



Cultural Anthropology

IC 406

Spring 2025

PROFESSOR: Dr. T. J. Gentry

Office Location: Online

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Carolina University Mission Statement

Carolina University is a Christ-centered University committed to educating aspiring leaders worldwide through exceptional teaching, scholarly research, creative innovation, and professional collaboration.

Course Information

Course Prerequisites

None.

Course Description

Introduction to principles of cultural anthropology: race and culture, social organization and kinship, primitive religions, cultural dynamics, and cross-cultural communication.

Course Delivery and Methods

This is a seven-week online course utilizing assigned readings, tests, asynchronous lectures, and independent assignments.

Objectives (Course Learning Outcomes)

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

1. Define and apply terminology related to the discipline of cultural anthropology.
2. Explain the relationship between culture and worldview.
3. Evaluate Christian approaches to culture.
4. Identify the hidden worldviews within cultures today.
5. Assess and engage cultural contexts through a Christian lens.

Course Resources

Required Texts:

Howell, Brian M. and Jenell Paris. *Introducing Cultural Anthropology: A Christian Perspective*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2019.

Required Resources

1. Online access to view videos by Dr. Gentry.
2. An appropriate modern translation Study Bible. Examples include ESV, CSB, NASB, NIV, and NKJV.

Recommended Resources

Generally, not applicable except as resources are updated or recommended through the course presentation.



Course Requirements and Assignments

This course requires students to demonstrate objective knowledge of course content and subjective application of that content to current issues. Thus, during Weeks 1-6 there are three assignments: one objective and two subjective. Additionally, in Week 7 there is one final project demonstrating a blend of objective and subjective learning.

Objective Knowledge Assignments (One Assignment Per Week, Weeks 1-6)

- Week One
 - Read Howell and Paris, *Introducing Cultural Anthropology*, Ch. 1-2, and take quiz.
 - **Due Sun., 11:30 pm Eastern. Textbook may be used for quiz.**
- Week Two
 - Read Howell and Paris, *Introducing Cultural Anthropology*, Ch. 3-4, and take quiz.
 - **Due Sun., 11:30 pm Eastern. Textbook may be used for quiz.**
- Week Three
 - Read Howell and Paris, *Introducing Cultural Anthropology*, Ch. 5-6, and take quiz.
 - **Due Sun., 11:30 pm Eastern. Textbook may be used for quiz.**
- Week Four
 - Read Howell and Paris, *Introducing Cultural Anthropology*, Ch. 7-8, and take quiz.
 - **Due Sun., 11:30 pm Eastern. Textbook may be used for quiz.**
- Week Five
 - Read Howell and Paris, *Introducing Cultural Anthropology*, Ch. 9-10, and take quiz.
 - **Due Sun., 11:30 pm Eastern. Textbook may be used for quiz.**
- Week Six
 - Read Howell and Paris, *Introducing Cultural Anthropology*, Ch. 11-12, and take quiz.
 - **Due Sun., 11:30 pm Eastern. Textbook may be used for quiz.**

Subjective Application Assignments (Two Assignment Per Week, Weeks 1-6)

- Week One: Watch Dr. Gentry's lecture: Culture and Worldview.
 - **Subjective Assignment One:** Post in weekly discussion forum. One original post of 250-300 words answering the weekly prompt and two response posts of 100-150 words each responding to two classmates' original posts. **Original post is due Thu., 11:30 pm Eastern. Response posts are due Sun., 11:30 pm Eastern.**
 - **Subjective Assignment Two:** Write a 2-3-page paper: How Does Worldview Relate to Culture? Why Does This Matter? **Due Sun., 11:30 pm Eastern.**
 - Paper must reference only the Bible, Dr. Gentry's lecture, and Howell and Paris's book, *Introducing Cultural Anthropology* (all three are required for each paper).
 - When referencing, use parenthetical citations, e.g., (John 3:16 NKJV), (Gentry, Lecture #), and (Howell and Paris, page 12). Do not include a bibliography or title page.
 - Student name and date goes below the question for the paper (which is used as the title line for the paper).



