MS 514| Cultural Anthropology

"Cultural Anthropology, the study of human culture."

- *Jim Poitras*

Welcome to Cultural Anthropology!

Course Information

Course Description	An introduction to the study of non-Western people and cultures. How culture, values, and language affect individual society's response to relationships and the gospel will be examined and explored. Emphasis will be placed on learning to appreciate other cultures to enhance cross-cultural relationship building and communication. Anyone in ministry today will have the challenge and opportunity to minister in diverse contexts.
Instructor	Rev. Jim Poitras
Instructor's Assistant	Rev. Dominic Kassner

Course Learning Outcomes

This course seeks to partially fulfill the Continuing Missionary Education objectives through a careful study of mission, vision, and planning to facilitate organizational success and fulfill the mandate of Scripture. This further augments continuous personal development, development of others, and organizational development.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Foster a greater appreciation for other cultures while receiving a better understanding of one's own culture.
2. Develop an anthropological fieldwork journal that would be adaptable for whatever culture the student would study.
3. Understand the major differences between other cultures and one's own culture.
4. Be able to minister in a culture not one's own.

Course Design Intentions

Continuing Missionary Education courses are designed for missionaries' educational development no matter their location or technology access. With a basic device and internet connection, missionaries can access their course materials, complete the assignment requirements, and submit their work via email.

Course Materials and Tools

Text/Readings/Other Material

Primary Textbook	***Culture Matters Workbook*** | U.S. Peace Corps
Supplementary Reading	***The Culture Map***: *Breaking through the Invisible Boundaries of Global Business* | Erin Meyer

Reading Disclaimer

The materials used in this course, including books, readings, and videos, may not fully align with Apostolic beliefs or the doctrinal standards of the UPCI, GATS, or the professor. They are recommended for their strengths and to enhance understanding of cultural anthropology. However, students should use discretion and discernment when engaging with these non-Apostolic resources, applying what is beneficial and disregarding what does not align with their faith.

Technology Requirements

Continuing Missionary Education courses require a basic computer or device such as a smartphone, tablet, or PC. These devices can use either Windows or Apple operating systems. To access the course content, students will need a basic internet connection to download or purchase course materials. Students will need a basic word processor such as Microsoft Word or Google Docs for the completion of required assignments.

Grading Procedure and Feedback

Students will be graded in accordance with the assignment requirements. Upon completion of a required assignment, students are expected to submit their assignment via email to the instructor's assistant. Your assignment will be reviewed and graded by the instructor's assistant and then reviewed by the instructor. Students will then be notified on whether they pass, fail, or are asked to resubmit their assignment with notes from both the instructor and instructor's assistant.

Instructional Team: Who Are My Instructors?

Instructor

Rev. Jim Poitras, M. A.
Director of Education & Short-Term Missions

Served as a career missionary to West Africa for 28 years. The Poitras family returned from the field in 2012 to take up his current role in UPCI Global Missions. Jim and his wife Linda, have two wonderful daughters, a great son-in-law, and the very best grandkids they could ask for.

Support Team

Rev. Dominic Kassner, B. A.
Administrative Assistant to the Director of Education

Dominic and his wife Shayna have been called to education and global missions for many years. In pursuit of that call Dominic is wrapping up his time in Seminary. His passion lies in creativity, storytelling, and educational development.

Please contact dkassner@upci.org with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Course Policies

Course Completion Requirements

The following assignments are required to be completed in full to pass the course. They are to be completed at the student's pace and should be submitted to the instructor's assistant via email. Each GATS course, including the Continuing Missionary Education courses, requires two methods of evaluation in order to be following the academic expectations of the program. The assignments are as follows:

1. *Complete Reading of the Course's Required Textbook*
   Culture Matters Workbook | U.S. Peace Corps

2. *Culture Matters* Workbook
   a. Complete the *Culture Matters* workbook (Peace Corps), available on the course page. Finish all exercises, and if a question doesn't apply to you or your culture, write "Does not apply."
      i. After completing the workbook:
         1. Confirm that you finished the entire workbook by submitting the *Workbook Required Responses* document (not the entire workbook).
         2. Some workbook exercises will be useful for your written paper/project.
         3. If completed with a spouse, include both names on the document.
         4. Ignore any references to an answer key in the workbook, as your version will not include it.

3. *Fieldwork Journal*
   a. Create a *Cultural Anthropology Fieldwork Journal* by selecting a country or culture to study. As you go through the course, use the journal to document your findings about the culture, focusing on at least 15 cultural points. You may include pictures where relevant.
      i. **Fieldwork focus:** Analyze cross-cultural interactions, conduct interviews, and take detailed notes to understand the chosen culture from their perspective.
      ii. **Learning goals:** Develop empathy, global awareness, and recognize your own cultural biases.
   b. Your journal should:
      i. Include a title page.
      ii. Use subheadings for each cultural point.
      iii. Provide responses in paragraph form.
      iv. Properly cite sources and include a Works Cited page.
      v. Optionally, include relevant pictures.
   c. The final paper should be approximately 2,500 words.