

## Signature Assignment for Core Student Learning Outcome #3, Intercultural Competence

Course: ANT 163 Cultural Anthropology  
Instructor: Bro. Brian McLaughlin, SVD  
Assignment Title: Cultural Anthropology Project

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Outcome to be assessed: Divine Word College graduates will possess the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that are necessary to interact effectively with people who are culturally different from themselves.

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Assignment Description: For the Cultural Anthropology final project, you must write a 5-7 page paper, using at least three scholarly sources, not including the textbook. Make sure you have a clear, concise thesis statement that explains the intent of your paper. Be sure to include an introduction and conclusion. Your project must be written in standard APA style with in-text citations (please go to the Student Resource Center for further information on APA style). You can submit an outline at least two weeks before the due date, so that I have adequate time to give you feedback. You can also submit a rough draft at least one week before the due date.

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Evaluation Criteria: Assessment of the Student Learning Outcome will utilize the following criteria:

- Exhibits cultural self-awareness- Students are able to exhibit an awareness of their own cultural traditions, customs, and worldviews.
- Demonstrates a knowledge of other cultural frameworks or worldviews- The student is able to communicate a knowledge or understanding of other cultural frameworks or worldviews.
- Demonstrates empathy towards other customs, traditions, or viewpoints- The student should be able to demonstrate empathy towards other cultural traditions and ways of being. Rather than analyzing or seeing everything from his/her own cultural viewpoint, the student demonstrates that other traditions are valid.
- Articulates ideas and perspectives effectively through verbal communication- Students should be able to write about other traditions, customs, and worldviews effectively. Such written communication should be as bias-free as possible.

Formatting: Students will prepare a 5-7 page paper in APA format. This project must include a cover page, introduction, and conclusion. The List of References must be included at the end of the paper. The project must be double-spaced, size 12 Times New Roman font with standard margins.

Possible Topics: This is a list of possible topics:

1. Discuss the growing divisions in US culture and politics, e.g. the widening chasm between Democrats and Republicans or liberal and conservatives. Are similar divisions happening in other countries around the world? Discuss these divisions in the US and one other country, drawing on comparisons between the two.
2. What are the differences in male and female styles of communication in the modern Western world? Do men communicate differently than women, including body language and other forms of communication? Do such differences also exist in other cultures? Discuss male and female styles of communication in the US and one other culture.
3. How has COVID- 19 changed culture? As this is a broad topic, be specific in discussing these changes within a particular cultural context. For example, a student could write how COVID has changed the ways in which we worship in public or how we shop and buy products etc.

4. Westernization is the imposition of Western ideas, values, corporations, businesses etc. on other countries around the world. How has westernization impacted your country? For example, the student can write about how McDonalds (or other fast-food chains) has affected the eating-habits of a particular cultural group or has changed people's attitudes toward traditional foods.
5. Each culture has an understanding toward the social position of animals or pets. In some cultures, animals are strictly for utilitarian purposes (for food or work), while in others, people have cats, dogs, or other animals as pets. What is the social position of animals or pets in Western cultures? How does this social position compare or contrast with other societies?
6. Write a research paper on a specific topic in Cultural Anthropology. Be sure to use other sources for your topic and give appropriate examples. If you choose this option, please check with the instructor first.