- Write in informal, first-person language.
 - Format is double spaced, one-inch margins, 11- or 12-point font.
 - Paper must be at least 2 pages but no more than 3 pages.
 - All papers will be submitted through Turnitin to check for AI, plagiarism, and originality.
- Week Two: Watch Dr. Gentry's lecture: Christians and Culture.
 - **Subjective Assignment One:** Post in weekly discussion forum. One original post of 250-300 words answering the weekly prompt and two response posts of 100-150 words each responding to two classmates' original posts. **Original post is due Thu., 11:30 pm Eastern. Response posts are due Sun., 11:30 pm Eastern.**
 - **Subjective Assignment Two:** Write a 2-3-page paper: Which Christian Approach to Culture Do You Think is Most Biblical? Why? **Due Sun., 11:30 pm Eastern.**
 - Paper must reference only the Bible, Dr. Gentry's lecture, and Howell and Paris's book, *Introducing Cultural Anthropology* (all three are required for each paper).
 - When referencing, use parenthetical citations, e.g., (John 3:16 NKJV), (Gentry, Lecture #), and (Howell and Paris, page 12). Do not include a bibliography or title page.
 - Student name and date goes below the question for the paper (which is used as the title line for the paper).
 - Write in informal, first-person language.
 - Format is double spaced, one-inch margins, 11- or 12-point font.
 - Paper must be at least 2 pages but no more than 3 pages.
 - All papers will be submitted through Turnitin to check for AI, plagiarism, and originality.
- Week Three: Watch Dr. Gentry's lecture: Hidden Worldview and Culture, Part One.
 - **Subjective Assignment One:** Post in weekly discussion forum. One original post of 250-300 words answering the weekly prompt and two response posts of 100-150 words each responding to two classmates' original posts. **Original post is due Thu., 11:30 pm Eastern. Response posts are due Sun., 11:30 pm Eastern.**
 - **Subjective Assignment Two:** Write a 2-3-page paper: What Hidden Worldview (of those discussed in this week's lecture) Do You Encounter Most? Where Does It Differ from Christianity? **Due Sun., 11:30 pm Eastern.**
 - Paper must reference only the Bible, Dr. Gentry's lecture, and Howell and Paris's book, *Introducing Cultural Anthropology* (all three are required for each paper).
 - When referencing, use parenthetical citations, e.g., (John 3:16 NKJV), (Gentry, Lecture #), and (Howell and Paris, page 12). Do not include a bibliography or title page.
 - Student name and date goes below the question for the paper (which is used as the title line for the paper).
 - Write in informal, first-person language.
 - Format is double spaced, one-inch margins, 11- or 12-point font.
 - Paper must be at least 2 pages but no more than 3 pages.
 - All papers will be submitted through Turnitin to check for AI, plagiarism, and originality.



- Week Four: Watch Dr. Gentry's lecture: Hidden Worldview and Culture, Part Two.
 - **Subjective Assignment One:** Post in weekly discussion forum. One original post of 250-300 words answering the weekly prompt and two response posts of 100-150 words each responding to two classmates' original posts. **Original post is due Thu., 11:30 pm Eastern. Response posts are due Sun., 11:30 pm Eastern.**
 - **Subjective Assignment Two:** Write a 2-3-page paper: What Hidden Worldview (of those discussed in this week's lecture) Do You Encounter Most? Where Does It Differ from Christianity? **Due Sun., 11:30 pm Eastern.**
 - Paper must reference only the Bible, Dr. Gentry's lecture, and Howell and Paris's book, *Introducing Cultural Anthropology* (all three are required for each paper).
 - When referencing, use parenthetical citations, e.g., (John 3:16 NKJV), (Gentry, Lecture #), and (Howell and Paris, page 12). Do not include a bibliography or title page.
 - Student name and date goes below the question for the paper (which is used as the title line for the paper).
 - Write in informal, first-person language.
 - Format is double spaced, one-inch margins, 11- or 12-point font.
 - Paper must be at least 2 pages but no more than 3 pages.
 - All papers will be submitted through Turnitin to check for AI, plagiarism, and originality.

