

Global Humankind
ANT 4213
Department of Anthropology
University of Florida – Online

Portion 1.01

Instructor Information

Instructor: Ben Burgen

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Virtual Office Hours: Tuesdays from 3:30 to 5 pm, Thursdays from 5 to 6:30 pm,
or by appointment

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Portion 1.02

Course Overview

The main question of the course asks: How do the world's diverse peoples develop unique strategies for living in an ever-changing world? As humans, we are part of an intriguing species that strives to tackle universal bio-social concerns, such as giving birth, finding mates, and establishing security in creative and local ways. The way that we manage our livelihoods in our towns and cities unleashes a cascade of interesting global connections, effects, and relationships which can (for example) impact the ways that people in Indonesia find work, or where those in Hawaii decide to settle down.

This class is arranged differently than many other online classes. You will earn your grade in the course through careful and consistent participation in weekly class activities and the completion of a multi-step term paper project. These assignments will require foresight and planning. Most weeks include a short reading quiz and a unique activity based on a case study. This can be contrasted with other class models which teach students through more passive tools such as long taped lectures or comprehensive tests.

Students progress through the course by moving through 12 interrelated modules. Each module is built around a core anthropological question and one or two key concepts in anthropology which have been used to answer this question, as presented in select articles and videos for the week. Each week students will investigate new real-life case studies, such as Guatemalan transnational adoption agencies, temporality and futures in Haiti, security in Peru, matchmaking in China, and international exchanges on YouTube (among others). The weekly course topics are grouped into three large sections that roughly parallel life stages, beginning with the "Life Basics" of birth, enculturation, diets, bodies, and temporality; moving on to "Intermediary Skills" like security, communication, mating, and growing up; and concluding with projects of "Letting Go" such as migration, object disposal, mortuary practices,

and the place of the dead in society. Each week students will read scholarly literature, view the video lectures, and learn a new case study.

Portion 1.03 Prerequisite:

All majors are welcome in this course. The prerequisite requirement is the successful completion of at least one ANT 2000 or 3000 level course.

Portion 1.04 Course Objectives

By the end of this class it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Analyze and explain the diverse strategies humans use to approach bio-social problems at the local level, and the relationship between their social shaping, historical development, and trans-local effects
2. Use a network approach to critically analyze their own social worlds and life strategies
3. Explain how anthropologists study and theorize emergent social problems and the creative strategies societies develop to solve them
4. Develop critical cultural anthropological thinking, reading, and writing skills.

Portion 1.05 Topical Outline

Course Part 1: Life Basics

WEEK 1 (January 4 – 6): Course Introduction and Syllabus Quiz

WEEK 2 (January 9 – 13) Module 1: How does my culture impact my body?

Area Case Study: East and Central Africa

Concepts: Enculturation

WEEK 3 (January 17 – 20) Module 2: How does my diet symbolically affect me?

Area Case Study: Eastern Amazonia

Concepts: Symbolism and Political Ecology

WEEK 4 (January 23 – 27) Module 3: How does uncertainty shape my world?

Area Case Study: Haiti and Florida

Concepts: Phenomenology and Ontology

WEEK 5 (January 30 – February 3) Module 4: How does keeping clean make me a good citizen?

Area Case Study: Ebola in East Africa

Concepts: State and Intersubjectivity

****RESEARCH QUESTION DUE** – February 3rd by 11:59 pm**

Course Part 2: Intermediary Skills

WEEK 6 (February 6 – 10) Module 5: How does my own security impact others?

Area Case Study: Tri-Border Area

Concepts: Security

WEEK 7 (February 13 – 17) Module 6: How do I communicate with others non-verbally?

Area Case Study: Bordieu and Habitus

Concepts: Symbolism and Semiotics

****NO EXPLORE ASSIGNMENT****

****RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE** – February 17th by 11:59 pm**

WEEK 8 (February 20 – 24) Module 7: How do I grow up?

