



INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY

Fall 2024

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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Discussion hours:

ANT101, SEC 1 (08B09C) SEC 3 (08B-10C)	Sunday & Tuesday	9:30 – 10:50 3:30 - 4:50	
Consultation hours	Sunday & Tuesday	11:00 – 12:20 02:00 - 03:20	By appointment
Assignment1 Assignment 2	20-11-24 17-12-24	12 pm	
Mid Term Exam	24-11-24	4:30 – 5:30	
Final Exam	15-01-24	4:30 – 6:30	

Course Description:

ANT 101 will introduce students to the field of anthropology. Throughout the course, we will be exploring the ideas and methodologies within anthropology stemming from the late 19th century to the present day. We will cover the historical and cultural contexts of the ideas discussed, as well as their contemporary relevance in interpreting our lives and worlds needed to carry out research through an anthropological lens. This course aims to help students develop an understanding of the transformations within anthropological thought and obtain an anthropological perspective on the human condition. Providing the students with an understanding and appreciation of how biology, ecology, economy, politics, social norms and cultural practices condition human life.

Rationale of the Course:

By providing an overall introduction to anthropology, the course sets the foundations for students who will pursue a degree in Anthropology. Given the breadth of this course in presenting an understanding of diversity, difference, cross-cultural perspectives, acceptance of others and better reflection of self, it is also an important offering for any student in the university towards the fulfillment of their General Education requirement.

Course Objective:

This course aims to help students develop an anthropological perspective on the human condition – an understanding and appreciation of how biology, ecology, economy, politics, social norms, and cultural practices

condition human life. In doing so, the course expects students to become more accepting of differences and to understand themselves in more connected and less ethnocentric ways.

Pre-requisites: ENG101

Course learning outcomes (CLO):

CLO	Description
1	Explain the importance of culture, enculturation and cultural transmission, and the fundamentals of anthropological theory in historical context.
2	Use the basic principles and methodologies of anthropological research to formulate, justify and answer interesting and relevant questions about social life.
3	Analyze kinship systems and religious, political, and economic institutions in terms of how they are understood through systems of meaning, how they structure and regulate social life, and how they are created, used, manipulated, resisted and transformed by human agency.
4	Identify and examine issues of power and inequality in the contemporary world (including those involving gender, class, race and ethnicity, caste, nationality, religion, sexual orientation etc.) and the significance of the colonial encounter and global configurations of power in terms of how people know, feel and live across the world today.
5	Interpret real, everyday life in Bangladesh and elsewhere in terms of the ideas and concepts introduced and discussed in class.

Course outline:

Course Outcomes	PO1	PO2	PO3	PO4	PO5	PO6	PO7	PO8
CO1	X		X					
CO2		X	X	X				
CO3		X	X					
CO4	X	X	X	X				
CO5		X						

***Note:** PLO refers to program learning objectives, as described in the program curriculum

	Topic	Readings
1.1	Introduction: Overview of the course outline, topics and readings. Instructions for the assessments	None

1.2	<p>Introduction: Overview of the course outline, topics and readings. Instructions for the assessments.</p> <p>Concepts: Human civilization changes over time. Everyday Life. The Human Condition.</p>	<p>Storytelling for Earthly Survival by Donna Haraway https://vimeo.com/ondemand/donnaharaway</p> <p>Captivating and Curious Careers of Anthropology https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1Cm3MgpQ14</p>
1.3	<p>Anthropology as a Discipline.</p> <p>Why study Anthropology? The four subfields of Anthropology</p>	<p>Chapter 1 (Introduction: Viewing the World through the lens of Anthropology) Through the Lens of Anthropology: An Introduction to Human Evolution and Culture by Robert Muckle, Laura Tubelle de González & Stacey L. Camp</p> <p>An introduction to the discipline of Anthropology https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J5aglbqTEig&list=PLL5esD5uW7MGWlbcZ0lvCQUQf4d3XEKnk&index=10&ab_channel=Macat</p>
2.1	Unpacking culture	<p>Lesson 1: Fieldwork The Art of Being Human: A Textbook for Cultural Anthropology by Michael Wesch</p> <p>Body Ritual Among the Nacirema by Horace Miner</p> <p>Shakespeare in the Bush by Laura Bohannon</p> <p>Why do we believe that difference is a problem? by Achille Mbembe https://www.goethe.de/prj/zei/en/art/21653554.html</p>

