

CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY: BBKA 5300

**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
New Testament Department, Biblical Studies Division
Dr. Bill Warren, Landrum P. Leavell, II, Professor of NT and Greek
Fall Workshop 2016**

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NOBTS MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

COURSE PURPOSE, CORE VALUE FOCUS, AND CURRICULUM COMPETENCIES:

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. These values shape both the context and manner in which all curricula are taught, with “doctrinal integrity” and “academic excellence” especially highlighted in this course. The seminary is emphasizing the core value of “academic excellence” this year and encourages all at the seminary to focus especially on this emphasis.

NOBTS has seven basic competencies guiding our Masters degree programs: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual & Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. This course addresses the “Biblical Exposition” competency by helping the student learn to interpret the Bible accurately.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to equip students with a basic understanding of the field of cultural anthropology, with an emphasis on how it interacts with the study of the biblical context. Areas addressed include methods of analysis in the roles of religion, kinship, social structures, and political structures. Methods studied will include the social-science method, ethnographic (ethnography and ethnology) analysis of a culture, and several social analysis models. Topics will include socialization patterns, family and marriage practices, social stratification, political power access and function, and economic backgrounds.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The objectives of this course include the following:

1. Students should understand the history and state of research related to cultural anthropology
2. Students should gain an increased appreciation for how understanding of cultural anthropology aids in archaeological research and the study of the Bible
3. Students should acquire the ability to apply their understanding of cultural anthropology to anthropological research and sound interpretation of the biblical text

COURSE TEACHING METHODS:

This course will be taught via a combination of pedagogical methods, including but not limited to the following: lectures, student assignments, small group work, computer resources, textbook reviews, travel notes and journal, and student presentations. Both inductive and deductive approaches to learning will be utilized.

TEXTBOOKS:

1. Brian Howell and Jenell Williams Paris, *Introducing Cultural Anthropology: A Christian Perspective*
2. Peter Just, *Social and Cultural Anthropology: A Very Short Introduction (9th ed)*

And either

3a. Paul Hiebert, *Transforming Worldviews: An Anthropological Understanding of How People Change*

Or:

3b. David DeSilva, *Honor, Patronage, Kinship & Purity: Unlocking NT Culture*

REQUIREMENTS IN THE COURSE:

1. Students are expected to participate in the conversations and take notes on the lectures for all class sessions and lectures. 10%

2. Students are expected to read the textbooks and submit reviews for each one. Written reviews can be submitted either electronically or via a hard copy. The book reviews should each be 2-4 single-spaced pages and include the following: (15% per review = 45% total)

1) Bibliographic Entry

2) Statement of the Author's Purpose

3) Summary of the Contents (the bulk of the review)

4) An Evaluation of the book, including consideration of the most suitable readership, the scope of the book (comprehensive? or lacking in major areas), the viewpoints presented (multiple viewpoints when pertinent, or only one, etc.), and your overall evaluation of the book.

Each summary should be general in nature, covering the broad topics and a selection of specific examples or scenarios. Due dates for the reviews are as follows:

1. Due the first day of the workshop at the beginning of class: Brian Howell and Jenell Williams Paris, *Introducing Cultural Anthropology: A Christian Perspective*
2. Due by the end of the workshop week: Peter Just, *Social and Cultural Anthropology: A Very Short Introduction (9th ed)*

3. Due within two weeks of the end of the workshop:

EITHER

Paul Hiebert, *Transforming Worldviews: An Anthropological Understanding of How People Change*

OR

David DeSilva, *Honor, Patronage, Kinship & Purity: Unlocking NT Culture*

3. Each student will create an outline of how to realize an ethnographic study, including picking a setting for such a study. Then on a hypothetical level, the following should be explained: goals for the study, the topics to be studied, access methods and sources for the data, methods for analysing the data, and approach for organizing the data for presentations to others. (15%)

4. Each student will select an archaeological setting, people group, cultural trait, or other cultural anthropology topic that can be related to a specific biblical text in consultation with the professor. Once approved, a formal paper will be written on the topic from the perception of cultural anthropology. Papers should be approximately 12-15 pages double-spaced, including Bibliography and **are due four weeks after the end of the workshop**. Papers can be submitted via e-mail to the professor at WWarren@nobts.edu. (30%)

COURSE EVALUATION:

Class Participation	10%
Book Reviews	45% (15% each)
Ethnography Study Outline	15%
Research Paper	30%

CLASS TOPICS AND SCHEDULE:

MONDAY:	1: Intro to the course Defining Cultural Anthropology A Brief History of the Field Anthropology and Biblical Studies 2: Ethnographies and Ethnologies How to Realize an Ethnographic Study The Major Components of a Culture Methods for Analyzing a Culture Concepts for Understanding a Culture
TUESDAY:	1: Kinship Structures and Concepts 2: Political Structures and Concepts
WEDNESDAY:	1: Social Structures, Values, and Concepts: Part 1 2: Social Structures, Values, and Concepts: Part 2
THURSDAY:	1: Religious Structures, Values, and Concepts 2: Other Social Structures, Values, and Concepts, Open Discussion
FRIDAY:	Submission of research proposal and research on papers

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