Anthropology 311  
Course Syllabus  
Culture and Education

Instructor: Chris Muench  
Course Title: Anthropology 311, Culture and Education  
Office Phone: (208) 665-5436  
Office on NIC campus: Molstead Library Room 209 (I do not hold regular office hours; however, I am quite willing to meet with students by appointment.)  
Home Phone: 208-689-3877 (I ask that you only use this number in the event of an emergency.)  
LCSC faculty email: cgmuench@lcsc.edu  

Texts:  
These texts are available through the LCSC Bookstore or www.efollett.com. You can also order your texts on-line though other sources. I would suggest that you consider www.amazon.com, and www.bn.com as good sources.  

Marcelo Suarez-Orozco and Desiree Baolin Qin-Hilliard; 2004  
Globalization: Culture and Education in the New Millennium, Univ. of California Press ISBN # 0520241258  

First Person, First Peoples: Native American College Graduates Tell Their Life Stories, Cornell University Press: Ithaca  
ISBN #0801484146  

There will also be other assigned Internet and library readings throughout the semester.  

* A Note on the Texts:  

Both texts contain collections of essays written by independent authors presenting views based upon personal experience, independent observations and research. The articles vary widely in the content and opinions expressed. It is my general policy to refrain from expressing my
own particular judgments in respect to the views of the authors. I will however, provide clarification of details when necessary and from time to time suggest further points for consideration. I have adopted this approach in order to allow you to discuss the articles between yourselves on the Forum without the fear of missing the "right answer" to the thought problems I pose. You no doubt will find that some of the authors' views conflict with your own; however, you may find yourself in agreement with other authors. You will be given ample opportunity to express your points of agreement or disagreement. I hope that the readings will challenge you to consider other viewpoints than our own and help you arrive at a fuller understanding of your own beliefs in respect to the topics under discussion.

The Purpose Of This Course:

We live in an age where global interconnections profoundly influence the daily activities, beliefs and economic realities of even the most remote populations. Today's students face a confusing world of shifting cultural values and economic fortunes. This course addresses the role of formal education in preparing or failing to prepare students to survive and thrive in this changing landscape.

Throughout the semester we will explore the way peoples of various cultures transmit and receive information in the process of learning about their world. We will also examine the confusion and conflicts that may arise between peoples of different cultures, particularly in reference to the global economy and global exchanges of cultural information. We will pay particular attention to a) the educational challenges presented by globalization, b) the range and nature of the skills needed to succeed within this environment, c) various educational approaches now being employed in other nations and cultures and d) how educators in the United States can better prepare their students to meet the demands of the future. The central theme of this course pertains to the question of whether or not our primary and secondary schools are preparing today's students to be successful citizens in a global society.

Course Format and Requirements:

It is important to understand, that Internet courses are different than regular lecture courses. Because I will not be in front of a class presenting the information, the learning experience depends on each student completing the assignments and fully participating in the class
discussions. In an Internet course such as this, it is the students who help teach each other and who help sustain the excitement and interest in the course content. While I will give you individual feedback on your progress in the course at regular intervals, I will not be leading the discussions or directing you on a day-to-day basis.

Please note: I try to check and respond to the course email every weekday; however, I do not routinely check email on weekends. If you need to send me a time critical message, please try to send it prior to the weekend.

**Assigned Readings**

Instead of lectures, the textbook and other reading materials become the primary information source; therefore, it is essential that each student keep up with the weekly reading assignments in order to participate fully in forum discussions. **Each week there will be assigned readings from the text and frequent reference to readings from other Internet sites.** I will provide a weekly study guide consisting of questions and points of understanding in order to help you with the reading assignments and to prepare for your exams. **You are not required to submit your study guide responses to me.**  

**Warning:** Please be sure to carefully review each of the weekly assignments by accessing them through the weekly assignment link on the home page. Do not go directly to the Forum Discussions as you will no doubt miss the deadlines and specifics of exams and other assignments.