2.2	<p>What is culture? Why bother with culture?</p> <p>Adaptation, Change, Agency, Practice Beauty, Aesthetics, Politics Ethnocentrism, Cultural Relativism,</p>	<p>Chapter 8 (Studying Culture)</p> <p>Through the Lens of Anthropology: An Introduction to Human Evolution and Culture by Robert Muckle, Laura Tubelle de González & Stacey L. Camp</p> <p>Women, Minorities, and Indigenous Peoples: Universalism and Cultural Relativity by Carole Nagengast</p> <p>Symbols, Values & Norms: Crash Course Sociology #10 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kGrVhM_Gi8k&list=PLzn3gzZ9lOzUTXGo1-xcUGDNhyPWIML&index=2&ab_channel=CrashCourse</p> <p>Cultures, Subcultures, and Countercultures: Crash Course Sociology #11 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RV50AV7-lwc&t=434s&ab_channel=CrashCourse</p>
	Quiz 1	
3.1	<p>Anthropological Methods Participant Observation, Ethics of fieldwork, & Discourse Analysis, Methods (objectivity, qualitative vs quantitative, case studies, genealogies)</p>	<p>Chapter 3 & 6 (Evolution, Social Structure)</p> <p>The Lone Ethnographer (Graphic Novel) by Sally Campbell Galman</p> <p>What Is Ethnography?! UCLA Anthropology Student Defines https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dfhreK_Tjrc&list=PL3Nkk0GrOepIOd_fBO_uFk4r6CIN4Alr&index=2&t=2s</p>

4.1	<p>Kinship and marriage Kinship, descent and the family; everyday pains and pleasures, how marriage works – rules/norms and practices incest taboo; exogamy, endogamy; marital rights; same-sex marriage; marriage as group alliance; divorce; plural marriages</p>	<p>Kottak: Chapters 19 and 20 (Families, Kinship, and Descent and Marriage)</p> <p>Marshall Sahlins “What Kinship Is?” (Part One)</p> <p>Pierre Bourdieu on Marriage Strategies</p> <p>Or</p> <p>When Brothers Share a Wife, Goldstein - Polyandry/ Arranging a Marriage in India, Nanda</p> <p>Video Clips: Life in a matrilineal society https://youtu.be/RrANsQTsyTO</p> <p>Faces of Africa – Polygamous Love https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9h1RyQe3LE</p>
	MID TERM EXAM	
5	<p>Gender and sexuality</p> <p>Sex and gender; recurrent gender patterns; economy and gender/sexuality; patriarchy; patriarchy and violence; gender and industrialism; sexual orientation</p>	<p>Kottak: Chapter 18 (Gender)</p> <p>Lesson 6 (Gender)</p> <p>The Art of Being Human: A Textbook for Cultural Anthropology by Michael Wesch</p> <p>Why Sex Is Not Binary: The complexity is more than cultural. It’s biological, too. https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/25/opinion/sex-biology-binary.html</p> <p>Gender and Sexuality -Anne Fausto Sterling http://www.annefaustosterling.com/fields-of-inquiry/gender/</p> <p>Video Clips: Judith Butler: Your Behavior Creates Your Gender Big Think https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bo7o2LYATDc</p> <p>LGBTQ: Understanding Sexual Orientation & Gender Identities Preview https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUc0Oy9smdE</p> <p>Feminism For all by Kamal Bhasin https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmvmM1NOI1s</p>

6	<p>Economy and Material Life – Foragers to Industrialists</p> <p>Economizing and maximizing Reciprocity, redistribution and market system</p>	<p>Reading:</p> <p>Kottak: Chapter 16: (Making a Living)</p> <p>Richard Lee, Eating Christmas in Kalahari http://public.gettysburg.edu/~dperry/Class%20Readings%20Scanned%20Documents/Intro/lee_eating_christmas_kalahari_14_eoa.pdf</p> <p>Reading the article by Richard Lee https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=recO-5OonZQ</p> <p>Video Clips:</p> <p>Kwakwaka'wakw Potlatch: To Give https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=InhQg1sLXSI</p> <p>The Kula Ring Expedition https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PcljWcS3eN0</p>
7	<p>Race, ethnicity and nationalism</p> <p>Ethnic groups; human diversity; the social construction of race; nation and nationality; assimilation, pluralism and multiculturalism; ethnic conflict</p>	<p>Kottak: Chapter 6 and 15 (Ethnicity and Race)</p> <p>What is Ethnicity? Ethnicity and Nationalism Anthropological Perspectives- Thomas Hylland Eriksen</p> <p>Video Clips:</p> <p>A Conversation on Race and Privilege with Angela Davis and Jane Elliott (11:00-42:30) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S0jf8D5WHoo</p> <p>Suheir Hammad :Not Your Erotic, Not Your Exotic https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xarc5PFknfw</p> <p>Dr. Hameeda Hossain lived in Hyderabad, Sindh, during 1947 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=atnunRcF-do</p> <p>Mr. Hiralal Bhattacharjee recalls living through the 1947 and 1971 Partitions. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vjwfnnoj1rU</p>
8	<p>Religion</p> <p>What is religion? (Taylor, Durkheim, Berger, Asad) religion and cultural ecology; religion and the state; secular rituals</p>	<p>Kottak: Chapter 21 (Religion)</p> <p>Video Clips:</p> <p>Dr. Saba Mahmood on Religious Fundamentalism and the Origins of Secularism https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fu87UFIQw58</p>

