

ANTHROPOLOGY 101

Introduction to Anthropology

MWF 11.45 am – 12.35 am
Humanities 201

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Office Hours: Monday and Friday 10.35-11.35, or by appointment.

Introduction to Anthropology: a science of humanity

ANTHROPOLOGY IS THE HOLISTIC STUDY OF HUMANITY:

- seen from a biological perspective
- considered in cultural and social context

ANTHROPOLOGY INQUIRES INTO SOME FAIRLY BIG QUESTIONS:

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

GOALS: In this class you will learn to “think as an anthropologist.” This means that you will gain a nuanced understanding of the bio-cultural perspective on humanity as a both biological and cultural/social being and learn how to articulate these insights when discussing cultural differences, human evolution, human variation, current events etc. You will gain familiarity with anthropological terminology and learn how to use it both in writing and in debate and discussion. You will also complete several self reflecting exercises that allow you to think critically about *your* place in the world and reflect over cultural differences.

REQUIRED READINGS

Textbook:

Abraham Rosman, Paula G. Rubel and Maxine Weisgrau, *The Tapestry of Culture. An Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*, Ninth Edition (2009). AltaMira Press, Lanham, MD. Available at the Oxford College Bookstore.

Ethnography:

Bruce Kauft, *The Gebusi: Lives Transformed in a Rainforest World*, Second Edition (2010). McGraw Hill, New York. Available at the Oxford College Bookstore

Additional REQUIRED Readings will be available on Anthro 101’s Blackboard page.

MAKING THE GRADE

Grades are based on short paper assignments, an in-class Midterm Exam, a Take-Home Essay Exam, an in-class Final Exam, pop quizzes and attendance/participation. To pass this class you are expected to spend a minimum of approximately 3 hours outside of the classroom for every class period in the classroom. I expect you to come prepared to class. You are expected to read the required material continuously and when applicable complete other required necessary assignments before class.

Exams:

The exams will cover material introduced in class, including power-points, reading, films and all additional materials. You will be given a study manual in the beginning of each segment of the class that will help you prepare for the exams. The questions on the exams are *not* limited to the questions in the study manual.

Response papers:

Over the course of the semester you will be asked to write three response papers. Response papers are short reflections over a question, and in some cases a short assignment. Beside your knowledge and ability to use what you have learned in class, you will also be evaluated on the organization of your argument, your style and your ability to reflect critically and creatively. Clear instructions will be posted on the Blackboard about 1 week before the deadline. On average these papers should be around 5 pages. All papers should be submitted through SafeAssign on Blackboard.

Term paper:

The term paper assignment will be a longer essay (ca 10 pages) on 1-2 topics covered in class including power-points, reading, films and all additional materials. Beside your knowledge and ability to use what you have learned in class, you will also be evaluated on the organization of your argument, your style and your ability to reflect critically and creatively. Instructions for the term paper will be given ca 1 month before the deadline. The paper should be submitted through SafeAssign on Blackboard.

Quizzes:

Over the course of the semester 10 pop quizzes will be given on the reading or other study materials assigned for that day. The purpose of the quizzes is to motivate you to stay on track with your reading requirements. Anthropology is a new subject to most of you and this class will require a significant amount of work. Staying on track with your reading is crucial in this class since not everything you need to know will be treated in class in depth. In the quizzes you should be prepared to answer fact related questions about the material assigned and sometimes you will also be asked to make a short personal reflection about the material. Your result will be calculated as the average value of your eight best results. Unexcused absences automatically result in a 0 for that quiz.

Your final grade will be calculated according to the following percentages:

- 1) Attendance and participation – 5%**
- 2) Pop-quizzes (the best 8 out of 10 will be graded) – 10%**
- 3) Short papers – 15%**
- 4) Midterm In-Class Exam – 20%**
- 5) Take-Home Essay Exam – 25%**
- 6) Final Exam – 25%**

IMPORTANT: The exams and essay are MANDATORY. A failure to complete any one of these will result in a failing grade for the course. You may be absent three times in class without your grade being affected. However, if your absence coincides with a quiz your for that quiz result will be 0. Your grade will take into consideration your eight best quiz results.

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 are sick, please make sure that you obtain documentation from the clinic on campus. 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.

