

ANT2000 General Anthropology – Spring 2025

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Office Hours: Wednesdays from 9 am to 12 pm EST, either at TUR B352 or TUR B355 (Basement of Turlington Hall)

Course Hours

This is an in-campus course. We are meeting all Tuesdays from 4.05 pm to 6 pm and all Thursdays from 4.05 pm to 4.55 pm in room TUR 2319, Turlington Hall.

Attendance is required. No Zoom options for lectures will be provided.

Course Description

Anthropology is the study of human diversity through all time and across all space. Anthropology differs from other fields of social science in its emphasis on comparative or cross-cultural perspectives on human biology, society, and culture. Also setting anthropology apart from related disciplines is its holistic, unified perspective on the human condition. In this regard anthropology appears boundless, spanning topics such as social organization, religion, technology, economics, symbolism, gender, reproduction, politics, genetics, biomechanics, subsistence, settlement patterns, migration, warfare, health and disease, growth and development, material culture, art, music, storytelling, and more. You have to open your mind, as famed anthropologist Margaret Mead insisted, to appreciate the breadth of the human condition. Anthropology provides the concepts and perspectives to help you achieve this goal. No matter what walk of life you pursue, anthropology provides relevant guideposts for your journey.

Although the field of anthropology encompasses an immense range of subjects, it is usually divided into four subfields: sociocultural anthropology, physical or biological anthropology, archaeology, and linguistic anthropology. In this course you will be introduced to each of the subfields, gaining an appreciation not only for the breadth of anthropological inquiry, but also for the interrelationships among its diverse perspectives. By focusing on concepts of human culture – the symbolic, material, and energetic means by which humans adapt to their environments – you will learn about the diversity of contemporary human societies in all of their social and biological dimensions; examine the long-term processes and conditions (such as globalization) that contributed to this diversity; and investigate methods for obtaining information about ancient peoples from the mute shreds of material culture they left behind.

We often think of anthropologists as strange, eccentric scientists who sacrifice the comforts of modern life to be among primitive people in exotic places. We might also conjure-up the image of a bearded old man in pith helmet and khakis when contemplating the work of archaeologists. While these stereotypes indeed describe many of the

anthropologists of yesteryear, today's practitioners are usually found in much more familiar, even mundane settings. Contemporary anthropologists have been busy investigating modern topics such as transnationalism, neoliberal reforms, terrorism, climate change, emergent pathogens, multilingualism, sexual and racial discrimination, materials recycling, and world hunger. In this course we will examine many of these contemporary issues to see how an anthropological perspective promotes solutions to human problems that are both methodologically scientific and philosophically humanitarian. As anthropologist Ruth Benedict said, greater appreciation for human diversity helps to make the world a better place for all humans.

On a more practical note, ANT 2000 is a Social Science General Education course. Moreover, it is one of only six social sciences courses to fulfill the new General Education State Core. Florida State Statute 1007.25 was revised in recent years to improve articulation of General Education with other curricula. The revised bill applies to students entering the university system in 2015–2016 and thereafter. It mandates that 15 of your 36 required General Education credits be chosen from a set of 23 courses in five categories. ANT 2000 is one of those select courses. In fulfilling core requirements in Social Sciences, “students will demonstrate the ability to examine behavioral, social, and cultural issues from a variety of points of view. Students will demonstrate an understanding of basic social and behavioral science concepts and principles used in the analysis of behavioral, social, and cultural issues, past and present, local and global” (<https://undergrad.aa.ufl.edu/general-education/gen-ed-program/state-gen-ed-core/>)

Specific objectives for ANT 2000 follow below.

NOTE: In this General Education course, any class topics that touch on identity politics or topics of discrimination will be covered objectively without endorsements of viewpoints, will be observed from multiple perspectives, and will be taught as objects of analysis within the larger course of instruction. All viewpoints will be welcome in class discussions.

Course Outcomes

Through lectures, readings, films, assignments, and discussions, you will develop the basic skills and knowledge to:

1. Identify, describe, and explain variation in human biology.
2. Identify, describe, and explain variation in human culture.
3. Identify, describe, and explain the interplay between biology and culture among humans.
4. Identify and describe processes of change among humans and resulting patterns of biological and cultural variation.
5. Identify and describe ethnocentrism in popular perspectives on human variation and identify how the cultural relativism of an anthropological perspective provides alternatives to ethnocentric thinking.
6. Identify and describe anthropological contributions to contemporary issues, such as

globalization, health, social justice, migration, warfare, racism, gender, sexuality, and other dimensions of variation among modern societies.

In addition to course outcomes, each of the 12 modules of this course is structured by detailed objectives or outcomes that are specific to the subject of that module.

