
Anthropology 101

INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY

Lecture MWF 9:35-10:25 and 11:45-12:35

Spring Semester, 2005

Instructor: Dr. Wendy Dirks

Office: Language 102

Office Hours: MWF 10:30 – 11:30 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: Park MA (2003) *Introducing Anthropology* 2nd Edition. Boston: McGraw Hill.

Weber B and Vedder A (2001) *In the Kingdom of Gorillas*. New York: Simon & Schuster.

Fernea EW (1965) *Guests of the Sheik: An Ethnography of an Iraqi Village*. New York: Anchor Books.

Koff C (2004) *The Bone Woman: A Forensic Anthropologists Search for Truth in the Mass Graves of Rwanda, Bosnia, Croatia, and Kosovo*. New York: Random House.

Lessinger, J (1995) *From the Ganges to the Hudson: Indian Immigrants in New York City*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

Additional short readings will be assigned throughout the semester. There will be several in-class video presentations and a movie series that will be shown outside of class time.

Internet resources:

<http://www.aaanet.org/> - American Anthropological Association

<http://www.physanth.org/> - The American Association of Physical Anthropologists

<http://www.paleoanth.org/> - The Paleoanthropology Society

<http://www.asp.org> – The American Society of Primatologists

<http://www.primate.wisc.edu/pin/> - The Primate Info Net

<http://www.saa.org/> - Society for American Archaeology

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 sub-disciplines. 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 and the methods they use in their research. We will read and discuss three supplemental texts that cover fieldwork in specific topics in biological anthropology and cultural anthropology. We will also read

an ethnography about our own culture, and what it is like to come here from somewhere else.

This year, because of the crisis in Sudan, there has been a university-wide initiative focusing on genocide awareness and prevention. As part of that effort, two of the textbooks discuss genocide in the context of understanding fieldwork in anthropology.

The specific goals for students are to:

1. Demonstrate a basic understanding of human biology, evolution, and cultural variation in the past and present on quizzes and exams;
2. Demonstrate an understanding of how anthropologists study these topics through class discussion and short written assignments;
3. Develop “anthropological thinking” as we consider how anthropologists do ethnographic research on a particular culture through an ethnographic study written about the culture depicted in film, *The Fast Runner*.

Student Requirements for Completing the Course:

1. There will be a mid-term exam, a final exam, a paper, and several short written assignments. There may be unannounced quizzes if I feel that this would help encourage students to keep up with the reading.
2. The exam format will be short answers and essays. Makeup exams will be given only under conditions of a documented severe illness or serious emergency. Each exam will be worth 100 points and will be one quarter of the final grade.
3. One quarter of the final grade will be based on class participation. Attendance, arriving to class on time, participating in discussion, completing quizzes and assignments will all be components of this grade, as will inappropriate behavior in class. This includes sleeping in class or engaging in behaviors that disturb others or interfere with the atmosphere of a learning community. The participation grade may be augmented by attending up to five films to be shown on Tuesday evenings throughout the course, for one point of extra credit each. The following are guidelines for the participation grade, but the final grade will be at the discretion of the instructor, taking all the components into account:
 - a. A (95 pts) Misses no more than one class, never late to class, regularly participates in class discussion, turns in all assignments, behaves appropriately in class.
 - b. B (85 pts) Misses no more than two classes, late to class once, participates frequently in class discussion, missing no more than one assignment, behaves appropriately in class.
 - c. C (75 pts) Misses no more than three classes, late to class twice, participates occasionally in class discussion, missing no more than two assignments, behaves appropriately in class.
 - d. D (65 pts) Misses four or five classes, late to class four or five times, rarely participates in class discussion, missing three or four assignments, behaves appropriately in class.
 - e. F (less than 60 pts) Misses more than five classes, late to class more than five times, never participates in class discussion, missing more than five assignments, inappropriate behavior in class.

