

The Well-Trained Mind Academy  
**Lifeways in Different Cultures**

**Course Blackboard site:** wtma.blackboard.com

**Required Texts:**

- Cultural Anthropology: A Reader for a Global Age, 1st ed, Kenneth J. Guest

*Additional texts, readings, videos, and audio files will be provided for the students on Blackboard, either as PDFs or links.*

**Course Description:**

This course explores the diversity of human culture. Through the use of ethnographic examples, we will learn about a variety of societies and cultures around the world. Students will also learn basic concepts and methods in cultural anthropology in order to view these societies and cultures - as well as their own - from an anthropological perspective.

Main goals:

- explore new cultures
- learn about cultural anthropology
- increase students' awareness of the many ways that exist to experience and understand the world

**Assignments:**

Weekly response papers - Short, 1-page responses to the week's assigned chapter, covering anything the student found surprising, intriguing, confusing, etc. The goal of these response papers is to help students reflect and prepare for participating in in-class discussion.

Discussion board questions - These posts will be related to one of the week's culture groups in contemporary context.

Exams - Short answer and/or short essay. Students will show they understand some basics about the cultures as well as the anthropological concepts, and that they can make comparisons between cultures and with their own.

Research paper - One research paper exploring some aspect of one of the cultures from the text in more depth, or exploring a culture not covered in the text, using ethnographic sources.

**Grading Breakdown:**

Weekly response papers - 30%

Discussion board - 20%

Exams (4) - 20%

Research paper - 20%

Participation and attendance - 10%

**Schedule:**

Week 1: Culture and Fieldwork

Week 2: Language

Week 3: Race and Ethnicity

Week 4: Gender

Week 5: Kinship and Family

Week 6: Economics and Politics

Week 7: Religion and Ecology

Week 8: Globalization and Health