General Education Outcomes

Content, Communication, and Critical Thinking are the three criteria of outcomes applied to General Education courses. Your mastery of each of these outcomes is measured from your best performance in exams and assignments. However, point values assigned to outcomes do not factor into your grades for any of the assessments, or your final grade for the course. Outcomes are tracked apart from course grades to enable us to gauge how well this course serves the purpose of General Education. Course Outcomes are also used to track mastery of the objectives specific to ANT 2000. You will see outcomes scored for every graded assessment returned to you, but the set of outcomes for any given assessment will vary depending on what it is we are assessing.

Content: Students will demonstrate competence in the terminology, concepts, methods, and theories used in Anthropology. Students will acquire a thorough introduction to anthropology, an appreciation of human diversity, a better understanding of the past and how it impacts the present, and an active and more open-minded outlook of our globalized world. Achievement of this learning outcome will be assessed through examinations, individual assignments, and group discussion.

Communication: Students will communicate knowledge, ideas, and reasoning clearly and effectively in written or oral forms appropriate to the discipline. Achievement of this learning outcome will be assessed through examinations, individual assignments and group discussions.

Critical thinking: Students will analyze information carefully and logically from multiple perspectives, using discipline-specific methods, and develop reasoned solutions to problems. Achievement of this learning outcome will be assessed through individual assignments and group discussions.

Student Learning Outcomes

In this course, students will learn the foundations of Anthropology as the study of human variation in its biological, social, and cultural dimensions. Students will learn about anthropological concepts, principles, and methodologies to understand and explore past and present human behavior. They will apply the anthropological approach to analyze issues pertaining to past and contemporary cultures, and develop intellectual skills and habits to understand behavioral, social, and cultural issues from multiple disciplinary perspectives. The course introduces the four subfields of anthropology (sociocultural, biological, linguistic, and archaeology) through analyses of the cultural, social, and

biological dimensions of human variation. Appropriate first course for those considering major or minor in anthropology, as well as nonmajors fulfilling general education requirements. After taking General Anthropology students will be able to:

1. Identify, describe, and explain the key themes, terminology, methodologies, historical processes, and contemporary experiences characterizing the study of human variation and human origins, including primatology, extinct and extant human cultures, language, and ethnicity (Content SLO Gen Ed S).
2. Identify, describe, and explain the the origins of anthropology as a foundation discipline in the social sciences that examines nature and definition of culture (Content SLO Gen Ed S).
3. Critically analyze and apply anthropological concepts, principles, and methods to the scientific study of past and present human human behavior (Critical Thinking SLO S).
4. Communicate knowledge, thoughts, and reasoning to explain how anthropology incorporates multidisciplinary knowledge and perspectives (Communication SLO for Gen Ed S).
5. Communicate knowledge, thoughts, and reasoning clearly and effectively regarding contemporary anthropological contributions (Communication SLO for Gen Ed S).

Required Book

Haviland, William A., Harald E. L. Prins, Dana Walrath, Bunny McBride 2016 *The Essence of Anthropology*. 4th Edition. Cengage Learning, Boston.

Other editions of the book are also accepted. In addition to the textbook, which we will read in its entirety, I will share supplementary readings and links to other resources. The schedule for all readings, classes, and evaluations are shared below.

Assessments and Grading

I will assess your performance in this course through two measures: exams and short assignments.

You will have three exams throughout the semester (each after four modules). These are written exams, to be taken in person on the 5th, 10th, and 15th week of class. They will consist of 2-3 questions each, to which you will provide handwritten answers. Each exam will make up for 30% of your final grade.

The remaining 10% of your final grade will be covered by short assignments to be assigned at the end of some Thursdays and to be submitted in person the next Tuesday we meet. Six short assignments of two points each will be assigned throughout the semester: you are free to submit only five, or submit all and use the extra points as extra credit.

NOTE: A minimum grade of C is required for General Education credit.

Grading Scale

Letter grades are assigned based on the total percent of all assessments according to the following scale:

A	93% or above	C	73-76.99%
A-	90-92.99%	C-	70-72.99%
B+	87-89.99%	D+	67-69.99%
B	83-86.99%	D	63-66.99%
B-	80-82.99%	D-	60-62.99%
C+	77-79.99%	E	below 60%

Current grade status is available under the “Grades” section of the e-learning site. For more information see the undergraduate catalogue for grading policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Exams and individual assignments will not be accepted late without proper documentation from a legitimate emergency. The instructor reserves the right to determine what constitutes an emergency.

Specific dates and times for all assessments follow in the schedule below and in the Canvas platform online.

