

Introduction to Anthropology: ANT 101

Oxford College of Emory University

Fall 2004

Dr Valerie Singer

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(Feel free to call me at home, however I ask that you don't call after 9 PM.)

Course Description:

Anthropology is the study of humankind, from our earliest beginnings to our most current dilemmas. It is thus an extremely broad discipline. An introductory course such as this one necessarily only brushes the surface of many topics. Yet it is the goal of this course to provide students with an overall understanding of anthropological concepts, particularly the holistic approach to studying humanity. We will touch on each of anthropology's four sub-disciplines, cultural anthropology, biological anthropology, archaeology, and linguistics. To illustrate these sub-disciplines, the course will focus on the issue of race as it has been understood anthropologically, particularly in relation to Native Americans.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course students will:

- Be familiar with basic anthropological terms and concepts
- Understand the basic methods and challenges of anthropological fieldwork
- Understand why race has no biological meaning, but significant, varying historical and cultural meanings
- Be familiar with the basic principals of human evolution and modern human variation

Required texts:

- Window on Humanity, a Concise Introduction to Anthropology by Conrad Kottak
- Skull Wars, Kennewick Man, Archaeology, and the Battle for Native American Identity by David Hurst Thomas
- The Bakairi Indians of Brazil, Politics, Ecology, and Change by Debra Picchi
- Additional reading available through e-reserve (listed with an R on course schedule)

Course Grade Breakdown:

Exam One:	15%
Exam Two:	20%
Final Exam:	25%
Term Paper:	20%
Attendance and Participation:	20%

Academic Honesty:

Both Oxford College and I take the matter of academic honesty very seriously. I would like to remind you that you are required to follow the Honor Code. Any suspected breaches to the Honor Code will be referred to the Honor Council for review and possible disciplinary action. This includes acts of plagiarism. I have found in the past that many college students do not understand what does and does not constitute plagiarism. We will be discussing what constitutes plagiarism and proper citation methods later in the semester.

Attendance:

I will be taking attendance each day. Each student is allowed TWO absences during the semester. This is to allow for the occasional illness, personal matter, or accidental nap.

Each additional absence will result in a 1 point lose to your attendance and participation grade (out of 20 points). There are only two exceptions to this policy: 1) absences for religious holidays *if you notify me ahead of time that you will be absent*, and 2) extreme unexpected situations (extended illnesses, death in the family, etc.). If you have an extreme situation that prevents you from attending class, please notify me as soon as possible, and be prepared to show documentation of the situation.

Participation:

Your active participation is a vital part of this course. You are expected to have carefully read the assigned materials before each class session, and come prepared for discussion. I believe strongly that you can each learn a great deal in the classroom from your fellow students, not just from your professor. We are all both learners and teachers. You share with me the responsibility of creating a classroom atmosphere in which all of your classmates feel comfortable expressing their individual questions, ideas, and opinions.

I will be setting up a class conference for us on Learn Link. **As part of your participation grade, you need to contribute to the class conference at least once a week.** Your contributions may include comments on the readings or in-class lectures, discussions, or films. I also encourage you to write “discussion questions” for the rest of the class to respond to or comment on. I envision this conference as being a way to create more dialogue between students and help connected anthropology to our daily lives.

Term Paper:

For the term paper in this course, you will each choose a full monograph/ethnography that addresses one (or several) of anthropology’s four sub-fields. (I will give you a list of books to choose from.) You will then be required to find two additional articles written by anthropologists on a closely related topic. Your paper will be a review of how these works connect or contrast with each other, and how they reflect the field of anthropology as a whole. You will need to submit your chosen articles to me for approval several weeks before the paper is due. *I will not accept papers if I have not previously approved the articles in your bibliography.* While a rough draft is not required, I am happy to read and comment on any drafts submitted to me by November 16th.

Extra Credit:

Throughout the semester there will be opportunities for extra credit – usually when there is a campus speaker or event that relates to anthropology. Shortly Dr. Dirks and I will be letting you know about a series of anthropological films we will show in the evenings this fall. After each film we will have a half hour discussion. These will be offered as extra credit events for my class. I will occasionally invite students to accompany me to presentations going on in the Atlanta-Emory Anthropology department. For each such event, if you attend and then submit a one-page review of the event, you will gain 1% point on your final grade. You may earn no more than 3% points of extra credit over the semester.

Grading:

Please note that I WILL be grading using the plus-minus system.

100-93% = A	79-77% = C+
92-90% = A-	76-73% = C
89-87% = B+	72-70% = C-
86-83% = B	69-67% = D+
82-80% = B-	66-60% = D
	59% and below = F

Course Schedule:

(subject to change, any changes will be posted on the class conference)

August 26	Course Introduction
August 31	Kottak Chapter 1 <i>Body Ritual Among the Nacirema</i> (on e-reserve)
September 2	Kottak Chapter 2 pages 22-33
September 7	Kottak Chapter 3 pages 49-61 <i>Theses Are Real Swinging Primates</i> (on e-reserve)
September 9	Kottak Chapter 4 <i>What Are Friends For?</i> (on e-reserve) Film: Among the Wild Chimpanzees
September 14	Kottak Chapter 5 <i>Food For Thought</i> (on e-reserve)
September 16	Kottak chapter 6 First Humans Film: Neandertals on Trial
September 21	<i>Multiregional Theory of Evolution</i> (on e-reserve)

September 23	Exam Review
September 28	Exam One
September 30	Kottak chapter 2 pages 34-48 and chapter 9
October 5	Kottak chapter 3 pp 62-72 and chapter 10 Final Paper Topic Choice due
October 7	Kottak chapters 7 & 8 Film: Digging for Slaves
October 12	Fall Break, no class
October 14	Thomas pages 3-122
October 19	Thomas pages 123-221 Film: Ishi
October 21	Kottak chapter 11 Thomas pages 225-276
October 26	Exam Two
October 28	Kottak chapter 13, Political Systems <i>Life Without Chiefs</i> (on e-reserve)
November 2	Kottak chapter 12, Making a Living <i>Eating Christmas in the Kalahari</i> (on e-reserve) Paper Articles Due
November 4	Picchi Chapters 1, 2, & 3
November 9	Kottak 14, Families, Kinship, and Marriage Picchi Chapters 4 & 5
November 11	Picchi Chapters 6, 7, & 8
November 16	Kottak 15, Gender <i>When Debbie Met Christina</i> (on e-reserve) Final Paper Rough Drafts Due
November 18	Kottak chapter 16, Religion Film: Ghost Dance
November 23	Religion continued: <i>Jare</i>

November 25	THANKSGIVING
November 30	Kottak chapters 17 and 18 <i>Why Can't People Feed Themselves?</i> (on e-reserve)
December 2	Kottak chapter 19 cultural exchange and survival
December 7	Last Class/Review Final Paper Due
December 15 th , 12-3 PM	Final Exam