- Week Five: Watch Dr. Gentry's lecture: Christians Engaging Culture, Part One.
 - **Subjective Assignment One:** Post in weekly discussion forum. One original post of 250-300 words answering the weekly prompt and two response posts of 100-150 words each responding to two classmates' original posts. **Original post is due Thu., 11:30 pm Eastern. Response posts are due Sun., 11:30 pm Eastern.**
 - **Subjective Assignment Two:** Write a 2-3-page paper: Which Part of the ENGAGE Model (of the parts discussed in this week's lecture) Do You Find Most Difficult? Most Helpful? Why? **Due Sun., 11:30 pm Eastern.**
 - Paper must reference only the Bible, Dr. Gentry's lecture, and Howell and Paris's book, *Introducing Cultural Anthropology* (all three are required for each paper).
 - When referencing, use parenthetical citations, e.g., (John 3:16 NKJV), (Gentry, Lecture #), and (Howell and Paris, page 12). Do not include a bibliography or title page.
 - Student name and date goes below the question for the paper (which is used as the title line for the paper).
 - Write in informal, first-person language.
 - Format is double spaced, one-inch margins, 11- or 12-point font.
 - Paper must be at least 2 pages but no more than 3 pages.
 - All papers will be submitted through Turnitin to check for AI, plagiarism, and originality.

- Week Six: Watch Dr. Gentry's lecture: Christians Engaging Culture, Part Two.
 - **Subjective Assignment One:** Post in weekly discussion forum. One original post of 250-300 words answering the weekly prompt and two response posts of 100-150



- words each responding to two classmates' original posts. **Original post is due Thu., 11:30 pm Eastern. Response posts are due Sun., 11:30 pm Eastern.**
- **Subjective Assignment Two:** Write a 2-3-page paper: Which Part of the ENGAGE Model (of the parts discussed in this week's lecture) Do You Find Most Difficult? Most Helpful? Why? **Due Sun., 11:30 pm Eastern.**
 - Paper must reference only the Bible, Dr. Gentry's lecture, and Howell and Paris's book, *Introducing Cultural Anthropology* (all three are required for each paper).
 - When referencing, use parenthetical citations, e.g., (John 3:16 NKJV), (Gentry, Lecture #), and (Howell and Paris, page 12). Do not include a bibliography or title page.
 - Student name and date goes below the question for the paper (which is used as the title line for the paper).
 - Write in informal, first-person language.
 - Format is double spaced, one-inch margins, 11- or 12-point font.
 - Paper must be at least 2 pages but no more than 3 pages.
 - All papers will be submitted through Turnitin to check for AI, plagiarism, and originality.

Final Project (One Assignment, Due Week 7)

- For the final project, students will prepare a paper entitled as follows: A Guide for Christian Cultural Engagement. **Due Sun., 11:30 pm Eastern.**
 - The following elements are required for the paper.
 - Length: At least 8 pages and no more than 10 pages.
 - Sources: Use only the Bible, Dr. Gentry's lecture, and Howell and Paris's book, *Introducing Cultural Anthropology* (all three are required for the paper).
 - Citations: Use parenthetical citations, e.g., (John 3:16 NKJV), (Gentry, Lecture #), and (Howell and Paris, page 12).
 - Sections: All sections must be included in the paper in the order given below.
 - Section One: What Is Culture and How Does It Relate to Worldview?
 - Section Two: What Are Three Christian Approaches to Culture?
 - Section Three: What Is the ENGAGE Model of Cultural Engagement?
 - Section Four: What Are Two Ways You Will Apply Your Learning from the Course?
 - Format: Do not include a bibliography or title page. Student name and date goes below the title of the paper (which is used as the title line for the paper). Write in informal, first-person language. Format is double spaced, one-inch margins, 11- or 12-point font. All papers will be submitted through Turnitin to check for AI, plagiarism, and originality.