**Forum Discussions**

An important component in this course is the weekly forum discussions. On the week's assignment page, I will provide a topic for discussion in the form of a question and **you will be required to present your view or opinion on the topic** on the week's forum page. You are also required to read the opinions of others and **respond to at least two contributions each week by others in the class.** You may respond more often if so inclined. Because these assignments will be graded, you should use the correct APA citation format whenever you cite outside sources, as well as, correct grammar, spelling, and rules of English composition.

**Web-link Assignments**

In addition to the forum assignment, most weeks I will direct you to find a website that addresses a particular subject. For example, I might
request that you locate a web site that deals with problems of education on Indian reservations. **You will use your web browsers to find an appropriate website and then present a brief synopsis of its contents on the forum page.** Please remember to post the web URL along with your report so that others can also visit the site.

**Exams**

There will be periodic exams throughout the semester, as well as, a midterm. Their content will include the readings and assignments covered to that point in the class. The usual format will be multiple choice and matching questions, however, I may chose to include essay questions or an essay-based midterm exam. You will access the exams from the homepage. Once you reach the exam page, unless otherwise stated, you will have a specified number of minutes to complete the exam. They are designed to be a closed-book exam. I strongly recommend that you complete the required readings prior to taking the exam as you will not have sufficient time to use your text as a reference.

**Final Paper**

The goal of this class is to provide an appreciation for the skills requirements and cultural variables that influence the effectiveness of education in preparing students to be successful adults. At the end of the third week of the semester, you will be required to submit a detailed proposal for a research topic involving a cultural issue or problem relating to education and globalization. By the end of the eighth week, you are required to submit to me a detailed outline of your proposed paper, plus a list of references you have compiled to date. Failure to meet these two deadlines will result in a 1/2 point reduction of the grade your final paper receives.

Please refer to the guidelines for your research paper accessible from the Research Paper icon on the Homepage of this website. Also, please read my statement on plagiarism.

Your completed final paper must be submitted no later than midnight, Sunday, April 26. Late papers will lose 1/2 a grade for every day they are late. If you have a legitimate reason why you cannot meet this deadline, I must be contacted at least one week in advance of the due date and I will try to make an accommodation. Simply being busy is not a legitimate reason for failure to meet the deadline.
Please note: If you are not familiar with the on-line information services and technical databases available to you as students through the LCSC library, please click on the **Library Resources** icon on the homepage. Knowing how to locate authoritative reference information on-line can save you time and make your research more productive.

**How your final grade will be calculated**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>% of final grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forum Discussions + Web-Link Assignments</td>
<td>1/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>1/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>1/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total grade</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grading**

- **100 - 90%** A to A-
- **89 - 80%** B+ to B-
- **79 - 70%** C+ to C-
- **69 - 60%** D+ to D-
- Below 60% F

I do not routinely send out student progress reports; however, I am always happy to provide a performance update whenever it is requested by a student. If you want to find out how you are doing in the course, please send me an email to that effect and I will respond promptly.

**Weekly participation is a large percentage of your final grade. A good showing on the weekly assignments and forum discussions can help offset a poor showing on the course exams.** If you are unable to participate on a given week, please contact me beforehand via e-mail and inform me of your circumstances.

**Weekly assignments are posted on or before Sunday, the first day of the week, and you are expected to post your responses by the end of the following Saturday.**

I encourage you to ask questions whenever you feel a concept or definition is unclear. I try to respond to class email on a daily basis, weekends excepted. If there are additional questions or problems with course’s content or assignments, I am always happy
to arrange a meeting outside of class on the Coeur d'Alene campus.

Understanding the course grading system:

In my system of grading there are three components; weekly assignments which are averaged at the end of the semester, periodic exams which are also averaged at the end of the semester, and a final paper. Weekly averages, exam averages, and final paper score each constitute 1/3 of your final grade in this class by percentage. For example, if your weekly average = 85% and your exam average = 88% and your final paper score = 94%, your final grade would be calculated as 85% + 88% + 94% = 267 divided by 3 = 89%, in other words a B+.

