

# General Anthropology

ANT 2000-4104

Summer B 2014

Instructor: Ben Burgen

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Office Hours: TBA (or by appointment)

Course Meeting Time: MTWRF Period 4 (12:30-1:45pm) – TUR L005

## **Course Description**

Anthropology is the social science that studies humans from their earliest origins up through the present in all environments and contexts. Put simply, anthropology is the holistic investigation of all aspects of the human experience. It is commonly divided into four sub-fields: biological anthropology, archaeology, linguistic anthropology, and cultural anthropology. Biological anthropology investigates human evolution and non-human primate behavior. Archaeology investigates the lives and cultures of the past through their material remains. Linguistic anthropology investigates the origins, spread, and interactions between languages as well as the ways that language and culture are linked. Cultural anthropology investigates the range of cultural expression and interaction that takes place today.

In each sub-field anthropologists are constantly advancing new ideas to help us better understand our own cultures, the cultures of others, and our links to the past. The diversity of knowledge that emerges from anthropology helps us to better understand and address the dynamic challenges that face humanity today. This introductory course is designed for students who have little or no previous experience with anthropology. It will introduce each of the four sub-fields of the discipline on a basic level.

The primary objectives of the course are listed below.

At the end of the class students will be able to:

1. Describe and explain the holistic nature of the study of humans in anthropology.
2. Describe and explain major theoretical and methodological aspects of each of the four sub-fields of anthropology;
3. Describe and discuss major features of the evolutionary history of humans;
4. Identify and summarize the anthropological perspective on the rise of social complexity and its impacts;
5. Identify, summarize, and discuss multiple ways that anthropology can be employed to improve our understanding of contemporary human life;
6. Build critical thinking, reading, and writing skills.

**Required Book:**

Haviland, William A., Harald E.L. Prins, Dana Walrath, and Bunny McBride  
**2013 The Essence of Anthropology. 3rd Ed.** Wadsworth Cengage Learning.  
ISBN: 9781111833442

**Supplemental Materials:**

In addition to the required textbook, additional readings will be made available with the intention of familiarizing students with current scholarly work being performed by UF anthropology faculty and graduate students. Where possible we will have in-class presentations by UF anthropologists about their work.

All supplemental course materials will be available through the course e-learning website.

**Note:** The instructor reserves the right to modify the course schedule in response to unforeseen circumstances. However, no changes will be made to the exam schedule or assignment due dates.

**Course Structure and Requirements****Quizzes (20%)**

Ten (10) pop quizzes (each worth **2%**) will be given during lecture over the course of the semester without prior notice. Only students who have an officially excused absence will be allowed to make up a quiz.

Excusable absences are defined by official UF policy. Excusable absences include religious holidays, illness, family emergency, and UF athletic or extracurricular activities. Further information on this policy can be found online at:

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

In order to receive excused absences students must make a good faith effort to inform the instructor in advance. Students are responsible for making up course material covered during their absence whether excused or unexcused. Students are advised to visit the instructor during office hours with any questions about material covered during their absence.

**Critical Thinking Assignments (15%)**

Over the course of the semester you are required to write three (3) short papers (between 500 and 750 words) at **5%** each. At the end of each chapter in the textbook there is a section entitled *Questions for Reflection*. You may choose one of these questions (clearly identify the question you are addressing at the beginning of your paper) as the prompt for your critical thinking paper. You may only submit one paper per chapter and you must turn in your paper for

a particular chapter during one of the class sessions in which that chapter is assigned. No late assignments will be accepted.

### **Exams (65%)**

Three (3) exams will be held for the course (two during the course of the semester at **20%** each, and a final exam worth **25%**). Each exam will cover materials from class readings, films, and discussions up to the date that they are taken. The final exam will be comprehensive. Exams will be composed of a mix of true/false, multiple choice, short answer, and/or essay questions.

**Extra Credit:** Two extra credit assignments will be made available during the course of the semester each worth 2.5% for an available total of **5% extra credit**.

