

OXFORD COLLEGE
Fall Semester 2011

ANTHROPOLOGY 101

Introduction to Anthropology

(ANTH_OX 101 10A_4167)

MWF 10:40 am – 11:30 pm
Humanities Hall 201

Professor: Dr. Aaron Stutz

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**Office Hours: *by appointment* – don't be shy, make an appointment
– TIMES AVAILABLE DAILY!!!**

Teaching Assistant: Phillip Jo (pcjo@emory.edu)

Key learning concepts in the science of humanity

ANTHROPOLOGY IS THE HOLISTIC STUDY OF HUMANITY:

- seen from a *biological perspective*
- considered in *social context*
- defined by the *concept of culture*

IN THIS COURSE, YOU WILL INQUIRE SERIOUSLY INTO SOME FAIRLY BIG QUESTIONS:

- what is our place in nature?
- why are we such social animals?
- why does everything we do take on such meaning?

KEY LEARNING GOALS

In this class you will learn to “think as an anthropologist.” This means that you will gain a substantial, applicable understanding of the biocultural perspective. Humans are *both* biological and cultural beings. You will learn how to articulate insights surrounding humanity’s biocultural identity as we explore key applications. What does cultural difference and cultural diversity really mean? What do we know about human evolution? How and why do humans vary biologically? What does archaeology have to do with anthropology? Perhaps most centrally, what do anthropologists really mean when they use the term “culture,” and why is it important? Finally, how is anthropology relevant for understanding and discussing current events? As we explore these questions, you will gain familiarity with anthropological terminology and learn how to use it correctly.

REQUIRED READINGS

Textbook: *The Tapestry of Culture: An Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*, Ninth Edition (2009), by Abraham Rosman, Paula G. Rubel, and Maxine Weisgrau. Altamira Press, New York.

- [Available at the Oxford College Bookstore](#)

Additional REQUIRED Readings will be posted on Anthro 101’s [Blackboard](#) page.

MAKING THE GRADE

Grades are based on participation, TA sessions, occasional short writing assignments, four in-class Midterm Exams, and a comprehensive Final Exam. The exams will cover material introduced in class, in powerpoint presentations, and in the readings. For more details about how your course grade is figured, please go to the course website on Blackboard (log in to <http://classes.emory.edu> and click on the Introduction to Anthropology link in your courses).

IMPORTANT: The exams are MANDATORY. A failure to complete any one of these will result in a failing grade for the course.

JUST AS IMPORTANT: Unless you have a valid excuse that you present to me beforehand, ***all exam and due dates must be strictly adhered to.*** RARE EXCEPTIONS are granted under the following clear conditions: you have a valid, documented medical or family *emergency*. If you require special arrangements through Disability Services, or if you otherwise know ahead of time that you have a major schedule conflict, contact the professor as soon as possible to schedule an alternative exam. Be prepared to provide documentation.

KEY DATES TO REMEMBER:

Midterm #1 -	In class, Wed Sep 14
Midterm #2 -	In class, Fri Oct 7
Midterm #3 -	In class, Mon Oct 31
Final Exam -	2-5 pm, Mon Dec 12

ALL IN-CLASS EXAMS TAKE PLACE IN HUMANITIES HALL 201

**THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE PROFESSOR'S DISCRETION;
ANY CHANGES WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN CLASS AND VIA BLACKBOARD AND E-MAIL.**

**Anthropology 101
Syllabus**

I. Introduction: What is Culture?

Wed Aug 24 - *Introduction to Anthropology*

Fri Aug 26 - *Understanding "The Other"*

TEXT: The Tapestry of Culture – Chapter 1

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 1 - Derby – The Evil Eye

2 - Pyburn – Worthless Women

Mon Aug 29 - *What is Culture?*

TEXT: The Tapestry of Culture – Chapter 2

II. CULTURE IS BETTER UNDERSTOOD THROUGH RELATIVE PERSPECTIVES

Wed Aug 31 - *Case Study: Female Genital Mutilation*
[E-COURSEPACK](#): 3-Schweder - What About FGM?