Area Case Study: The Ritual Passage of Fieldwork

Concepts: Ritual and Liminality

WEEK 9 (February 27 – March 3)

****ROUGH DRAFT OF FINAL PAPER DUE** – March 3rd by 11:59 pm**

SPRING BREAK (March 6 – 10)

Course Part 3: Letting Go

WEEK 10 (March 13 – 17) Module 8: How do I leave my homeland and where do I go?

Area Case Study: Syrian Refugee Crisis

Concepts: Border Studies

****NO SYNOPSIS AND THINKING READING QUIZ****

WEEK 11 (March 20 – 24) Module 9: How do I get rid of things and where do they go?

Area Case Study: Waste in Indonesia and East Africa

Concepts: Thing Theory and Object Divestment

WEEK 12 (March 27 – 31) Module 10: What happens when I die and who will handle me?

Area Case Study: Ancient Maya

Concepts: The “Cultural” Body and Mortuary Symbolism

WEEK 13 (April 3 – 7) Module 11: How do the dead change us?

Area Case Study: Bosnia

Concepts: Memory, Things and Contestation

WEEK 14 (April 10 – 14) Module 12: What does it mean to think anthropologically?

****NO EXPLORE ASSIGNMENT****

****NO SYNOPSIS AND THINKING READING QUIZ****

WEEK 15 (April 17 – 19)

****FINAL PAPER DUE** – April 19th by 11:59 pm**

Thursday, April 20th and Friday, April 21st are university-wide reading days and no assignments or coursework may be scheduled during these times.

FINALS WEEK

There is no final exam for this course.

Portion 1.06: Required Readings

1. Ingold, Tim and Gisli Palsson, eds. *Biosocial Becomings: Integrating Social and Biological Anthropology*. Cambridge University Press, 2013.
2. Bradshaw Foundation. *Journey of Mankind – iLecture Documentary Film* (cost is \$4, see link below)
http://www.bradshawfoundation.com/stephenoppenheimer/journey_of_mankind.php
3. Van Gennep, Arnold. *The Rites of Passage*. University of Chicago Press, 2011.
4. Douglas, Mary. *Purity and Danger: An Analysis of Concepts of Pollution and Taboo*. Routledge Classics, 2002.
5. Other readings will be available via UF Smathers Library online resources or via direct hyperlink to an external source. Each week, there will be approximately 2-3 journal articles or book chapters of reading and 2-3 blog posts, vlogs (video blogs), or other popular media which you will be required to read.

**On average you will be reading 70-100 pages a week. You should regularly take notes on the readings in order to retain information for group discussion.

Portion 1.07: Contacting the Instructor

For issues specific to a student's grade or performance in the course you should contact the professor directly through Canvas, using Canvas Inbox or otherwise through email at burgen@ufl.edu. Office hours will be held online through Canvas. Although I will normally get back with you the same day, please allow for a 24-48 hour response time on emails. More general questions can and should be posted to the discussion board.

Portion 1.08: Asking Questions about the Course and Assignments

The course discussion board is a convenient place for students to interact with one another, post questions, read common questions and their answers, or to simply meet one another. All questions about the course, course assignments, or course readings should be posted to the discussion board such as: *are we supposed to read x? or when is x due? or I don't understand what author x is saying*. This excludes any questions which are specific to a student's grade or performance in the course which should be directed to the instructor through email.

Section 2: Course Format

Portion 2.01: Canvas

This course uses Canvas. On Canvas you can find news and updates, the course syllabus, your grades, weekly reading assignments, lecture videos, and discussion boards. You can log in to Canvas at <http://elearning.ufl.edu/>. You are encouraged to make contact with the instructor during virtual office hours if you have any questions. If you encounter any technical problems when logging in or using the E-Learning website contact the UF Helpdesk (helpdesk@ufl.edu or 352 392 4357, select option 2). Students can also find more information on Canvas and the Helpdesk in the Start Here module.

Portion 2.02: Course Requirements and Grading

You will be evaluated for proficiency in learning objectives according to the following methods:

1. *Syllabus Quiz (3 points)*

The syllabus quiz will be used to evaluate your knowledge of the core components of the course, as laid out in the syllabus.