4. There will be a paper based on a film to be viewed outside of class time. The paper will be an ethnography, reporting on aspects of the culture determined through analysis of the story and its setting. The paper is to be treated as an exam. No outside sources should be consulted, nor should there be any discussion of the film with other students until the paper is turned in. Late papers will have five points deducted for each day past the due date.
5. The final grade for the course will be an average of the two exams, paper, and the participation grade.
6. The grading scale is as follows:
 - A = 90 pts or above
 - B = 80-89 pts
 - C = 70-79 pts
 - D = 60-69 pts
 - F = less than 60 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 and will be reported immediately to the Honor Council

Class Outline

Date:	Topic	Reading
Jan 19	Introduction to the course	
Jan 21	Introduction to Anthropology	Park, Chapter 1
Jan 24	Science & Evolutionary Theory	Park, Chapter 2, 3
Jan 26	Evolutionary Theory	Park, Chapter 3
Jan 28	Primates	Park, Chapter 4
Jan 31	Primate Evolution	Park, Chapter 5
Feb 1	<i>Gorillas in the Mist</i>	Extra Credit Film
Feb 2	Gorillas I	Weber & Vedder, pp 5-89
Feb 4	"Among the Wild Chimpanzees"	
Feb 7	Gorillas II	Weber & Vedder, pp 93-145
Feb 9	Human Evolution I	Park, Chapter 5
Feb 11	Gorillas III	Weber & Vedder, pp 149-223
Feb 14	Video: Walking with Prehistoric Beasts	Park, Chapter 5
Feb 16	Gorillas IV	Weber & Vedder, pp 227-308
Feb 17	<i>Dilemmas of a Modern Anthropologist: Thinking about Cultural Relativism in a Global World: Dr. Bradd Shore</i>	Extra Credit Lecture
Feb 18	Human Evolution III	Park, Chapter 5
Feb 21	Gorillas V & VI	Weber & Vedder, pp 311-370
Feb 23	<i>Ghosts of Rwanda</i>	Extra Credit Video

FEB 23	MIDTERM EXAM	PARK, CHAPTERS 1-5, WEBER & VEDDER
Feb 25	Reproduction	Park, Chapter 6
Feb 28	Bone Woman I	Koff, pp 5-79
Mar 1	<i>Return to Belaye: A Rite of Passage</i>	Extra Credit Film
Mar 2	Culture & Worldview	Park, Chapter 7
Mar 4	Bone Woman II	Koff, pp 83-112
Mar 7	Food	Park, Chapter 8
Mar 8	<i>The World's Most Wanted Man</i>	Extra Credit Video
Mar 9	Kinship	Park, Chapter 9
Mar 11	Archaeology	Park, Chapter 10
Mar 14-18	SPRING BREAK	
Mar 21	Bone Woman, III-V	Koff, pp 115-271
Mar 22	<i>A Kalahari Family</i> "Can Chimpanzees Talk?"	Extra Credit Film
Mar 25	Communication	Park, Chapter 11
Mar 28	Religion	Park, Chapter 12
Mar 29	<i>Little Injustices, Laura Nader</i> <i>Looks at the Law</i>	Extra Credit Film
Mar 30	History of Iraq	
Apr 1	Iraq I	Fernea, pp 3-102
Apr 4	Iraq II	Fernea, pp 105-170
Apr 5	<i>Out of the Forest</i>	Extra Credit Film
Apr 6	Iraq III & IV	Fernea, pp 173-266
Apr 8	Iraq V & VI	Fernea, pp 268-333
APR 11 & 14	<i>THE FAST RUNNER</i> PAPER ASSIGNMENT	FILM SHOWN BOTH EVENINGS
Apr 11	Behavior & Violence I	Park, Chapter 13
Apr 12	<i>The Pianist</i>	Extra Credit Film
Apr 13	Behavior & Violence II	Park, Chapter 13
Apr 15	Human Variation I	Park, Chapter 14
Apr 18	Human Variation II	Park, Chapter 14
Apr 19	<i>Monsoon Wedding</i>	Extra Credit Film
Apr 20	Culture Change	Park, Chapter 15
Apr 22	Indian Immigrants I & II FAST RUNNER PAPER DUE	Lessinger, pp xi-43
Apr 25	Indian Immigrants III & IV	Lessinger, pp 45-95
Apr 27	Indian Immigrants V & VI	Lessinger, pp 97-159
Apr 29	State of the Species	Park, Chapter 16

May 2	Review & Wrap-Up	
May 4	Reading Day	
May 6 9:00-12:00	FINAL EXAM	11:45 SECTION
May 10 2:00-5:00	FINAL EXAM	9:35 SECTION