Fri Sep 2 - *FGM/C as Cultural Practice*
[E-COURSEPACK](#): 4-Shell-Duncan et al - Women Without Choices
5-Saitoti - Circumcision among the Maasai

Mon Sep 5 - **LABOR DAY HOLIDAY - no classes**

Wed Sep 7 - *FGM/C as a Biocultural problem*
[E-COURSEPACK](#): 6-Dopico - Infibulation and the Orgasm Puzzle
7-Johansen - Experiencing Sex in Exile

Fri Sep 9 - *FGM/C, Cultural Relativism, & Individual Rights*
[E-COURSEPACK](#): 8-Kratz - FGM/C and Assylum Controversies

Mon Sep 12 - *Cultural vs. Ethical Relativism*
[E-COURSEPACK](#): 9-Law - Liberal with a Capital L
10-Law - Different Kinds of Authority
11-Rosaldo - Cultural and Ethical Relativism

Wed Sep 14 - **MIDTERM #1 - covers the introduction to Anthropology and to its subdisciplines, the definition of culture, FGM/C as a biocultural problem, cultural relativism, and ethical relativism**

III. PARENTING LINKS US TO OUR SOCIAL WORLDS - PARENTING LINKS OUR BIOLOGICAL SIDE TO OUR CULTURAL SIDE

Fri Sep 16 - *Biology and Culture - Affect Hunger*
[E-COURSEPACK](#): 12-Goldschmidt - Chapter 4

Mon Sep 19 - *Culture and Parenting*
[E-COURSEPACK](#): 13-Goldschmidt - Chapter 5
DUE IN CLASS: SHORT ESSAY #1

IV. BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY SCIENTIFICALLY EXPLORES OUR PLACE IN THE NATURAL WORLD

Wed Sep 21 - *The Biological Legacy*
[E-COURSEPACK](#): 14-Mayr - Darwin's Legacy
15-Langdon - Evolution and Adaptation

Fri Sep 23 - *Our Place in Nature*
[E-COURSEPACK](#): 16-Relethford - Our Place in Nature

Mon Sep 26 - *Meet Our Evolutionary Cousins*
[E-COURSEPACK](#): 17-Small - What's Love Got To Do With It?
18-Small - Aping Culture

V. PALEOANTHROPOLOGY STUDIES HUMAN EVOLUTIONARY ORIGINS

Wed Sep 28 - *What Makes Us Human?*
[E-COURSEPACK](#): 19-Wong - An Ancestor to Call Our Own
20-Harmon - How Humanlike Was Ardi?

Fri Sep 30 - *Walking Upright*

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 21-Rosenberg and Trevathan - Birth and Bipedalism

Mon Oct 3 - *Technology: Handy and Meaningful*

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 22-Schick & Toth - Chapter 5

Wed Oct 5 - *Neandertals and Us*

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 23-Wong - Meet the Neandertals

24-Bar-Yosef and Vandermeersch - Modern Humans
and Neandertals in the Levant

25-Wong - The Caveman's New Clothes

Fri Oct 7 - MIDTERM #2 - covers Darwin's scientific legacy, DNA analysis and our place in nature, the origins of the human lineage, the evolution of bipedalism, the evolution of stone-tool-making ability, the evolution of Neandertals, the origins of anatomically modern humans, the emergence of Upper Paleolithic art.

Mon Oct 10 - **AUTUMN BREAK - no classes**

VI. ARCHAEOLOGY EXPLORES HOW THE MATERIAL TRACES OF HUMAN ACTIVITY IN THE PAST PROVIDE A LINK TO HUMAN DIVERSITY IN THE PAST - ARCHAEOLOGY IS OUR ONLY WAY TO ACCESS THE PREHISTORIC PAST AS A SOURCE OF INSIGHT INTO HUMAN DIVERSITY

Wed Oct 12 - *The Origins of Agriculture, PART I*

Fri Oct 14 - *The Origins of Agriculture, PART II*

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 26-Hodder - Men and Women at Catalhuyuk