Course Schedule

| Weeks | Dates | Topics | Read/Watch | Assignments | Points |
|-------|--------------------|---|---|--|----------------|
| 1 | March 3-9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Discipline of Anthropology Culture Worldview | Howell and Paris, Ch 1-2 Gentry, Lecture 1 | Quiz 1 Discussion 1 2-3-Page Paper 1 | 50 50 50 |
| 2 | March 10-16 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Language Social Structure and Inequality in Race, Ethnicity, and Class Christians and Culture | Howell and Paris, Ch 3-4 Gentry, Lecture 2 | Quiz 2 Discussion 2 2-3-Page Paper 2 | 50 50 50 |
| 3 | March 17-23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sex, Gender, and Sexuality Economics Hidden Worldviews | Howell and Paris, Ch 5-6 Gentry, Lecture 3 | Quiz 3 Discussion 3 2-3-Page Paper 3 | 50 50 50 |
| 4 | March 24-30 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authority and Power Kinship and Marriage Hidden Worldviews | Howell and Paris, Ch 7-8 Gentry, Lecture 4 | Quiz 4 Discussion 4 2-3-Page Paper 4 | 50 50 50 |
| 5 | March 31 - April 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Religion and Ritual Medical Anthropology Christians Engaging Culture | Howell and Paris, Ch 9-10 Gentry Lecture 5 | Quiz 5 Discussion 5 2-3-Page Paper 5 | 50 50 50 |
| 6 | April 7-13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theory in Cultural Anthropology Anthropology in Action Christians Engaging Culture | Howell and Paris, Ch 11-12 Gentry, Lecture 6 | Quiz 6 Discussion 6 2-3-Page Paper 6 | 50 50 50 |
| 7 | April 14-20 | Wrap-Up | None | Final Project | 300 |

Course Specific Policies

General



- All assignments must be submitted through the eLearning platform.
- Written assignments should be submitted as Word documents.
- All assignments must be completed to pass this course.
- Class week is Mon-Sun (n.b., the intensive schedule will be provided in a separate document). Weekly assignments are due by 11:55 pm Eastern Standard Time, unless otherwise stated by Dr. Gentry. Late assignments will receive a ten-point reduction per day. Assignments later than one week will receive a grade of zero.

Use of Artificial Intelligence

The use of generative AI tools is permitted in this class for the following activities:

- Brainstorming and refining ideas
- Fine-tuning research questions
- Finding information on a topic
- Drafting an outline
- Checking grammar and style
- AI-specific assignments (per the provided instructions)

The use of generative AI tools is not permitted for the following activities:

- Impersonation in classroom context (e.g. composing discussion board posts)
- Completing group work
- Writing a draft of a writing assignment
- Writing entire sentences, paragraphs, or papers to complete class assignments

Course Grading

| Assignment Type | Points |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Quizzes | 300 |
| Discussion Forums | 300 |
| 2-3-Page Papers | 300 |
| Final Project | 300 |
| Total | 1200 |

Course Assessment Mapping

| Assessment | Objective(s) Met |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Quizzes | 1,2,3,4 |
| Discussion Forums | 1,2,3,4 |
| 2-3-Page Papers | 1,2,3,4 |
| Final Project | 1,2,3,4 |

University Policies

Late Assignment Policy

- Students are expected to inform professors prior to a scheduled absence and understand work may be made up at the professor's discretion to ensure full credit.
- Upon an unexpected absence from class, the student should contact the professor immediately to discuss make-up work and submit such work in a timely manner.
- Students should not wait until the end of the session to deal with concerns about absences.



