
Anthropology 101

Introduction to Anthropology

TTh 10:00-11:15 AM

Fall Semester, 2002

Instructor: Dr. Wendy Dirks

Office: Seney Hall 214C

Office Hours: MW 1:30-2:30, Th 3:00-4:00 or by appointment. I will be very flexible in scheduling appointments, so please feel free to come and see me with any concern or question.

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Textbooks: *Introducing Anthropology: An Integrated Approach*, 2nd Edition (2003) by Michael Alan Park. McGraw Hill.

Applying Anthropology: An Introductory Reader, 6th Edition (2001) by Aaron Podolefsky and Peter J. Brown. Mayfield.

Chimpanzee Politics: Power and Sex Among Apes, Revised Edition (1998) by Frans de Waal. Johns Hopkins University Press.

Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies (1997) by Jared Diamond. Norton.

Overlooking Nazareth: The Ethnography of Exclusion in Galilee (1997) by Dan Rabinowitz. Cambridge University Press.

Goals of the Course:

Anthropology is the study of human beings as biological and cultural organisms in the past and present. In this course, we will focus on developing a broad understanding of biological anthropology, archaeology, linguistics, and cultural anthropology, anthropology's four subdisciplines. We will do this using a general textbook and readings designed to complement its discussion of the topics studied by anthropologists. However, because anthropology is such a broad discipline, our main goal in this course will be to learn how anthropologists think about problems. We will focus on power relationships and attempt to discover what an anthropological perspective offers us for understanding both conflict and reconciliation. Students are expected to achieve the following goals:

1. Demonstrate a basic understanding of human biology, evolution, and cultural variation in the past and present on exams;
2. Demonstrate an understanding of how anthropologists study these topics through both class discussion and written exams on the assigned texts;
3. Develop "anthropological thinking" as we consider ideas about conflict, power relationships, and reconciliation, and write papers that reflect and discuss their ideas.

Student Requirements for Completing the Course:

1. There will be two mid-term exams, three papers (to be assigned in class), and a final exam. The exam format may be short answer, essay, or both. Active participation in class discussion is expected.
2. The two mid-term exams will each be worth 100 points. The first two papers will also be worth 100 points each. The third paper and the final exam will be worth 200 points each. Late assignments will have 10 pts deducted from the grade.
3. The grading scale is as follows:
A = 720 pts or above
B = 640-719 pts
C = 560-639 pts
D = 480-559 pts
F = less than 480 pts

Course policies:

The syllabus is subject to change, except for the final exam time. I want to be flexible in allowing for unexpected or interesting developments that we may want to discuss in class.

All students are expected to be familiar with, and abide by, the Oxford College Honor Code. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. In addition, all discussion will be conducted in a manner that is respectful of difference of opinion and viewpoint.

Class Outline

Date	Topic	Reading
Aug 29	Introduction	
Sep 3, 5	Evolution	Park, Chaps 1-3 Podolefsky & Brown, Chap 1
Sep 10, 12	Humans as Primates	Park, Chap 4 de Waal, pp xi-75
Sep 17, 19	Human Evolution, Video – Walking with Prehistoric Beasts	Park, Chap 5 de Waal, pp77-149
Sep 24, 26	Sex and Gender	Park, Chap 6 Podolefsky & Brown, Chaps 2, 3, 11, 38-41 de Waal, pp 151-215
Oct 1, 3	FIRST PAPER DUE, Culture	Park, Chap 7 Podolefsky & Brown, Chap 19-20, 22-23, 48 Diamond, pp 9-81
Oct 8, 10	FIRST EXAM, Food	Park, Chap 8 Podolefsky & Brown, Chaps 27-29 Diamond, pp 85-191

Oct 15, 17	NO CLASS, Groups	Park, Chap 9 Diamond, pp 195-292
Oct 22, 24	Archaeology	Park, Chap 10 Podolefsky & Brown, Chaps 10, 12-17 Diamond, pp 295-425
Oct 29, 31	SECOND PAPER DUE, Communication	Park, Chap 11 Podolefsky & Brown, Chaps 24-26, 44
Nov 5, 7	SECOND EXAM, Social Order	Park, Chap 12 Podolefsky & Brown, Chaps 8, 45-47, 49-50
Nov 12, 14	Cultural Systems	Park, Chap 13 Rabinowitz, 3-108
Nov 19, 21	The Anthropological Perspective	Podolefsky & Brown, Chaps 42-43 Rabinowitz, 111-189
Nov 26, 28	THIRD PAPER DUE, Human Variation, THANKSGIVING	Park, Chap 14 Podolefsky & Brown, Chaps 9, 30-33
Dec 3, 5	Culture Change	Park, Chap 15 Podolefsky & Brown, Chaps 52-54
Dec 10	Health	Park, Chap 16 Podolefsky & Brown, Chaps 5-7, 21
Dec 13	FINAL EXAM 2:00-5:00	
