

World Cultural Comparisons
Lecture 1: September 26, 2006

- This is a **WRITING** course. You will be responsible to produce a substantial writing assignment by the end of this quarter.
 - This will be a paper that you work on all quarter
 - You will choose the topic and variables that you want to use
 - The paper process will involve a proposal, a first draft, and a final paper.
 - You will get feedback on all of your work

- This is a **CROSS-CULTURAL**, anthropology course.
 - Who here is an anthropology major?
 - Can you explain to the rest of the class what Anthropology is?
 - Do you know what cross-cultural research is?

- You will also be doing a short report for the rest of the class on your findings

- A lot of the work in this course can be completed in class and during your TA's office hours in the lab.
 - You will find the data that you need on the course website in the codebook
 - You will be using SPSS, statistical package for the social sciences
 - You do not need to have any previous knowledge of this software
 - You will not have to learn that much on how to use it for essentials
 - You should know that there is some interpretation of data and statistics needed in this course.
 - Advanced options, if you need them for your topic, are explained in the text or help files on the web page

- With this said, you should recognize that you **NEED** to come to lecture. Professor White will give you important information and deadlines in class. You will also have time to work and get help during lecture hours.
 - Another course requirement is note taking. You will be responsible to volunteer to take notes at least once during the quarter. You will take notes then post them on the class website. This helps anyone who could not attend lecture stay on track.

- Now, if you could all go to the course website. You can get to it through the EEE. This website is **FULL** of information.
 - You can find the syllabus which was passed out. It has many important links.
 - You can find the codebook with the variables you will be using
 - You can find sample papers
 - You can find links to cross-cultural articles
 - You will find the textbook written by Professor White et al. for this class
 - You can also post notes to your TA here and open discussions

- It is absolutely **CRUCIAL** that you become familiar with cross-cultural data resources (codes and codebooks, articles, guides to variables, etc.) and how to use SPSS.
 - Again, all these things can be found by going through the course website.

- For the first week, you should read 5-6 articles from one of the links.
 - These articles will start to give you a good idea of what cross-cultural research is.
 - Use Wikipedia to start looking up cross-cultural research and other types of topics. You can use this but do not rely too heavily on it as it is not an academic research source. It is written by amateurs.
 - It can also give you ideas on what topic to do research on. Browse some social science theories.
 - For example, you may want to start looking for articles dealing with gender, religion, sexuality, rituals, government, food practices, marriage, etc.
 - Search the links for these types of topics.

- On Thursday we will start looking at the code book and SPSS.