

ANT 2000: Introduction to General Anthropology

Spring 2011, Section 9495

T7, R7-8 L005

Instructor: Joost Morsink

email: jmorsink@ufl.edu

Required Text:

Haviland, William A., Harald E.L. Prins, Dana Walrath, and Bunny McBride

2010 *The Essence of Anthropology*. Thomson Wadsworth, Belmont, CA.

Course Description:

Anthropology is the study of humankind and explores all aspects of its experiences and accomplishments from human origins to contemporary forms of culture and social life.

Anthropology studies human variation through time and across space to understand the diversity on a global scale. In contrast to other scientific disciplines, including history, political science, sociology, psychology, medicine, genetics, geology, geography, and many others, anthropology applies a holistic perspective, which means that it tries to understand humankind in terms of the dynamic interrelationships of all aspects of human existence and constantly employs a comparative cross-cultural approach.

This course will introduce you to the discipline of anthropology and the techniques that anthropologists use to acquire, study, and interpret the variation in human populations. You will become familiar with all of the four major subfields of American anthropology (biological, cultural, archaeological, linguistic), including their respective research orientations and methodologies as well as the nature of their interrelatedness. Through the course of the semester, you will learn about a diverse array of different cultural groups and practices that will hopefully lead to a greater awareness and appreciation of human biological and cultural diversity. This course also continually emphasizes the real-world relevance of anthropology and its potential contribution to some of the most important current world issues (e.g., the concept of race, ethnic conflict, social identity, globalization, poverty, etc.).

Course Learning Objectives

Through completion of this course students will gain a better understanding of:

1. The variation of human biology and culture
2. The four subfields in anthropology
3. Anthropological methods
4. The history of anthropological research
5. The interrelationships between biology and culture
6. The importance of a critical perspective on the anthropological endeavor
7. How anthropology functions in both the scientific and popular worlds to create, maintain, and dispel our perceptions of the human condition.
8. The relevance of anthropology to contemporary problems, such as globalization, environmental change, health and nutrition

Format and Course Requirements:

The class format is primarily lecture-based. However, in-class questions, discussion, and participation are encouraged. Lectures will include information from the textbook as well as additional outside sources, including films. Students are required to read the assigned readings before class to optimally participate with the material during lecture. Class attendance is not taken, but all material presented during lectures will be part of the exams. Class attendance is therefore highly recommended.

Exams:

There will be two exams, each worth 75 points for a total of 150 points, making up 75 percent of your final grade. Exams are not cumulative and consist of objective (multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank, etc.) and a few short essay questions. Exam questions will be based on material covered in textbook readings, films, in-class discussions and exercises, and lectures.

All exams will be administered on E-Learning Sakai. Exams must be taken at the scheduled time; there will be **no makeup exams**. Exceptions will be made only in the case of incapacitating illness or other university-approved absence such as documented family emergency. In such cases, you must contact Joost Morsink with written documentation from an appropriate authority at least 24 hours before the exam. The Teaching Assistant (TA) may NOT give permission for make-up exams.

- There will be no lecture the day(s) of a scheduled assessment. Students will take assessments in a place and with a computer of their choice. The use of 'Firefox' as a webbrowser is recommended.

- Students are required to complete their exams by themselves. It is a **violation of the student code** to which each of you agreed to do your exams in groups. Any student found to be completing their exam in conjunction with (a) fellow student(s) will be considered cheating, and will be reported to proper University of Florida authorities.

It is the student's responsibility to have a reliable internet connection and to ensure that computer operates Sakai without problems. Difficulties in accessing Sakai are NOT valid excuses for an assessment being missed.

Quizzes:

There will also be a series of 10 unannounced pop quizzes given during lecture, consisting of a few short questions and based on assigned readings and lectures. Each quiz is worth 5 points for a total of 50 points, making up 25 percent of your final grade. Quizzes will serve as a proxy for student attendance and cannot be made up for ANY reason.

All assignments are known well in advance; therefore, opportunities for make-up assignments and tests *will only be granted in the most exceptional circumstances such as illness or family emergency*. If you feel that your situation fits these circumstances, please contact me **before** the assessment or due date and provide me with a written medical excuse or excuse from proper University authorities. *University policy states that opportunities for 'bonus points' must be provided to the entire student body. It is against the instructor's class policy to provide opportunities for 'bonus points' to individual students, so please do not ask.*

Needed accommodations for disabilities:

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students

Office. The Disability Resource Center will then provide documentation to the student, who is expected to meet with the instructor during office hours or by appointment, at which point s/he will provide the documentation and discuss the required accommodations. Students who wish to find out if they are eligible for services can contact the Disability Resource Center at www.dso.ufl.edu/drc.

University Counseling Services

Please be aware that the Counseling Center at the University of Florida has a variety of services that may be of use to you during the semester. This includes individual, group and couples counseling, as well as workshops for stress management and time management. For more information go to 301 Peabody Hall, or <http://www.counsel.ufl.edu>.

