

OXFORD COLLEGE
Spring Semester 2011

ANTHROPOLOGY 101

Introduction to Anthropology

(ANTH_OX 101 9A)

MWF 9:35 am – 10:25 pm
Language 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: Anne Puluka (apuluka@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 complex 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 in class and in TA sessions, three short writing assignments, three 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, Fri February 4
Midterm #2 -	In class, Fri March 4
Midterm #3 -	In class, Fri April 1
Final Exam -	2-5 pm, Wed May 4

ALL IN-CLASS EXAMS TAKE PLACE IN LANGUAGE 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 January 19 - *What is Culture?*

TEXT: The Tapestry of Culture – Chapter 1

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 1-Derby – The Evil Eye
2-Pyburn – Worthless Women

Fri January 21 - *Understanding "The Other"*

TEXT: The Tapestry of Culture – Chapter 2

II. CULTURE IS BETTER UNDERSTOOD THROUGH RELATIVE PERSPECTIVES

Mon January 24 - *Case Study: Female Genital Mutilation*
[E-COURSEPACK](#): 3-Schweder - What About FGM?

Wed January 26 - *FGM/C as Cultural Practice*
[E-COURSEPACK](#): 4-Silverman - Male and Female Circumcision in Anthropology
5-Saitoti - Circumcision among the Maasai

Fri January 28 - *FGM/C, Cultural Relativism, & Individual Rights*
[E-COURSEPACK](#): 6-Tierney - A New Debate About Female Circumcision, Parts I & II
7-Liptak - FGM and Asylum Law in the US

Mon January 31 - *Is it always right because it's somebody's culture?*
[E-COURSEPACK](#): 8-Law - Liberal with a Capital L
9-Law - Different Kinds of Authority

Wed February 2 - *Cultural vs. Ethical Relativism*
[E-COURSEPACK](#): 10-Rosaldo - Cultural and Ethical Relativism

Fri February 4 - MIDTERM #1 - covers the introduction to Anthropology and to its subdisciplines (Tapestry of Culture, Chapter 1), the definition of culture, cultural relativism, and ethical relativism

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

Mon February 7 - *Biology and Culture - Affect Hunger*
[E-COURSEPACK](#): 11-Goldschmidt - Chapter 4

Wed February 9 - *Culture and Parenting*
[E-COURSEPACK](#): 12-Goldschmidt - Chapter 5

Fri February 11 - *Discussion - WHAT IS THE BIOCULTURAL
PERSPECTIVE? WHAT IS CULTURE?*
DUE IN CLASS: SHORT ESSAY #1

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

Mon February 14 - *The Biological Legacy*
[E-COURSEPACK](#): 13-Mayr - Darwin's Legacy
14-Langdon - Evolution and Adaptation

Wed February 16 - *Our Place in Nature*
[E-COURSEPACK](#): 15-Relethford - Our Place in Nature

Fri February 18 - *Meet Our Evolutionary Cousins*
[E-COURSEPACK](#): 16-Small - What's Love Got To Do With It?
17-Small - Apeing Culture

V. PALEOANTHROPOLOGY STUDIES HUMAN EVOLUTIONARY ORIGINS

Mon February 21 - *What Makes Us Human?*

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 18-Wong - An Ancestor to Call Our Own
19-Harmon - How Humanlike Was Ardi?

Wed February 23 - *Walking Upright*

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

Fri February 25 - *Technology: Handy and Meaningful*

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 21-Schick & Toth - Chapter 5

Mon February 28 1 - *Neandertals and Us*

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 22-Wong - Meet the Neandertals
23-Bar-Yosef and Vandermeersch - Modern Humans
and Neandertals in the Levant

Wed March 2 - *The Upper Paleolithic - Stone Age
Technology and Art*

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

Fri March 4 - 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.

March 7, 9, 11 **SPRING BREAK**

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

Mon March 14 - *The Origins of Agriculture, PART I*

Wed March 16 - *The Origins of Agriculture, PART II*

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 25-Hodder - Men and Women at Catalhuyuk
26-Molleson - The Bones of Abu Hureyra

Fri March 18 - 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

Mon March 21 - *Language, Social Life, and Relevance*

Text: The Tapestry of Culture - Chapter 3

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 27-Bohannon - Shakespeare in the Bush

Wed March 23 - *Culture and Language Acquisition*

Text: The Tapestry of Culture - Chapter 4

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 28-Ochs & Schieffelin - Language Acquisition

Fri March 25 - *Kinship and Social Roles*

Text: The Tapestry of Culture - Chapter 6

Mon March 28 - *Gender and Age*

Text: The Tapestry of Culture - Chapter 7

Wed March 30 - *Culture and Economic Organization*

Text: The Tapestry of Culture - Chapter 8

E-COURSEPACK: 29-Lee - Eating Christmas in the Kalahari

Fri April 1 - **Midterm #3 - covers archaeology, the study of the origins of agriculture in prehistoric times, 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

Mon April 4 - *Symbols, Society, and Politics*

Text: The Tapestry of Culture - Chapter 5

Wed April 6 - *Myth & Storytelling - Symbols & Society*

Text: The Tapestry of Culture - Chapter 11

Fri April 8 - *Myth in Action*

E-COURSEPACK: 30-Bieseke - Women Like Meat

31-Beidelman - Hyena and Rabbit

Mon April 11 - *Symbols in Myth*

E-COURSEPACK: 32-Introducing Lévi-Strauss

Wed April 13 - *The Structure of Ritual*

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 33-Turner – Liminality and Communitas

Text: The Tapestry of Culture – Chapter 10

Fri April 15 - *Rites of Passage: the Canela example*

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 34-Crocker – Canela Helping Hands

Mon April 18 - *Marriage as a Rite of Passage*

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 35-Howard & Rensel – Marriage on Rotuma

Wed April 20 - *Rites of Passage and Other Identities*

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 36-Nanda – Hijras of India – Chapter 2

37-Nanda – Hijras of India – Chapter 3

Fri April 22 - DISCUSSION: *Myths, Rituals, and Culture*

DUE IN CLASS: SHORT ESSAY #3

IX. GLOBALIZATION PROCESSES SHAPE CULTURE IN COMPLEX, SUPRISING WAYS

Mon April 25 - *Globalization and Culture*

Text: The Tapestry of Culture – Chapter 13

[E-COURSEPACK](#): 38-Trouillot – Anthropology and the Savage Slot

LAST DAY OF CLASSES

Wed May 4 – FINAL EXAM: 2 – 5 pm, LANG 201