Grading Scale

| Grade | Point Value | Range | |
|-----------|-------------|---------------|----------|
| | | Undergraduate | Graduate |
| A | 4 | 94-100 | 96-100 |
| A- | 3.7 | 90-93 | 93-95 |
| B+ | 3.3 | 87-89 | 90-92 |
| B | 3 | 83-86 | 87-89 |
| B- | 2.7 | 80-82 | 85-86 |
| C+ | 2.3 | 77-79 | 82-84 |
| C | 2 | 73-76 | 79-81 |
| C- | 1.7 | 70-72 | 77-78 |
| D+ | 1.3 | 67-69 | 74-76 |
| D | 1 | 60-66 | 70-73 |
| F | 0 | <60 | <70 |

Instructor Student Interaction & Communication

- Please use email whenever possible.
- Throughout an active course, faculty should respond to all emails and voicemail messages within 24 hours.
- Grading of assignments is to be done within 3 days for regular assignments (this includes attendance) and 7 days for larger assignments.
- Some assignments may require additional time to grade due to the length of the project and the directive to provide substantive feedback that will assist you throughout the learning process. In cases where the assignment is not returned with feedback within the stated period, refer to communication from your professor to facilitate expectations on subsequent assignments. Students are not expected to apply adjustments on subsequent assignments in advance of returned grading and feedback.

All CU faculty and students are provided with means of electronic communication (e.g. email, video conferencing, chat features, discussion boards, etc.) All employees and students are required to use official university electronic accounts for official university correspondence. This policy is meant to include both synchronous and asynchronous communication. **Faculty and staff are not obligated to read, receive, or respond to communications where these guidelines are not followed.** Email must be checked regularly, especially when enrolled in an active course. Adhere to the following guidelines when communicating online with professors, university employees, and other students.

- Accounts: Only university email and related systems should be used for institutional communications. Do not use personal email or video conferencing accounts.
- Names: Refer to professors and CU employees by their last names with appropriate honorifics (e.g., “Dr.” or “Prof.”). For professors, if you cannot easily verify their degree or status, “Prof.” is most appropriate—not “Ms.” or “Mr.” *Under no circumstance should you use first names unless given explicit permission.*
- Introductions: Use subject lines appropriately and begin any course-specific email with your first and last name, the course number, and your exact section number or meeting time (e.g., “101-05,” “9 am MW,” but not “this morning”).



- **Grammar and Style:** All written communications must conform to standard English. Emails and discussion board posts should not resemble text message, chat, or social media posts. Use complete sentences with correct capitalization, spelling, punctuation, and grammar.
- **Coordination:** All members of a synchronous, online interaction should participate by the same mode of interaction when possible. For example, join video conferences with video. This is especially true for one-on-one meetings with your professor and small group video discussions in or outside of class.
- **“Class” Conduct:** When participating in synchronous classes or meetings (especially when using video), conduct yourself as if in the classroom. Be on-time and mentally present. Be seated at a desk or table. Dress according to classroom standards. Do not introduce distractions into the interactions and be prepared to stay for the duration of the session per normal classroom behavior.
- **Complexity:** In general, asynchronous communication is appropriate for simple questions and activities. Complex questions that require more than one simple response should be addressed synchronously—during class is often best. If you are unable to ask your question during class, or it is too personal to do so, use an asynchronous method to arrange a synchronous meeting.
- **Boundaries:** Synchronous communication is less formal than asynchronous. However, the appropriate use of names, language, acronyms, and emojis must still conform to classroom standards. Since we do not all share the same online culture, be prepared to explain yourself if your acronym or emoji is not understood. Be polite and respectful when asking for clarification, and gracious when misunderstandings occur.

Student Complaints

Informal Resolution

Carolina University seeks to provide an excellent educational experience for all students. If a student wishes to make a complaint of an academic nature, in the first instance, they should seek to resolve the matter by informal discussion with the faculty member. If the discussion is in person, it is recommended that the student follow up with an email summarizing the discussion (complaint and resolution if one is reached). If the discussion with the faculty member does not resolve the issue, the student may also contact Dr. Jerry Hullinger, Dean of the Piedmont Divinity School at hullingerj@carolinau.edu.

Filing a Formal Complaint

If informal discussions do not resolve the complaint, a student may file a formal complaint. No student shall suffer retaliation or other punitive action for the sole reason of filing a complaint or participating in a related process. A student must be enrolled at the institution to file a complaint under this policy. A student may file a complaint about a matter related to teaching, learning, assessment, grading, or student performance in a course. A student must complete and submit the Student Academic Complaint Form to the Registrar's Office no later than 7 days after the events that are alleged to have caused the complaint. Any supporting evidence must be attached to the form. A vague complaint stating unsupported allegations, obvious falsehoods, based on differences of opinion about academic content or faculty expertise, or is unrelated to academic matters is liable to be dismissed summarily.