Unfortunately, the “My Grades” section only provides a summary of the overall number of points you have accumulated versus the total number of possible points at the end of the semester. It does not reflect the distribution of points as applied in my grading system. This can create concern when the point tally appears to indicate one is failing the course. Please understand that what one sees in the “My Grades” section is not an accurate reflection of your grade status in the course.

Policy Regarding Incompletes:

If for any reason you anticipate being unable to complete the coursework by semester’s end, you may request an incomplete. To be considered for an incomplete you must have completed at least 85% of the weekly assignments and all of the exams. You may be allowed to submit the final paper during the following semester. For example, if you are unable to complete a final paper in the course by the due date and have completed all but two of the weekly assignments, you may qualify to receive an incomplete for the semester. All missing assignments must be submitted to me by the specified due date. Typically, I require that the work be completed by the end of the following semester. Failure to submit your missing assignments will result in an “F” for the course.

Extra Credit:

I do not allow for extra credit in my classes. The best way to achieve the high course grade you desire is to complete all weekly assignments on
time, complete all of the assigned readings, and prepare for the course exams by completing and reviewing all of the weekly study guides. Please note that the study guides are provided to you as a means of identifying the elements of the readings I regard as most important. The study guide questions are designed to help you gain the most from the chapter readings and prepare for the course exams. **You are not required to submit your responses** to the study guide questions to me for review.

**Accommodation for Special Needs and Disabilities:**

If you require accommodation for special needs or disabilities, please contact the LCSC Disability Services office at the beginning of the semester to obtain the required Letter of Accommodation. Their phone number is 208-792-2211. Then send me an email via the course mail system indicating your need for accommodation. I will work with you regarding any procedures necessary to meet your accommodation needs. Please do this in advance of any exams or assignments for which you require accommodation.

**Suggestions for Using this Site & Succeeding in this Class:**

(1) Every time you log on, check the current Weekly Assignment page for messages, suggestions, comments, etc...

(2) Become familiar with the features of your web browser (Google Chrome, Internet Explorer, etc.) and the limitations of the version you are using.

(3) Don't get too far behind on your assignments... **You are allowed to get up to 1 week ahead or 1 week behind.** The interactive component of this course relies on students staying on the same material on a week-by-week basis.

(4) Treat internet assignments with the same rigor you would for regular classes. We are reading the much of the text and discussing the highlights of each chapter, very similar to a regular course. **The assignments you turn in have the same level of expectations for spelling, grammar, etc. as would any college-level lecture class assignment.**

(5) Internet courses are sometimes prone to a number of problems. For example, the network here at school may be having difficulties or may be operating slow...this will cause frustrations at times. You might also have problems with your home computer or your Internet provider may be
experiencing a high number of clients trying to log on at the same time, or a number of other factors may come into play. The key is to be flexible, have patience, and to always make sure you have backups of your work. Also, you should let me know if you are having difficulties or if you have found a bug in the course (and they do crop up every now and then!).

(6) Keep in mind that the idea behind Internet classes is flexibility, for both you and me. You do not have a specific time you need to log on, you mainly need to keep up with your assignments, getting them in by the due date. You have plenty of time to do this and can even work ahead a bit if you desire. The main thing is to not get behind—Internet courses require a high degree of self-motivation and self-discipline.