CLASS ROOM PRACTICES: In this class we are taking on what to most of you is a completely new discipline. Please remember that *there are no stupid questions* and I

encourage you to raise your hand and ask me if anything is unclear to you. I am here to help you find answers to your questions and to understand the material.

I also encourage you to share your opinions and comments with me and your peers in the class-room. Your contribution is valuable and I welcome it. Please keep in mind that it is OK to disagree in the class-room. Discussion and disagreement is part of academic practice and I welcome it. You should always feel free to share your opinions. However, while doing this please remember to also be respectful of others who may not share your point of view. In order to create a class-room where we all interact actively, I will not allow the use of cell-phones or laptops during class. The reason for this is that I find them distracting – to you and to me. If you have an emergency that requires you to be reachable by cell-phone you may be exempted from this rule, but only after discussing your situation with me.

KEY DATES TO REMEMBER (please consult your calendars and contact me immediately if you have a scheduling conflict relating to these dates):

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 st Response Paper – SEPT 8 TH | On Blackboard SafeAssign by |
| MIDTERM EXAM – OCT 8 TH | In class |
| 2 nd Response Paper – OCT 18 TH | On Blackboard SafeAssign by |
| 3 rd Response Paper – NOV 3 RD | On Blackboard SafeAssign by |
| Take-Home Essay Exam- NOV 22 ND | On Blackboard SafeAssign by |
| Final Exam – DEC 10 TH | In class, 9.00 – 12.00 |

Note that the pop quizzes may be given in class at any time during the semester.

FINALLY – AND VERY IMPORTANTLY: Please remember to familiarize yourself with the honor code (http://oxford.emory.edu/audiences/current_students/Academic/academic-success/student-honor-code/). Any case of cheating and/or plagiarism will lead to an F in this class. There will be no exceptions to this policy. If you are unsure about the boundaries for plagiarism, please do not hesitate to ask me, or take advantage of the many resources on campus including for example the writing center, the library etc. Please also consult the college webpage on academic honesty: <http://oxford.library.emory.edu/conduct-research/plagiarism-and-academic-honesty>

THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE PROFESSOR'S DISCRETION; ANY CHANGES WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN CLASS.

Anthropology 101 - Syllabus

Theme 1 Introduction

Wed August 25 – *First day of class. What is Anthropology? The Biocultural Perspective*

Fri August 27 – Understanding “the Other”
Text: The Tapestry of Culture, chapter 1.

Theme 2 What is Culture?

Mon August 30 – *What is Culture?*
[E-COURSEPACK](#): 1-Derby – The Evil Eye
2-Pyburn – Worthless Women

Wed September 1 – *Female Genital Mutilation*
[E-COURSEPACK](#): 3-Schweder – What About FGM?

Fri September 3 – *FGM/C as Cultural Practice*
[E-COURSEPACK](#): 4-Silverman – Male and Female Circumcision in Anthropology
5-Saitoti – Circumcision among the Maasai

Mon September 6 – NO CLASS – Labor Day Holiday

Wed September 8 – *Cultural Relativism, FGM/C, Culture, & Individual Rights*
DUE: 1st short paper
[E-COURSEPACK](#): 6-Tierney – A New Debate About Female Circumcision, Parts I & II
7-Liptak – FGM and Asylum Law in the US

Fri September 10 – *Cultural vs. Moral Relativism*
[E-COURSEPACK](#): 8-Law – Liberal with a Capital L
9-Law – Different Kinds of Authority
10-Rosaldo – Cultural and Ethical Relativism

Theme 3: The Place and Role of Language

Mon September 13 – *Language, Social Life, and Relevance*

Text: The Tapestry of Culture, chapter 3

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 11-Bohannon – Shakespeare in the Bush

Wed September 15 – *Culture and Language Acquisition*

Text: The Tapestry of Culture, chapter 4

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 12-Ochs & Schieffelin – Language Acquisition

Theme 4: Transmission of Culture, Parenting and the role of Affect

Fri September 17 – Biology and Culture – Affect Hunger

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 13-Goldschmidt – Chapter 4

Mon September 20 – *Culture and Parenting*

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 14-Goldschmidt – Chapter 5

Wed September 22 – Discussion – *What is Culture?*

Theme 5: Origins. How Did We Become What We Are?

