity to encourage social interaction, relationship building and trust between participants which befits our status as image-bearers. Failure to show respect in course interchange, through emails, announcements, discussion forums or instant chat, whether in the form of racism, chauvinism or simple unkindness is ungracious and inappropriate for the health of Christian community. Where mutual respect exists, the possibility of learning is enhanced for all.

Therefore, please remember that there is a person behind every comment on the course website – when you respond, be gracious, give the benefit of the doubt and ask for clarification. Review your comments in the discussion forums for tone before submitting them – sarcasm and jokes often do not translate well in the online environment. Be sure your messages are clear – it is tempting to quickly write a response and submit it but this can lead to confusion if your thoughts are a bit jumbled – take time to polish your remarks. Remember that your comments, whether in emails or discussion forums can become public so act accordingly.

### **RMC Grading Policy**

#### **Grade Grade Point**

A+	4.0	
A	4.0	A = Excellent - superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
A-	3.7	
B+	3.3	
B	3.0	B = Good - clearly above average performance with knowledge of the subject matter generally complete.
B-	2.7	
C+	2.3	
C	2.0	C = Satisfactory — basic understanding of subject matter.
C-	1.7	
D+	1.3	
D	1.0	D = Inferior work which falls below the expectations of the course but which is of passing quality.
D-	0.7	
F	0.0	F = Failure to meet the minimum standards required for a passing grade.
P	Pass	P = Represents satisfactory work. Given only in courses specially designated for Pass /Fail grading.
IN	Incomplete	
VW	Voluntary Withdrawal	Voluntary Withdrawal from a course before the course withdrawal deadline.
AU	Audit	No grade awarded. Indicates that a minimum of 75% of classes have been attended.

### **Grading Scale**

A+ 97-100	A 93-96	A- 89-92
B+ 85-88	B 80-84	B- 76-79
C+ 72-75	C 67-71	C- 60-66
D 55-59	F 0-54	

## **Plagiarism & Academic Misconduct at Rocky Mountain College**

### **A. Plagiarism Defined**

**Plagiarism** - involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Plagiarism exists when:

1. the work submitted was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting the work,
2. parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
3. the whole work is copied from another source, and/or
4. a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence.

### **B. Penalties**

1. **Failing Grade** - a student may be given a failing grade in either the assignment or course in which that student is found guilty of plagiarism. Except in circumstances in which leniency is warranted, this penalty will be applied in conjunction with one or other of the other penalties mentioned below.
2. **Disciplinary Probation** - when a student is placed on disciplinary probation, he or she is entitled to proceed with their academic program. If the student is found guilty of a further academic offence the student will be suspended or expelled.
3. **Suspension** - suspension takes place when a student is denied continuance at the college for a specified period of time. A student who has been placed under suspension is eligible to reapply for admission after the end of that specified period of time. Suspension does not imply automatic readmission; a student must satisfy the dean of his/her eligibility for readmission.
4. **Expulsion** - a student who is expelled is dismissed permanently from the college with no right to apply for readmission.

### **C. Penalties and Their Application**

1. In cases in which the dean is satisfied that a student is guilty of a clear intention to deceive, the normal penalty will be either suspension or expulsion from the college.
2. In cases in which the dean is satisfied that an offence has been committed, but doubt is left as to the existence of a clear intention to deceive, the normal penalty will be disciplinary probation.
3. In cases where a student is found guilty of more than a single offence, the normal penalty will be expulsion from the college.

*Copies of the official policy regarding Plagiarism and other academic offenses can be found on the RMC website. If charged with plagiarism, it would be wise for a student to familiarize themselves with the RMC policy, "Plagiarism, Cheating & Academic Misconduct."*

This policy is based on the University of Calgary policy "Plagiarism, Cheating & Academic Misconduct - 1996-97" Copyright © 1998 University of Calgary

**SSC195 Cultural Anthropology**  
**Rocky Mountain College**  
**Credits: 3**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**I** An exploration to introduce students to the central concepts, theories and techniques employed by cultural anthropologists to explore the cultural dimensions of human experience. The course is organized around central questions in the study of human societies, including culture, language and symbolism, religion and rituals, gender and race, kinship and marriage, authority and power, production and colonialism, post-colonialism and globalization. Missional implications, including contextual theologizing and conversion as cultural/worldview transformation, will be considered.

**II GENERAL OBJECTIVES**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A.** conduct preliminary analysis of a culture and society;
- B.** demonstrate participant observation skills of diverse cultures;
- C.** identify cultural assumptions and resulting patterns, attitudes and behaviours in our own culture(s), as well as in cultures other than our own; and
- D.** correlate anthropological theories/principles to effective communication of the gospel and diverse ministry contexts.

**III COURSE ORGANIZATION**

**A. Required Texts**

- 1.** Brian M. Howell & Jenell Williams Paris. *Introducing Cultural Anthropology: A Christian Perspective*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2011; **ISBN-10: 0801038871**
- 2.** Charlie Angus. *Children of the Broken Treaty/Canada's Lost Promise and One Girl's Dream*. Regina, SK: University of Regina Press, 2015; **Paperback ISBN: 9780889774018**
- 3.** Assigned readings for each module; and
- 4.** *The Holy Bible* (TNIV, NLT or NRSV translations).