(7) Ethics and Honesty: I expect each of you to honor the basic rules of ethics and honesty expected of students in any college class. This means that you complete your own assignments and exams without collaboration with other students, that you refrain from providing to others in the class either the questions or answers to the questions in the on-line exams, and that you refrain from plagiarism in any form. Because we are not in a classroom environment, I cannot monitor student activities to insure compliance with these rules. I must rely on the honesty and honor of each student to do what is right. When students cheat on their exams or assignments, they are creating an unfair advantage over their classmates who do not cheat. Unfortunately, the honest students are the ones who suffer. They must rely on their own knowledge and skill to succeed. In the long run, they gain by actually achieving a knowledge of the subject; however, the lack of fairness in the situation is frustrating and discouraging. Furthermore, given the fact that most students in this class plan to become teachers and will serve as an example to other students, it is incumbent upon you to uphold the highest standards of scholarship and academic behavior. If I become aware of cheating on the part of any student or group of students, I will refer the situation to Education Department Chair for disciplinary action.

8) Plagiarism: Every semester, I have students who submit papers or assignments that are partially or entirely plagiarized. Plagiarism is something I do not tolerate and plagiarized work will
automatically receive an F. If I determine that you have submitted a paper downloaded from a commercial paper site, you will receive an F for the semester. It is your responsibility to learn what constitutes plagiarism. I have included a link to a webpage in which plagiarism is defined and a link is provided to a website where you can take a tutorial on plagiarism. I require that you all complete this tutorial prior to beginning your term paper.

(9) ATTENTION: If you find that you are having difficulty accessing the course web site or sending and receiving assignments or email, please contact the LCSC computer help desk at 208-792-2635 or by email at blackboard@lcsc.edu. They should be able to help you solve your computer problems.

Course Navigation:

Homepage will take you to the homepage of this course, where you can access many other features.

Important Information will take you to information and resources that will be of assistance.

Syllabus will take you to the syllabus page of this course.

Weekly Assignments will take you to the Schedule/Assignment page.

Forum/Discussions will take you to the forum/discussion page. From there you can select a forum to visit and/or compose a message.

Exams will provide links to the course exams. Exams will not be available until their release date.

Mail will take you to the private e-mail page. You can send private messages to other member of the course or the instructor from here. You cannot send regular e-mail from here. You need to use the e-mail setup of your computer for this.

Library Resources will link you with information concerning the information services and training available to you through the LCSC library. From here you will be able to access tutorials to assist you with your on-line research.

In The News is a page devoted to current news items that relate to the content of this course. I am constantly scanning online news sources for information and news that relates to my courses. When I find an item I feel may be of interest, I post it on this page and inform you of the new item in the weekly Forum. You are not required to comment on these
items nor will you be graded on their content unless otherwise specifically stated. However, I encourage you to use the Forum to discuss your thoughts or analysis with others in your class. It is a good way to link what you are learning to real world events.

**Misc. Course Policies & Procedures:**

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**--Cheating, plagiarism, or any other form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated! Anyone caught violating this policy may receive an "F" for the course. Please read my policy on plagiarism accessible from the Homepage.

**ASSISTANCE**--I am more than willing to help or assist students on material presented that they do not understand. If you don't feel like bringing something up in the forum for clarification I encourage you to (1) send me a private e-mail; (2) call me; and/or (3) view my office hours as a chance to discuss this in person (I am also very open to setting up alternative times if my normal office hours are inconvenient).

**BEHAVIOR**--Even though we don't meet face-to-face, we still need to be aware of the feelings of others and behave in a mature, courteous manner in forums or via e-mail. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.

**SPECIAL RULES** -- In the course of the forum discussions of the past an issue has arisen that needs to be addressed before we start the semester. The question concerns the extent to which personal ideological or religious beliefs should enter into these online forums. It is quite natural and healthy for individuals to feel strongly about their religious or ideological convictions. Indeed, much of anthropology is directly concerned with understanding the belief systems of others. However, a problem arises when the shared religious assumptions of one group serve to exclude from discourse others who do not likewise share in those assumptions. In the case of your forum, a number of individuals have been reluctant to contradict the religious statements of others both out of respect and as a means of avoiding disagreement over what are generally irreconcilable points of view. Some have been offended by what they perceive as an attempt to impose a particular religious interpretation on the historical and anthropological information presented in this class. Given that a forum is an arena for the exchange of ideas, it is important that all students feel free to participate without fear of offence. Therefore, the following rules of discourse will apply:

1) All discussions must be respectful of others. This means that you cannot assume that others automatically agree with your religious or
ideological views. You should consider that your own strongly held beliefs may be regarded by others as simple prejudice.

