

ANT2000 General Anthropology

Spring 2020

Lecture Times:

Tuesdays Periods 5-6 (11:45-1:40)
Thursdays Periods 6 (12:50-1:40)

Lecture Location:

Little Hall 101
Little Hall 101

Dr. Peter Collings (pcollings@ufl.edu)

Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:00 – 4:00 pm and by appointment

Office Location: Turlington B135

Emily Bartz, Teaching Assistant (emily.bartz@ufl.edu)

Office Hours: TBD

Office Location: TBD

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Anthropology demands the open-mindedness with which one must look and listen, record in astonishment and wonder that which one would not have been able to guess.

- Margaret Mead

The purpose of anthropology is to make the world safe for human differences.

- Ruth Benedict

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 insights 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 may think of anthropologists as strange, eccentric scientists who sacrifice the comforts of modern life to be among rural or remote peoples in exotic places. We might also conjure up the image of a bearded man in a pith helmet and khakis when imagining 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 a wide range of current topics such as transnationalism, neoliberal reforms, terrorism, climate change, emergent pathogens, multilingual America, gender and racial discrimination, materials recycling, biodiversity conservation, and world hunger. In this course we will examine many contemporary issues to see how an anthropological perspective can foster solutions to human problems that are both methodologically scientific and philosophically humanitarian. As anthropologist Ruth Benedict implies in the quote above, greater appreciation and respect 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 General Education State Core. Florida State Statute 1007.25 was revised in recent years to improve articulation of General Education with other curriculum. 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” (<http://gened.aa.ufl.edu/state-gen-ed-core.aspx>). Specific objectives for ANT 2000 follow below.

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. Descriptions of module objectives are published on the Canvas e-learning site for the course.

General Education Outcomes

Content, Communication, and Critical Thinking are the three criteria of outcomes applied to General Education courses. Descriptions for each outcome can be found in the links in Canvas. 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 quizzes, 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 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.

Required Book

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

This is the fourth edition of a textbook that was first published in 2007. Textbooks are generally updated every three or so years. We do **not** recommend using an earlier edition. The paperback

version is acceptable. An e-book rental version is also an acceptable option.

In addition to the textbook, which we will read in its entirety, you have readings and links to other resources that are posted on the e-learning site. The schedule for all readings and assignments is also provided online, as are due dates for all graded assignments, which are repeated in the Course Outline below. Please note that we do not cover the Haviland et al. textbook in the order in which it is presented; consult the schedule for details.

Assessments and Grading

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

- You have three **exams**, one at the end of each of three Units. The first two exams are each worth 20% of your final grade, and the third exam is worth 30% of your final grade.

Exams will be a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and essays. They will cover all portions of this course (lectures, class discussions, and readings), but are generally not cumulative. Exams that are missed can only be made up with convincing evidence of a valid excuse (medical/emergency). In the event that you have a medical emergency or serious personal problem on a scheduled quiz or exam day, you must make every effort to notify the instructor of your absence PRIOR to the scheduled class time.

- Eight **individual assignments** are worth a total of 30% of your final grade. These are generally short writing assignments in response to additional readings or a video posted on the e-learning site, and occasionally a news item or website. Grading rubrics for each assignment are posted on the e-learning site.

All exams and at least six of eight assignments must be completed in order to receive a passing grade for the course.

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>

In the event that you have a medical emergency or serious personal or family problem, you must make every effort to notify me of your absence by email. If a valid emergency or medical situation prevents attendance during an exam, or prevents on-time submission of an exercise, an alternative assignment or deadline will be designated. Otherwise, late submissions will not be accepted.

Attendance Policy

You are expected to be in class each day. I will take attendance 5 times during the semester. These days will be chosen entirely randomly, but will not fall on exam days. Your presence in class during these days will determine whether you receive bonus points, or have points deducted from your grade. If you are absent for x days of the five attendance days I will adjust your third exam grade (out of 100 points) according to the following table:

Days absent	Point Adjustment
0-1	+5 bonus points
2-3	No adjustment
4-5	-10 points

Cell Phone and Laptop Policy

All cell phones should be turned off during class, and laptops are only permitted for note-taking. Any other use of these technologies during class time (texting, emailing, social media-ing, etc.) is distracting and unprofessional. Students will automatically be penalized ten points from their next assignment due for any offense, and will be asked to leave the classroom.