Fri September 24 – *The Biological Legacy*

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 15-Mayr – Darwin's Legacy

16-Langdon – Evolution and Adaptation

Mon September 27 – *Our Place in Nature*

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 17-Relethford – Our Place in Nature

Wed September 29 – *Meet Our Evolutionary Cousins*

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 18-Small – What's Love Got To Do With It?

19-Small – Aping Culture

Fri October 1 – *Walking Upright*

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 20-Rosenberg and Trevathan – Birth and Bipedalism

Mon October 4 – *Neandertals and Us*

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 21-Wong – Meet the Neandertals

Wed October 6– *DISCUSSION: BIOLOGY AND RACE*

On the Web: <http://www.understandingrace.org>

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 22-Kahn – Race and BiDil

Fri October 8 – *MIDTERM EXAM – IN CLASS*

Theme 6: Deep Human History, a short introduction to Archaeology

Mon October 11 – NO CLASS – Mid-Semester Break

Wed October 13 – *Technology: Handy and Meaningful*

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 23-Schick & Toth – Chapter 5

Fri October 15 – *Stone Age Technology and Art*

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 24-Wong – The Caveman's New Clothes

Mon October 18 – The Origins of Agriculture

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 25-Hodder – Men and Women at Catalhuyuk

26-Molleson – The Bones of Abu Hureyra

DUE: 2nd Short Paper

Theme 7: The Place For Myths, Symbols and Storytelling

Wed October 20 – *Myth & Ritual – Symbols & Society*

Text: The Tapestry of Culture, chapter 11

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 27-Introducing Lévi-Strauss

Fri October 22 – *Myth in Action*

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 28-Biesele – Women Like Meat

29-Beidelman – Hyena and Rabbit

Mon October 25 – *Symbols in Myth and Ritual*

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 30-Leach – Sections 2, 3, & 13

Wed October 27 – *Symbols, Society, and Politics*

Text: The Tapestry of Culture, chapter 5

Theme 8: A Closer Look. The Ethnography

Fri October 29 – *Travel to the Gebusi*

Text: The Tapestry of Culture, chapter 2

Ethnography: Knaft – The Gebusi – Introduction and Chapter 1

Mon November 1 – *Life in the Rainforest*

Text: The Tapestry of Culture, chapter 8

Ethnography: Knaft – The Gebusi – Chapter 1

Wed November 3 – *Low-Tech Economics*

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 31-Lee – Eating Christmas in the Kalahari

DUE: 3rd Short Paper

Fri November 5 – *Surrounded by Death*

Text: The Tapestry of Culture, chapter 6

Ethnography: Knaft – The Gebusi – Chapter 3

Mon November 8 – *Kinship and Community Justice*

Text: Text: The Tapestry of Culture, chapter 9

Ethnography: Knaft – The Gebusi – Chapter 4

Wed November 10 – *Gebusi Gender, Kinship, and Power*

Text: The Tapestry of Culture, chapter 7

Ethnography: Knaft – The Gebusi – Chapter 5

Fri November 12 – *Coming of Age among the Gebusi*

Ethnography: Knaft – The Gebusi – Chapter 6

Theme 9: The Place for Ritual

Mon November 15 – *The Structure of Ritual*

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 32-Turner – Liminality and Communitas

33-Crocker – Canela Helping Hands

Wed November 17 – *Marriage as a Rite of Passage*

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 34-Howard & Rensel – Marriage on Rotuma

Fri November 19 – *Rites of Passage and Other Identities*

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 35-Nanda – Hijras of India – Chapter 2

36-Nanda – Hijras of India – Chapter 3

Mon November 22 – DISCUSSION – *Understanding Culture through Rites of Passage*

DUE: TAKE-HOME ESSAY EXAM

NO CLASSES REST OF THE WEEK – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Return to Theme 8: Return to the Gebusi.

Mon November 29 – *Return to the Gebusi*

Ethnography: Knaft – The Gebusi: Chapters 7 & 8

Wed December 1 – *Change and Tension*

Ethnography: Knaft – The Gebusi: Chapters 9 & 10

Fri December 3 – *Globalization at the Edge of the World*

Text: The Tapestry of Culture, chapter 13

Ethnography: Knaft – The Gebusi: Chapters 11, 12, & Conclusion

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 37-Trouillot – Anthropology and the Savage Slot

Mon December 6 – *REVIEW AND EVALUATION*

LAST DAY OF CLASSES

Wednesday December 15 FINAL EXAM, 9.00-12.00.