For the full text and a thorough explanation of the university's complaint policy, visit: <https://catalog.carolinau.edu/student-academic-complaints>



Course Attendance and Participation

All courses follow specific attendance policies found in the [Academic Catalog](#) for that course level and format. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with these policies and to keep track of their own attendance. Per the university attendance policy, accrued absences may contribute negatively toward a student's final grade. Attendance and participation may be used by instructors to determine a portion of a student's grade for a particular course. Whereas attendance is typically defined by statuses identifying a student's presence in a class, participation typically includes the assessment of activity within that course. In some cases, the methodology, subject matter, learning environment, or other factors may require attendance. Faculty will take attendance during class for on-campus students and will take attendance for online students by academic engagement in a weekly discussion forum. Students should refer to the course syllabus for the course's grade weighting table and course-specific policies regarding the grade percentages attributable to each component in a course, which may include attendance and participation. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with these policies and to keep track of their own attendance and comply with the rules.

Disability Assistance

Carolina University welcomes students, faculty, staff and visitors with disabilities to our campus and to our programs. Our goal at CU is to ensure an accessible, inclusive welcoming learning and working environment for individuals with disabilities while complying with federal and state regulations. Students with disabilities are encouraged to reach out to University Accessibility Services (UAS) as soon as possible to explore possible accommodations. UAS serves as a central resource on disability-related information, procedures and services for the university community and partners will work with the student and any other campus partners to identify barriers and implement plans for access. More information about UAS can be found at <https://carolinau.edu/university-accessibility-services>

Academic Integrity and Misconduct

The Student Handbook has a detailed list of different ways students show a lack of academic integrity, including academic technology misuse, cheating, complicity, fabrication or invention, falsification, forgery, multiple submissions, plagiarism, and sabotage.

Academic integrity is the honest and responsible conduct of studies, scholarship, research, information collection, and presentation. The university expects students to submit assignments that are original to them and to properly cite and reference other peoples' ideas using the prescribed style guide. The very foundation of a good university education is academic integrity. Learning how to express original ideas, cite sources, work independently, and report results accurately and honestly are skills that carry students beyond their academic careers. If a student is uncertain about an issue of academic honesty, they should consult the faculty member to resolve questions in any situation prior to the submission of the academic exercise. Maintaining your academic integrity involves:

- Creating and expressing your own ideas in course work.
- Acknowledging all sources of information including verbal, written, digital, and graphic.
- Completing assignments independently or acknowledging collaboration.
- Attending classes, exams, and required academic events.
- Accurately reporting results when conducting your own research.
- Honesty during examinations.
- Not tampering with or misusing technology.



- Not aiding or abetting other students in violating any academic rules or policies.

Courses at Carolina University will utilize proctoring for select exams to ensure exam integrity. Per Carolina University directives, all exams that represent 25% or more of a course grade are required to be proctored. Instances of cheating or inappropriate behavior will be considered violations of the Academic Integrity policy and will result in disciplinary action. Plagiarism is the use of another person's distinctive ideas or words without acknowledgment. All researchers are expected to acknowledge the use of another author's words by the use of quotation marks around those words in the text of a paper and by appropriate citations. Plagiarism can occur in an oral, written, or media project submitted for academic credit or for some other benefit. Examples of plagiarism include (but are not limited to), the following:

- Word-for-word copying of another person's ideas or words;
- Mosaic (interspersing of one's own words here and there while, in essence, copying another's work);
- Paraphrasing without citation (the rewriting of another's work, yet still using their fundamental idea or theory);
- Submission of another's work as one's own;
- Having another person write a paper;
- Buying or procuring a ready-made paper from a research paper "service" on the Internet or from another such service;
- Neglecting quotation marks on material that is otherwise acknowledged;
- Fabrication of references (inventing or counterfeiting sources)

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