2) Unless it is of direct historical relevance, citing religious texts as an explanation of causality should be avoided. While religious scripture may represent absolute truth to some, for others it holds no such validity. Furthermore, by questioning the veracity of religious doctrine those in disagreement are by extension questioning the private faith of another and, therefore, likely to cause offence.

3) Remember that this is a course in Anthropology. The basic premise of Anthropology is that we try to set aside our biases in our attempt to understand the cultures of others. It is important to try to cultivate an objective view when studying the beliefs and practices of unfamiliar cultures.

You are all here to share a common learning experience. Each of you has much to contribute. Your forum is the place where you can explore new topics and ideas together. We are sure that you can all be successful in this venture.

SPECIAL NOTE: THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CHANGE OR AMEND THIS SYLLABUS OR THE CLASS SCHEDULE IN THE EVENT OF EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES.

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Syllabus Addendum

Consumer Information:
In 2008, the federal government required all post-secondary institutions offering federal financial aid programs to provide key data to both prospective and current students. To comply with this requirement, Lewis-Clark State College has developed a consumer information page, which may be accessed at http://www.lcsc.edu/studentconsumerinformation

Disability Accommodations:
Students requiring special accommodations or course adaptations due to a disability and/or a health-related issue should consult their course instructors and the LCSC Student Counseling Center immediately (RCH
Official documentation may be required in order to provide an accommodation and/or adaptation.

**Student Rights and Responsibilities:**
Students have the responsibility for knowing their program requirements, course requirements, and other information associated with their enrollment at LCSC. Students should review the LCSC General Catalog (http://www.lcsc.edu/catalog/) and the LCSC Student Handbook (available at http://www.lcsc.edu/studentservices/contactus.htm) for more information.

**Accidents/Student Insurance:**
Students participating in LCSC classes normally must look to their personal health insurance policy (Student Health Insurance Plan or comparable private coverage) should an accident occur. In the event of an accident, please seek medical help, if necessary, and report the incident to LCSC Security (792-2226). Fieldtrips or other special student activities may also require students to submit a signed participation waiver (forms can be obtained from the supporting Division Office).

**Enrollment Verification/Attendance:**
Students who are not actively pursuing their classes may have to repay part or all of their financial aid awards depending upon the circumstances.

**Academic Dishonesty:**
Academic dishonesty, which includes cheating and plagiarism, is not tolerated at LCSC. Individual faculty members will impose their own policies and sanctions regarding academic dishonesty. Students who are accused of being academically dishonest may be referred to the VP for Student Affairs for official disciplinary action.

**Illegal File Sharing:**
Students using LCSC’s computers and/or computer network must comply with the college’s appropriate use policies and are prohibited from illegally downloading or sharing data files of any kind. Specific information about the college’s technology policies and its protocols for combating illegal file sharing may be found on the VP for Student Affairs’ web page (http://www.lcsc.edu/studentservices/).

**Diversity Vision Statement:**
Regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, national origin, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation, you will be treated and respected as a human being. http://www.lcsc.edu/culturaldiversity/

Disclosures:
During this course, if you elect to discuss information with me which you consider to be sensitive or personal in nature and not to be shared with others, please state this clearly. Your confidentiality in these circumstances will be respected unless upholding that confidentiality could reasonably put you, other students, other members of the campus community, or me in danger. In those cases or when I am bound by law to report what you have told me, such as incidents involving sexual assault or other violent acts, I will submit a report to appropriate campus authorities.

**Updated January 2014**