**Grade Dispute Policy:** Any concerns about grades must be voiced within 48 hours of the time that they are posted. Otherwise, all grades become final after the 48 hour deadline.

### **Final Grade**

The final letter grade for this course will be calculated according to the scale given here.

Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
Tot % of points	93-100	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	<60

### **Academic Honesty**

The importance of academic honesty is paramount. There will be severe penalties for any act of plagiarism, deception, or fraud. University guidelines relating to academic honesty can be found on the undergraduate catalog website as well as at the Dean of Students website. Specific information regarding university expectations of appropriate student conduct are listed in the student honor code at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/student-honor-code.aspx>

### **Plagiarism & Cheating**

Plagiarism is the act of using someone else's ideas and words without acknowledging their authorship. Any act of plagiarism or cheating will result in a zero for the assignment and may be referred to the Dean of Students for further discipline.

### **Campus Resources**

Any student experiencing a crisis or other problems which interfere with their ability to pursue academic coursework or affect their general wellbeing are encouraged to make use of the university's counseling resources. The University Counseling Center and Student Mental Health services both provide confidential counseling to current students for free. Information on the University Counseling Center can be found at [www.counsel.ufl.edu](http://www.counsel.ufl.edu) and for Student Mental Health at [www.hsc.ufl.edu/shcc/smhs.htm](http://www.hsc.ufl.edu/shcc/smhs.htm)

### **Assistance for Students with Disabilities**

The office of the Dean of Students is available to coordinate accommodations for students with special needs. This includes the registration of disabilities, accommodations for classroom access, adaptive computer equipment, and interpretation services. Students requesting assistance should first register with the Disability Resource Center. Students should then present appropriate paperwork to the instructor by the drop/add period deadline. More information is available at [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) or (352) 392-8565.

### **Course Outline**

June 30 (M): Introduction to course and syllabus review

July 1 (T): Chapter 1: The Essence of Anthropology (pt. 1)

July 2 (W): Chapter 1: The Essence of Anthropology (pt. 2)

July 3 (R): Chapter 2: Biology and Evolution (pt. 1)

July 4 (F): HOLIDAY

July 7 (M): Chapter 2: Biology and Evolution (pt. 2)

July 8 (T): Chapter 3: Living Primates

July 9 (W): Chapter 4: Human Evolution (pt. 1)

July 10 (R): Chapter 4: Human Evolution (pt. 2) + Review for Exam 1

July 11 (F): EXAM 1

July 14 (M): Chapter 5: The Neolithic Revolution (pt. 1)

July 15 (T): Chapter 5: The Neolithic Revolution (pt. 2)

July 16 (W): Chapter 6: The Emergence of Cities and States

July 17 (R): Chapter 7: Modern Human Diversity (pt. 1)

July 18 (F): Chapter 7: Modern Human Diversity (pt. 2)

July 21 (M): Chapter 8: The Characteristics of Culture

July 22 (T): Chapter 9: Language and Communication

July 23 (W): Chapter 10: Social Identity, Personality, and Gender (pt. 1)

July 24 (R): Chapter 10: Social Identity, Personality, and Gender (pt. 2) + Review for Exam 2

July 25 (F): EXAM 2

July 28 (M): Chapter 11: Subsistence and Exchange

July 29 (T): Chapter 12: Sex, Marriage, and Family

July 30 (W): Chapter 13: Kinship and Other Methods of Grouping

July 31 (R): Chapter 14: Politics, Power, and Violence (pt. 1)

August 1 (F): Chapter 14: Politics, Power, and Violence (pt. 2)

August 4 (M): Chapter 15: Spirituality, Religion, and the Supernatural (pt. 1)

August 5 (T): Chapter 15: Spirituality, Religion, and the Supernatural (pt. 2)

August 6 (W): Global Changes and the Role of Anthropology (pt. 1)

August 7 (R): Global Changes and the Role of Anthropology (pt. 2) + Review for Final

August 8 (F): FINAL EXAM