**B. Assignments**

- 1. Reading** - Complete a "close reading" of the textbook and assigned articles as well as the book used for the cultural analysis paper (item 2. below).
- 2. Cultural Analysis Paper** – prepare a cultural analysis paper (12 pages, 12-point font, double spaced) of *Children of the Broken Treaty/Canada's Lost Promise and One Girl's Dream*. Note: This is **not a book review** but rather an opportunity to employ and interact with the anthropological categories/themes detailed in our textbook through the case study of Shannen Koostachin, a Cree-Canadian teenager. Organize your paper as follows:

- a) the first 5 pages - the “what-I-observed” section – will recount clear, concise detailed cultural observations (include page numbers from the book) about each module’s subjects (e.g., production and exchange, authority and power, language, gender & sexuality, religion, etc.). Ensure you use the anthropological words/concepts you have learned in this course (remember that I know them, too, so you do not have to explain what they mean; write as a budding anthropologically-informed person). This is not analysis but specific observations.
- b) the next 4 pages – the “what-happened-as-two-cultures-collided” section - will discuss the cultural challenges that surfaced in this case study. This is where you engage in analysis of this book as a cultural case study. Again, ensure you use the terminology of the field as learned in this course.
- c) the final 3 page – the “so-what section” – will set forth specific and significant missiological/ministry implications discovered from your engagement with this book (and, in a sense, the entire course). *This is application to other contexts, not specific to the book but rather implications evoked by the book as it pertains to you as a Christian disciple and discipler; and*

### 3. Module Essays through engaged contributions.

#### C. Evaluation

The overall grade will be determined from the following allocations:

Cultural Analysis Paper	40%
Module Essays	40%
Reading (texts & articles)	<u>20%</u>
	<b>100%</b>

### COURSE OUTLINE

#### **Module 1** **Est. Time 8 hrs.**

What is Anthropology?/History & Types  
Ethnographic Fieldwork/Participant  
Observation/Concept of Culture - Introduced

#### **Reading:**

- Text, pages 1-22, 25-42, 225-245
- Bible: Matt. 9:35-38; 28:16-20; Gen. 2:18-25

#### **Articles:**

- *From Participant Observation to Observation of Participation: The Emergence of Narrative Ethnography*
- *Body Ritual among the Nacirema*

#### **Assignment:**

- Culture Essay; Residential School Essay

**Module 2**  
**Est. Time 9 hrs.**

Language & Communication

**Reading:**

- Text, pages 45-63
- Bible: Gen. 27:22-23

**Articles:**

- *The Talk of the Sandbox: How Johnny and Suzy's Playground Chatter Prepares Them for Life at the Office*
- *Can We Talk?*

**Film:**

- *Babies*

**Module 3**  
**Est. Time 9 hrs.**

Social Structure & Inequality in Race, Ethnicity & Class  
Muted Group Theory

**Reading:**

- Text, pages 65-85
- Bible: Gal. 3:26-29

**Article:**

- *White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack*

**Assignment:**

- Essential Practices Essay; Police Tactics Essay

**Module 4**  
**Est. Time 6 Hrs.**

Gender & Sexuality

**Reading:**

- Text, pages 87-105
- Bible: Proverbs 31, 1 Cor. 7:8-9

**Article:**

- *A Question of Compromise: A Case Study by Christine E. Gudorf*

**Assignment:**

- Female Circumcision Essay

**Module 5**  
**Est. Time 8 hrs.**

Kinship & Marriage

**Reading:**

- Text, pages 153-171
- Bible: Eph. 1:3-6, Matt. 1:1-17; Luke 3:23-38

**Articles:**

- *Critical Reflections on Polygamy in the African Christian Context*
- *When Brothers Share a Wife*
- *Adopt a Daughter-in-Law, Marry a Sister: A Chinese Solution to the Incest Taboo*

**Assignment:**

- Kinship & Marriage Essay

**Module 6**  
**Est. Time 8 hrs.**

Production & Exchange/Economics

**Reading:**

- Text, pages 107-129
- Bible: Gen. 3:16-19

**Film:**

- *The Price of Aid*

**Assignment:**

- Ongka's Big Moka Essay

**Module 7**  
**Est. Time 8 hrs.**

Authority & Power/Law & Social Order

**Reading:**

- Text, pages 131-150
- Bible: Luke 4:31-37; Proverbs 28:12

**Article:**

- *The Kpelle Moot*

**Film:**

- *Ongka's Big Moka*

**Assignment:**

- Circles Essay

**Module 8**  
**Est. Time 9 hrs.**

Religion & Ritual/Contextual Theology & Discipleship Rituals

**Reading:**

- Text, pages 175-200
- Bible: Psalm 42:1-6; 1 Cor. 12:12-13

**Articles:**

- *Towards a Cross-Cultural Definition of Sin*
- *The Flaw of the Excluded Middle*

**Assignment:**

- Discipleship Essay

**Module 9**  
**Est. Time 9 hrs.**

Globalization & Culture Change/Colonialism & Post-Colonialism

**Reading:**

- Text, pages 203-222
- Bible: Ps.137:1-4; Ex. 1:15-21; Jer. 28:4-14

**Article:**

- *Why Can't They Feed Themselves?*

**Assignment:**

- Colonial and Neo-Colonialism Essay

**Module 10**  
**Est. Time 9 hrs.**

Missional Implications of Anthropology (Missional Change Agency)

**Reading:**

- Text, pages 247-260
- Bible: Acts 2:1-6

**Articles:**

- *Missions and Anthropology: A Love/Hate Relationship*

*Anthropology and Missiology: The Incarnational  
Connection, Parts I and II*

**CULTURAL ANALYSIS PAPER DUE**

RMC uses APA style for all courses. Our latest style guidelines are available on our website (rockymountaincollege.ca under “Resources” – “RMC Writing Support”)

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