9	Colonialism to Globalization: Where is the Crisis? World system To Colonialism (Industrialization and colonialism) and the aftermath	Kottak: Chapters 23 and 24 (The World System and Colonialism, Global Issues Today) Video Clips: Debate of Britain's Colonial legacy and the impact on society today https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O-VK2sDZCQw
10	Globalization and the Modern Worlds System (Part 2) crisis of globalization	John Bodley, "The Price of Progress" http://web.mnstate.edu/robertsb/306/PriceOfProgress.pdf Video Clips: World-Systems Theory, Dependency Theory and Global Inequality https://youtu.be/79gCqjl6ihQ?feature=shared
11	Caring for our Future solidarity, building movements, social justice, rights, tolerance and diversity, environmental catastrophe, and protection	
12		
13	Review	

Teaching strategies:

1. Lectures: These lectures will address the main themes and problems relevant to the relevant topic and readings. Students are expected to go through the texts before attending the live discussions.
2. Flipped classroom: See "Presentations" under "Assessment methods" below; this technique is designed to prevent students from being passive recipients of information, encouraging them instead to play an active role in how the class is conducted, as well as the focus of class discussions and examinations.
3. In-class Q-&-As: Questions and answers between faculty and students will be conducted throughout the lecture, and especially at the beginning (revising the previous class), the end (summarizing the class), and after every major concept is introduced, in order to ensure clarity and comprehension.
4. Class discussions: Each (regular) week there will be two live discussion sessions, in place of regular classes. There will be only one session during the midterm week, and one at the end for a final review. The timings for the discussions are given at the beginning of this syllabus. These discussion sessions will be held via Google Meet (other platforms may be used if necessary); the meeting codes are given above.

Assessment methods:

1. Quizzes: A total of **2 offline** quizzes will be taken throughout the semester; a tentative schedule is given above. Students will have to give the quizzes directly on buX. At the end of the semester, the **best 1 out of 2 quiz scores** will be counted for the final grade. Further instructions will be provided once classes begin.
2. Assignment: Students must submit a short paper (**3-5 pages**) where they attempt an **auto-ethnography** of their lives and the worlds they inhabit. This should be a detailed, careful and reflexive analysis of the kinship/familial, historical, economic, political and cultural circumstances of the student's life, in a way that helps them answer the question of **why their life has taken the form it has**. All assignments must be submitted directly to turnitn. Required format: Times New Roman; 12-point font; 1.5 line-spacing. Further instructions will be provided in class.
3. Examinations: Midterm and final examinations will be held directly through buX. Further instructions will be provided once classes begin.

Method	Participation/ Discussion	Attendance	Assignment	Quiz/ Reflection	Midterm	Final	Total
% of Total grade	5%	5%	20%	20 %	20 %	30 %	100 %

Marking rubric (calculating on a percentage basis)

Subject Comprehension	40%
Contents/literature used	30%
Critical analysis	20%
Writing	10%

Readings:

1. Conrad P. Kottak, Cultural Anthropology: Appreciating Cultural Diversity, 16th ed. (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2015). First published 1974 (REQUIRED).
2. Resource Link: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1kwaolDjVadW53LXtr30TR8u4yZAd65kN?usp=drive_link

Supporting tools: Lecture notes and other course materials will be available on Google Classroom and the Facebook page. Other media (e.g. film/documentaries) may be used at the faculty member's discretion.

Course policies:

1. Class policy:
 - a. Active participation in class discussions is expected and encouraged. Please go through the video lectures and readings before attending the live discussion sessions.
 - b. The instructor reserves the right to make any necessary changes to all the above.
 - c. Requests for academic accommodations are to be made during the first three weeks of the semester, except for unusual circumstances so that arrangements can be made. Students are encouraged to register with Student Disability Services to verify their eligibility for appropriate accommodations.

2. Academic Integrity: Students in this course are expected to abide by the Brac University Code of Academic Integrity. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work. Copying from another student or copying from published, unpublished or electronic sources without appropriate citations or quotations is **plagiarism, including the use of A.I..** If there is evidence of plagiarism, **ALL** students involved will automatically receive a zero grade. The penalty for violation of this code can also be extended to include failure of the course and University disciplinary action.
3. Late submissions and examinations: No late submissions or make-up examinations will be accepted or arranged except for extreme circumstances, conditional on appropriate documentation.

Grading policy: Students' work will be graded according to the system specified by the Brac University Undergraduate Study and Examinations Regulations. In addition, faculty are allowed to consider the class average, standard deviation etc. in order to reflect students' actual class performance.