Cell Phone, Laptop and MP3 Player Policy

If you are found reading newspapers, listening to your iPod or other digital device, texting, surfing the web on a cell phone or laptop, or being disruptive in other ways, you will be asked to leave. Use of cell phones in this class will not be permitted. Please turn off your cell phones before the beginning of each class. If your cell phone goes off, you will need to leave the class and not come back for the rest of that day. If you are seen using your cell phone during class (texting, surfing, etc.), you will be asked to leave. Missing class due to being excused because of a cell phone or laptop is not an excuse for a poor grade, so please turn off your cell phones or leave them at home, but don't let them go off in class. Laptops for class-related activity (note-taking) is permitted.

ELearning:

This class makes extensive use of Sakai for doing tests, uploading assignments and grades, and important announcements. *All students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the SAKAI and checking it daily for class-related announcements.* Online tutorials for students to learn how to use Sakai are available at <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/sakai-training/index.shtml>.

“Not knowing” about a particular announcement or communication because a student did not check Sakai will not be accepted as an excuse with regards to any assignment, assessment, or other class-related activity.

Class Announcements:

The main means of the Instructor's announcements to students will be through EMAIL to your UF email address. Students may opt to forward this email account to their personal email address, and can contact Computer Services if they need assistance in doing so. *Students are expected to read and be aware of all email announcements.* There are no allowances for students who fail to read their email announcements or whose inboxes are full at the time an announcement is sent.

University Academic Honesty Policy

All students must comply with U.F. academic honesty policy: “I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.” Full text of the Honor Code is available online:

[<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/studenthonorcode.php>]

In meeting one of the major objectives of higher education, which is to develop self-reliance, it is expected that students will be responsible for the completion of their own academic work. A fundamental principle is that the whole process of learning and the pursuit of knowledge are damaged by cheating, plagiarism, and other acts of academic dishonesty such as misrepresentation, conspiracy, bribery and fabrication.

I take academic honesty very seriously and will immediately fail any student caught engaging in dishonest acts. Furthermore, the University will take severe action against any students acting dishonestly, including possible expulsion.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Exam 1	75
Exam 2	75
10 In-class quizzes	50
Total	200

No grades will be discussed via email. If you have a problem or a question about your grade, please

make an appointment to come speak with the instructor or stop by during office hours. Letter grades will be assigned based on the total percent of points according to the following scale:

A = 93% or above	C = 70-75.99%
A- = 90-92.99%	C- = 67-69.99%
B+ = 86-89.99%	D+ = 64-66.99%
B = 83-85.99%	D = 60-63.99%
B- = 80-82.99%	D- = 57-59.99%
C+ = 76-79.99%	E = 56% or below

Please note that the University implemented minus grades beginning in Summer 2009. Under the new system, a grade of **C-** will not qualify for major, minor, Gen Ed, Gordon Rule, or College Basic Distribution credit. Please see the following for more information:

Grades and Grading

<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

Week 1:

6 Jan.	Course Introduction – Syllabus	
	What is Anthropology	Ch. 1
	History of Anthropology	

Week 2:

11 Jan.	Culture and Diversity	Ch. 8
13 Jan.	Biological Basis for Human Variation	Ch. 2

Week 3

18 Jan.	Biology, Evolution, Genetics	Ch. 2
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20 Jan.	Living non-human Primates Film: <i>Ape Genius</i>	Ch. 3
Week 4:		
25 Jan.	Archaeological and Paleoanthropological methods and Hominin Origins	Ch. 4 & 5
27 Jan.	Significance of Bipedalism Film: <i>Becoming Human</i>	
Week 5:		
1 Feb.	Hominin Elaboration	
3 Feb.	Becoming Modern Film: <i>Becoming Human</i>	
Week 6:		
8 Feb.	Origins of Agriculture	Ch. 5
10 Feb.	Agriculture and Social Complexity Information on Exam I Film: <i>Myths and the Moundbuilders</i>	Ch. 6
Week 7:		
15 Feb.	Social Complexity & Social Evolution	Ch. 6
17 Feb.	Modern Human Diversity	Ch. 7
Week 8:		
22 Feb.	Race and Racism	Ch. 7
24 Feb.	EXAM I	
Week 9:		
1 Mar.	Non-western economics	Ch. 11
3 Mar.	Exchange & Feasting Film: <i>Kula: Ring of Power</i>	Ch. 11
Week 10 Springbreak		
Week 11:		
15 Mar.	Kinship and Marriage	Ch. 12
17 Mar.	Kinship and Social Stratification Film: <i>Oncka's Big Moka</i>	Ch. 12 & 13
Week 12:		
22 Mar.	Politics & Power	Ch. 14
24 Mar.	Gender Film: <i>The Guardian of the Flutes</i>	Ch. 10

Week 13 (Mar. 28 – Apr. 1):

29 Mar.	Social Identity	Ch. 10
31 Mar.	Alternative Worldviews	Ch. 15

Week 14 (4-8 Apr.):

5 Apr.	Linguistic Anthropology & Language	Ch. 9
7 Apr.	Linguistic Anthropology & Language	Ch. 9
	Film: <i>American Tongues</i>	

Week 15: (11-15 Apr.)

12 Apr.	Social Change and Applied Anthropology	Ch. 16
14 Apr.	The role of Anthropology in the modern World	Ch. 16

Week 16: (18-20 Apr.)

19 Apr.	Exam II	
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