2. *Synopsis and Thinking Reading Quizzes (10 points)*

Every week you are expected to complete the assigned readings and videos and then move on to the individual Synopsis and Thinking quiz for the module. Most Synopsis and Thinking quizzes involve brief textual responses. These assignments evaluate your comprehension of the primary materials for the week. As the name suggests, you should be thinking about the primary materials and be capable of synthesizing the main points. It is recommended that students complete the Synopsis and Thinking quizzes on Mondays, right after completing readings. **Synopsis and Thinking assignments are due each Tuesday by 11:59 pm. Points for Synopsis and Thinking assignments will be assessed weekly by 11:59 pm on Friday.**

3. *Case Studies and Explore Activities (8 points)*

Each week you will be presented with a new ethnographic case study which is relevant to the Module's central question or theme. This case study will be in the form of text, video, and/or other multimedia resources outlined in the individual Explore assignment for the week. You are expected to explore the case study resources and apply your new knowledge of the primary lesson in order to better understand the case study. Each Explore exercise is different inviting you to creatively and critically engage with the particular anthropological question for the module as it is being played out today in the contemporary case study. It is recommended that students complete Explore assignments on Tuesdays, right after completing case study readings. **Explore assignments are due each Thursday at 11:59 pm. Explore points will be assessed weekly by 11:59 pm on Monday.**

4. *Ethnographic Paper (140 points)*

The final 3000 to 5000 word ethnographic paper will cover your own original ethnographic research and the conclusions you have drawn from the research at your chosen site, directly interacting with specific course concepts and questions which you have been most interested in throughout the duration of the course. In order to keep you on track in your ethnography, the project is broken down into 4 segments.

A. *Research Question (16 points) **DUE FRIDAY FEBRUARY 3RD BY 11:59 PM***

By Week 5 (Module 4) students will have worked in tandem with the instructor to develop an acceptable research question relating to a physical site that the student would like to ethnographically investigate for their final project. **Research Question points will be assessed by Friday February 10th at 11:59 pm.**

B. *Research Proposal (18 points) **DUE FRIDAY FEBRUARY 17TH BY 11:59 PM***

In lieu of the Explore assignment for Week 7 (Module 6) students will turn in a research proposal of between 300 and 600 words which outlines the key literature, methods, timeline, and mode of analysis that students will use in developing their ethnography. **Research Proposal points will be assessed by Friday February 24th at 11:59 pm.**

C. *Rough Draft (26 points) **DUE FRIDAY MARCH 3RD BY 11:59 PM***

By the end of Week 9 (Module 8) students will turn in a rough draft of their final paper of a minimum of 2000 words. This draft should include full citations for key literature being used in the paper project. **Rough Draft points will be assessed by Friday March 17th at 11:59 pm.**

D. *Final Paper (80 points) **DUE WEDNESDAY APRIL 19TH BY 11:59 PM***

After the completion of all course modules the final paper will be due on the last class day of the semester. **Points for the Final Paper will be assessed by the time that final grades are due.**

5. *Point values for all assignments are shown below*

Assignment	Number of Each in Group	Points per group	% of Course Total
Syllabus Quiz	1 quiz at 3 points	3	0.9%
Synopsis and Thinking	10 assignments at 10 points each	100	31.0%
Explore	10 assignments at 8 points each	80	24.8%
Ethnographic Paper	Research Question 16 points Research Proposal 18 points Rough Draft 26 points Final Paper 80 points	140	43.3%
Total		323	100.0%

6. *Grading Scale*

See <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html> for calculating grade point averages. Also note that a grade of C- does not count for credit in major, minor, Gen Ed, Gordon Rule, or college basic distribution credit (for information regarding minus grades go to: <http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>)

The grading scale for this course is as follows:

93% - 100% = A

90% - 92% = A-

87% - 89% = B+

83% - 86% = B

80% - 82% = B-

77% - 79% = C+

73% - 76% = C

70% - 72% = C-

67% - 69% = D+

63% - 66% = D

60% - 62% = D-

Below 60% = E

7. *Expectations of Consistent Performance*

Each week you are expected to do the readings, watch any assigned videos, and complete all associated assignments. The timely completion of assignments is critical to the successful completion of this course.