27-Molleson - The Bones of Abu Hureyra

Mon Oct 17 - DISCUSSION: *Biocultural Insights,
Archaeological Perspectives*

DUE IN CLASS: SHORT ESSAY #2

**VII. SYMBOLS ARE THE BASIS OF SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS AND
IDENTITIES - SYMBOLS SHAPE DISCOURSE FROM EARLY
CHILDHOOD THROUGHOUT LIFE - SYMBOLS SHAPE
SOCIAL ROLES, AND EXPECTATIONS THROUGHOUT LIFE**

Wed Oct 19 - *Language, Social Life, and Relevance*

TEXT: The Tapestry of Culture - Chapter 3

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 28-Bohannon - Shakespeare in the Bush

Fri Oct 21 - *Culture and Language Acquisition*

TEXT: The Tapestry of Culture - Chapter 4

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 29-Ochs & Schieffelin - Language Acquisition

Mon Oct 24 - *Kinship and Social Roles*

TEXT: The Tapestry of Culture - Chapter 6

Wed Oct 26 - *Gender and Age*

TEXT: The Tapestry of Culture - Chapter 7

Fri Oct 28 - *Culture and Economic Organization*

TEXT: The Tapestry of Culture - Chapter 8

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 30-Lee - Eating Christmas in the Kalahari

Mon Oct 31 - **Midterm #3 - covers the role of symbols in language, language in culture, and culture's influence on language learning, social organization, social relationships, and social identity throughout life. The Midterm #3 also covers how symbols shape economic exchange in different cultures.**

VIII. MYTHS AND RITUALS ARE SHAPED BY CULTURAL SYMBOLS - IN TURN, MYTHS AND RITUALS SHAPE SOCIAL IDENTITY, SOCIAL ORGANIZATION, AND KEY VALUES AND BELIEFS

Wed Nov 2 - *Symbols, Society, and Politics*
TEXT: The Tapestry of Culture - Chapter 5

Fri Nov 4 - *Myth & Storytelling - Symbols & Society*
TEXT: The Tapestry of Culture - Chapter 11

Mon Nov 7 - *Myth in Action*
[E-COURSEPACK](#): 31-Biesele - Women Like Meat
32-Beidelman - Hyena and Rabbit

Wed Nov 9 - *Symbols in Myth*
[E-COURSEPACK](#): 33-Introducing Lévi-Strauss

Fri Nov 11 - *The Structure of Ritual*
TEXT: The Tapestry of Culture - Chapter 10
[E-COURSEPACK](#): 34-Turner - Liminality and Communitas

Mon Nov 14 - *Rites of Passage: the Canela example*
[E-COURSEPACK](#): 35-Crocker - Canela Helping Hands

Wed Nov 16 - *Marriage as a Rite of Passage*

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 36-Howard & Rensel - Marriage on Rotuma

Fri Nov 18 - *Rites of Passage and Other Identities*

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 37-Nanda - Hijras of India - Chapter 2

38-Nanda - Hijras of India - Chapter 3

Mon Nov 21 - DISCUSSION: *Myths, Rituals, and Culture*

DUE IN CLASS: SHORT ESSAY #3

THANKSGIVING BREAK - No class Wed - Fri

IX. GLOBALIZATION PROCESSES SHAPE CULTURE IN COMPLEX, SUPRISING WAYS

Mon Nov 28 - *Globalization and Culture, PART I*

Text: The Tapestry of Culture - Chapter 13

Wed Nov 30 - *Globalization and Culture, PART II*

Text: The Tapestry of Culture - Chapter 14

Fri Dec 2 - *Anthropology and History*

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 39-Trouillot - Anthropology and the Savage Slot

Mon Dec 5 - *The Biocultural Discipline* - REVIEW

LAST DAY OF CLASSES

Mon Dec 12 - FINAL EXAM: 2 - 5 pm, Hum 201

THE FINAL - is cumulative - covers cultural relativism, the biocultural perspective, biological anthropology, archaeology, the study of the origins of agriculture in prehistoric times, culture and language learning, exchange, kinship, gender, how symbols shape culture through myth and ritual, and the anthropology of globalization.