Course Schedule

Week	Dates	Module	Contents	Readings
1	Jan 14 Jan 16	1	What is anthropology? What is culture?	Haviland et al. Ch. 1 & Ch. 8
2	Jan 21 Jan 23	2	Living primates and the Biological basis for human variation	Haviland et al. Ch. 2 & Ch. 3
3	Jan 28 Jan 30	3	Human evolution	Haviland et al. Ch. 4; Gould, “Nonoverlapping Magisteria”
4	Feb 04 Feb 06	4	Hunter-gatherers and the origins of agriculture	Haviland et al. Ch. 5; Ocobock and Lacy, “The theory that men evolved to hunt and women evolved to gather is wrong”; Diamond, “The Worst Mistake in the History of the Human Race”
5	Feb 11 Feb 13	Review for Exam 1 and Exam 1		
6	Feb 18	5	Cities, States,	Haviland et al. Ch. 6

	Feb 20		Civilizations	
7	Feb 25 Feb 27	6	Modern Human Diversity and Race	Haviland et al. Ch. 7; Goodman, "Race is real, but it's not genetic"; Gravlee, "Racism, not genetics, explains why Black Americans are dying of COVID-19"
8	March 04 March 06	7	Gender, Marriage, Family	Haviland et al. Ch. 10 & Ch. 12
9	March 11 March 13	8	Kinship	Haviland et al. Ch. 12 & Ch. 13
Spring Break				
10	March 25 March 27	Review for Exam 2 and Exam 2		
11	April 01 April 03	9	Non-Western Economics, Politics, and Warfare	Haviland et al. Ch. 11 & Haviland et al. Ch. 14
12	April 08 April 10	10	Religion, Secularism, and Magic	Haviland et al. Ch. 15; Singh, "Modern shamans"
13	April 15 April 17	11	Language and Culture	Haviland et al. Ch. 9; Jones, "Do you see what I see?"
14	April 22	12	Applied Anthropology	Haviland et al. Ch. 16
15	TBD Suggested: April 29	Exam 3		

"Attendance and Make-Up Policy"

You are expected to review all material posted on the course e-learning site (i.e., lectures, articles, videos, etc.), as scheduled, and to read your textbook in the order posted. You are also expected attend the exams and to complete all individual assignments as mentioned in class.

Students unable to complete assignments due to documented, excused absences or extenuating circumstances must contact the course instructor no less than 48 hours before a planned absence (e.g., university event, religious holiday) and no more than 48 hours after an unplanned absence (e.g., illness). Make-up opportunities will be offered for absences for which documentation is provided.

Requirements for make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are

consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Email policy

Students should email the instructor with any questions or concerns. I will respond as soon as possible; however, please keep in mind that as the semester progresses, things tend to get busier, so try to plan ahead!

In your emails, please ensure you:

- Be nice.
- Maintain a polite tone.
- Clearly state the issue in the subject line.
- Use a formal salutation (Dear professor, Dear instructor, etc.).
- End with a formal closing (Best, Best wishes, etc.).

In-Class Recording Policy

Please note that the instructor may choose to record some lectures. Students are also allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

University Honesty Policy

Plagiarism and cheating in any form are subject to university policy as outlined by the

Dean of Students (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>). UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states, *“We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”*

The Honor Code (<https://policy.ufl.edu/regulation/4-040/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. You are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with your instructor or TA for this course.

Writing assignments will be subject to and in accordance with the student conduct code and academic honesty. Assignments will use the tool Turnitin to assess plagiarism and are subject to [ChatGPT/AI](#) detection. If there is any evidence of violation of the [Student Honor Code](#), the student will receive a grade of zero for the assignment and be reported to [Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution](#) Office.

Student Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center (<https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/>). See the “Get Started With the DRC” webpage on the Disability Resource Center site. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

If you are experiencing personal problems that are interfering with your studies, you are encouraged to take advantage of the available university resources:

UF Counseling and Wellness Center: 3190 Radio Road, (352)392-1575

Student Mental Health: Student Health Care Center, (352)392-1171

Sexual Assault Recovery Services: Student Health Care Center, (352)392-1161

Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please visit <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints> to submit a complaint.

Course Evaluations

Student feedback is greatly appreciated and taken seriously. Course evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester. You will be notified via email when the online evaluation page is open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

Campus Resources

Health and Wellness

- U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the [Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit [the Student Health Care Center website](#).
- University Police Department: Visit [UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the [UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).
- GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the [GatorWell website](#).

Academic Resources

- E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- [Career Connections Center](#): Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
- [Library Support](#): Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- [Teaching Center](#): Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
- [Writing Studio](#): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- Student Complaints On-Campus: Visit the [Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage](#) for more information.