8. *Absences*

Excused absences follow the criteria of the UF Graduate Catalogue (e.g. illness, serious family emergency, military obligations, religious holidays), and should be communicated to the instructor prior to the missed class day when possible.

9. *Late Work and Extensions*

Late work will be marked down 10% for every day it is late. If you know you will not be able to turn in an assignment on time due to serious life circumstances (illness, family emergency, etc.), please notify the instructor as early as possible so that we can arrange a reasonable extension. Extensions must be arranged in advance of the due date and will not be granted after the fact.

10. *Incomplete Grades*

I will not assign grades of “incomplete” except under extreme circumstances (and only if you have completed a minimum of 50% of the coursework). You must provide documentation of such circumstances from an appropriate authority. Requirements for class attendance, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalogue at:

<http://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Portion 2.03: Course Ethics

1. *Academic Honesty*

All work submitted by you for a grade must be completed by you and free from unauthorized assistance or deliberate misrepresentations. The penalty for plagiarism or cheating is a grade of zero points on the assignment in question. In such cases an incident form will also be sent to the Office of the Dean. If you have questions about what constitutes academic misconduct, please consult the UF Honor Code as well as the UF Policies on Academic Honesty, Your Rights and Responsibilities. These are available online at: <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/you-conduct-honor-code/>

2. *Behavior and Netiquette*

Netiquette is online etiquette. It is important that all participants in online courses be aware of proper online behavior and respect each other.

- Use appropriate language for an educational environment:
 - Use complete sentences
 - Use proper spelling and grammar
 - Avoid slang and uncommon abbreviations
 - Do not use obscene or threatening language
 - Respect differences in experience and opinion

Remember that the university values diversity and encourages discourse. Be respectful of differences while engaging in online discussions. For more information about netiquette, see The Core Rules for Netiquette by Virginia Shea:

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

Portion 2.04: Student Support

1. *Support at UF*

As a student in a distance learning course or program you have access to the same support services that students on campus have. For course content questions contact your instructor. For any technical issues you encounter with your course please contact the UF computing Help Desk at 352 392 4257. For Help Desk hours visit:

<http://helpdesk.ufl.edu> . For a list of additional student support services links and information please visit: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-services>

2. *Accommodations for Disabilities*

If you need accommodations or other reasonable modifications to complete assignments successfully and satisfy course criteria you are encouraged to discuss this with the instructor as early in the course as possible. You will be asked to supply a letter from the Disability Resource Center to assist in planning accommodations. Contact the Disability Resource Center at: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc>

3. *Complaints*

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

4. *Course Evaluations*

You are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course. You will receive an email to participate in the evaluation at your @ufl.edu email address. Evaluations are typically open during the last 2 or 3 weeks of the semester, but you will be given specific times once they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to you at: <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>

5. *Counseling and Your Health*

You may occasionally have personal issues that arise in the course of pursuing higher education or that may interfere with your academic performance. If you find yourself facing problems affecting your coursework you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and to seek confidential assistance at the UF Counseling and Wellness Center, 352 392 1575. You can visit their website for more information: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/>

A. Student Health Care Center

The Student Health Care Center at Shands is a satellite clinic of the main Student Health Care Center located on Fletcher Drive on campus. Student Health at Shands offers a variety of clinical services including primary care, women's health care, immunizations, mental health care, and pharmacy services. The clinic is located on the second floor of the Dental Tower in the Health Science Center. For more information contact the clinic at 352 392 0627 or visit their website at:

www.health.ufl.edu/shcc

B. University of Florida Counseling Services

Resources are available on campus for students that feel like they are struggling in their personal or academic life. These resources include:

University Counseling Center

352 392 1575

301 Peabody Hall

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>

Student Mental Health

352 392 1171

Sexual Assault Recovery Services

Student Health Care Center

352 392 1161

Career Resource Center

352 392 1601

University Police Department

352 392 1111

Or 911 for emergencies

Crisis Intervention for Alachua County Residents

Available 24/7 from: Alachua County Crisis Center

352 264 6789

<http://www.alachuacounty.us/depts/css/crisiscenter/pages/crisiscenter.aspx>