ADDITIONAL NOTE: No video/audio recording during class is allowed. If you are having trouble with note-taking or the Powerpoints, please let me know. In addition, posting class notes on publicly-accessible websites is not permitted.

Course Outline and Schedule

ANT 2000 is divided into three Units. All additional readings will be posted on Canvas, and all assignments will be submitted through Canvas. Readings are subject to change. There may be some slight changes to the lecture/class schedule, but exam dates will not change.

Specific dates and times follow in the schedule below.

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
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1	Module 1: What is Anthropology? What is Culture?		
	Jan 7	Class Introduction	Haviland Chs. 1, 8
	Jan 9	What is Anthropology? What is Culture?	Miner, "Body Ritual among the Nacirema"
2	Module 2: Biological Basis for Human Variation/Living Primates		
	Jan 14	Human Variation	Haviland Ch. 2
	Jan 16	Living Primates	Haviland Ch. 3 Gould, "Nonoverlapping Magisteria"
3	Module 3: Human Evolution		
	Jan 21	<i>Assignment 1 due 11:59pm</i> Human Evolution Part I	Haviland Ch. 4
	Jan 23	Human Evolution Part II	
4	Module 4: Hunter-Gatherers and the Origins of Agriculture		
	<i>Monday Jan 27</i>	<i>Assignment 2 due 11:59pm</i>	
	Jan 28	Hunter-Gatherers	Haviland Ch. 5
	Jan 30	The Neolithic	Diamond, "The Worst Mistake in the History of the Human Race"
5	EXAM WEEK		
	Feb 4	EXAM 1	
	Feb 6	<i>Assignment 3 due 11:59pm</i>	
6	Module 5: Cities, States, and "Civilization"		
	Feb 11	Social "Complexity"	Haviland Ch. 6
	Feb 13	Special Topic: African Archaeology	Kaplan, "This ancient burial ground tells a story of unity in a time of climate chaos"
7	Module 6: Modern Human Diversity and Race		
	Feb 18	Race and Racism, Part I	Haviland Ch. 7
	Feb 20	Race and Racism, Part II	Villarosa, "Why America's Black Mothers and Babies are in a Life-or-Death Crisis"

8	Module 7: Gender, Marriage, and Family		
	<i>Monday Feb 24</i>	<i>Assignment 4 due 11:59pm</i>	
	Feb 25	Social Identity, Personality, and Gender	Haviland Ch. 10
	Feb 27	Sex, Marriage, and Family	Haviland Ch. 12
9	Module 8: Kinship and Non-Kin Groups		
	March 10	What is Kinship?	Haviland Ch. 13
	March 12	Other Kinds of Groups	
10	Exam Week		
	March 17	EXAM 2	
	March 19	<i>Assignment 5 due 11:59pm</i>	
11	Module 9: Nonwestern Economics, Politics, and Warfare		
	March 24	Nonwestern Economies	Haviland Ch. 11
	March 26	Politics, Power, and Violence	Haviland Ch. 14
12	Module 10: Religion, Secularism, and Magic		
	<i>Monday March 30</i>	<i>Assignment 6 due 11:59pm</i>	
	March 31	Spirituality and Religion	Haviland Ch. 15
	April 2	Witchcraft and Magic	TBD
13	Module 11: Language and Culture		
	April 7	Introduction to Linguistics	Haviland Ch. 9
	April 9	Language and Culture	Hall and Hall, "The Sounds of Silence"
14	Module 12: Applied Anthropology		
	<i>Monday April 13</i>	<i>Assignment 7 due 11:59pm</i>	
	April 14	Applied Anthropology	Haviland Ch. 16 Murray, "The Domestication of Wood in Haiti"
	April 16	Global Change and Anthropology's Future	
15	Exam Review/Third Exam		

	Monday April 20	Assignment 8 due, 11:59pm	
	April 21	Third Exam	

University Honesty Policy

Plagiarism and cheating in any form are subject to university policy as outlined by the Dean of Students (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/conductcode.php>). 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 (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/studentconduct-honor-code/>) 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.

Student Accommodations

Students requesting classroom accommodations must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>), who will then provide the necessary documentation for the course instructor. Please do this no later than one week after the first day of class.

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

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>.