Dear Fall Session 2017 Anthropology 103 Online Participants,

Hello! Welcome to Anthropology 103, Cultural Anthropology. This letter will provide you with important information regarding the course. Please read all of the information carefully.

Class Description:
Anthropology concerns the study of humans from a global and comprehensive perspective. Anthropology employs a holistic, or multifaceted, approach to the study of human beings both past and present. The great breadth of anthropology has resulted in the development of several sub-disciplines (or sub-fields) and a number of fields of specialization. This course provides a thorough introduction to cultural anthropology, one of the major sub-disciplines of anthropology. This course explores the human condition from a cross-cultural perspective and focuses on the basic concepts, theories, and methodologies of cultural anthropology. In its most basic sense, cultural anthropology is the study of human society and culture from a global perspective; describing, analyzing, interpreting, and explaining social and cultural similarities and differences. By focusing on central concepts of human culture—the behaviors, values, and attitudes shared by a group of people and through which humans interact with other people and the natural world—students will learn about the diversity of contemporary human societies. We will examine the long-term processes and conditions that contribute to this diversity and we will explore such important topics as kinship, descent, marriage, sociopolitical formations, economic systems, subsistence patterns, age groups, rites of passage, secret societies, class and caste systems, gender relations, sexual identities, religion, art, popular culture, human health, and environmental issues. In addition, we will examine how the application of anthropological knowledge and methods can help us solve problems and challenges confronting human populations today and in the future.

Instructor email: matthew.curtis@canyons.edu

NOTE:
This is a 100% online class. All of our work occurs on a Canvas delivered website. This class begins at 12:00 PM on Monday, October 16, 2017 and ends at 11:59 PM on Saturday, December 9, 2017. You must log in to the class on Canvas by 11:59 PM on Tuesday, October 17, 2017, or risk being dropped from the course.

You will not be able to access the course Canvas site until 12:00 PM on the first day of class, Monday, October 16.

To access the course, login to the CANVAS WEBSITE (available by 12:00 PM on Monday, October 16): https://coc.instructure.com/login/canvas
COURSE TEXTBOOK:
The following Textbook IS REQUIRED for the course. This text can be purchased at the College of the Canyons Bookstore, or elsewhere online.


Other Course Materials Required: None


Note: This is an eight-week 100% online course. We cover in eight weeks what is covered in a regular sixteen week semester. Online courses are NOT easier than their on-campus counterparts. Online courses require self-initiative and discipline. Students need to keep up on deadlines and readings. Students must log into the class Canvas website at least several times a week to retrieve and submit assignments and to participate in discussion assignments. This is not a class where you can complete work far ahead of your classmates or make up work during the very end of the semester.

If you are new to online courses, please be sure to check out the resources on the College of the Canyons Distance Learning web page: [http://www.canyons.edu/offices/distance_learning/](http://www.canyons.edu/offices/distance_learning/)

You will need daily access to a computer and you must also have an email address. It is necessary that you have Microsoft Word and a Web Browser, such as Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, Safari, or Mozilla Firefox (with updated plug-ins) and the ability to open and create document files and pdf files. In addition, you should consider finding a backup computer (off or on campus) to use in case a problem develops with your regular system. Computer or peripheral problems, software, or email-related problems are NOT acceptable excuses for failing to meet course requirements or deadlines in this course.

Please see syllabus (available by 12:00 PM on Monday, October 16) for more information on course content, requirements, schedule, grading, etc.

I look forward to meeting you in our online class!

Sincerely,

Dr. Matthew C. Curtis
Anthropology Department
College of the Canyons