

**OXFORD COLLEGE of EMORY UNIVERSITY**  
Fall Semester 2014

<b>ANTHROPOLOGY 101: Introduction to Anthropology</b>
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Meeting Times: T/TH 10:00 am – 11:40 pm  
Classroom: Elizer Hall, room 157  
Professor: Isabella Alexander  
Office Hours: by appointment  
E-mail: [isabella.alexander@emory.edu](mailto:isabella.alexander@emory.edu)

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

In this course, you will learn to think like an anthropologist, as we explore the disciplines historical roots and current applications from the four primary perspectives – *archaeological, linguistic, biomedical, and sociocultural*.

Each of you will have a chance to play the role of “instructor,” working with a partner to find creative ways to bring a chapter of our textbook alive. We will also be incorporating a newer fifth sub-field of the discipline – *applied anthropology* – with a range of documentary films, short assignments and activities that will have you engaging with your college and larger community and applying what you have learned to everyday problems and scenarios. Like an anthropologist, you will be given mini-“fieldwork” assignments to complete, such as conducting a site observation, analyzing a collection of material culture or coding an interview (more details to come!). Skills such as these are useful for archaeological, linguistic, biomedical and sociocultural anthropologists – and for those who of you who will go on to careers in medicine, law, marketing, communications or the military, as well.

Over the course of the semester, you will each be working in teams to conduct an anthropological study. Like all anthropological inquiries, yours will fall at the intersection of a *geographic focus* and a *thematic focus*. As a class, we will create a list of 8 communities or places of interest (ex: Brazil, Cherokee Indians, immigrant youth in the U.S.) and another list of 8 themes or issues of interest (ex: health and disease, democracy, women’s rights). You will be working on an individual final paper at the intersection of your geographic and thematic focus – and you will also be working in a team on your final presentations, which will allow you to explore a wide range of themes in your community of focus, and also to better understand how your issue is perceived differently across different cultural contexts.

Specifically, you will improve your skills in:

- Creating a compelling power point
- Teaching course material to students
- Giving an academic presentation
- Conducting academic research with a variety of sources
- Writing a solid research paper

- And most importantly, you will gain the uniquely anthropological skill for making the familiar strange and the strange familiar ☺

## **REQUIRED READING**

Required books will be available at the Oxford College Bookstore. Additional required reading will be emailed or distributed in class. As part of your attendance, you are required to bring the day's assigned readings (textbook and hard-copies of articles) with you to class. Your fellow students and I will expect you to have not only read, but also taken notes on and highlighted any questions that you have about these readings.

*Readings are to be completed on or before the date that they are listed on the syllabus.*

### **Book:**

Miller, Barbara. *Cultural Anthropology in a Globalizing World (3rd Edition)*. Pearson.

### **Articles:**

To be assigned on a weekly basis (either emailed to you to print before class or handed out in class... either way, hard copies of the day's assigned readings should always be in hand!)

## **ATTENDANCE & CLASS PARTICIPATION**

*Attendance, preparation, and class participation* are three keys to success in this class! Meaning that you should always arrive to class on time, you should always have the assigned readings completed and in hand (your textbook and hard-copies of any assigned articles for that day), and you should be ready to engage in class discussion around these readings. What exactly does this mean? It means that you should be ready to ask questions that you wrote down in the margins, to share interesting ideas that you highlighted in the text, and to relate the day's readings to previous class readings or discussions. For those of you who struggle with class participation, it is a good rule of thumb to always arrive to class with at least three questions or comments written out.

Because participation is key, your attendance is crucial to the success of the class. *Two late arrivals to class will count as one absence. More than two (unexcused) absences will result in a lowered grade.*

Please note: If you know in advance that you must miss class for a religious holiday or other excused absence, then please submit a written notification of this absence to me as soon as possible. I must receive written notice at least one week prior, in order for it to be noted as excused (assignments due during your absence must still be turned in to me on or before the deadline).

## **READING QUIZZES**

While reading quizzes are not built into the syllabus at this time, they will be given periodically (and without advanced notice) throughout the semester, if I feel that students are not doing the assigned reading or are not coming to class prepared to engage with the material. Reading quiz scores will affect your class participation grade, if they become a necessary part of the course at any point.

## GRADING SCALE



Grading Scale

100-98	A+
97-95	A
94-93	A-
92-90	B+
89-87	B
86-85	B-
84-82	C+
81-79	C
78-77	C-
76-75	D+
74-72	D
71-70	D-

## GRADING & ASSIGNMENTS

Attendance, preparation and class participation (possible reading quizzes) – *individual*... 20%

Short assignments (essays, film reviews, etc.) – *individual*... 15%

Chapter presentation – *with partner*... 15%

Final presentation – *with group*... 20%

Final paper – *individual*... 20%

Please note: For graded assignments involving either your partner or your group, I will take your fellow students' opinions into consideration in my final grade. You will each be responsible for reviewing the participation level and work product of your partners and group members.

## COMPUTERS, CELL PHONES & OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Note taking will be a critical part of your participation, and while I know that some of you may be accustomed to taking notes on your computer, I am asking that you please revert to the old pen and paper method for this course. My experience with computers in the classroom suggests that they often provide more of distraction than they do assistance, and I think you will find that you remain more engaged in class discussions without them.

That being said, let me highlight that *computers must remain in your bag, unless they are being used during in-class research time or for a class presentation. Cell phones and all other electronic devices should be silenced and out of sight during class.*

## OFFICE HOURS & EMAIL COMMUNICATION

I am available to meet by appointment at any point during the semester, should you have a question or concern about the course material. I am always more than happy to review drafts of assignments with you during this time, as well (granted you have allotted adequate time for review and revision before assignment deadlines). I encourage you all to take advantage of my office hours as an excellent resource!

In the past years, I know that email has become the preferred means of communication between many students and professors. However, I would prefer for you to utilize my office hours whenever possible. So before you send an email, please ask yourself – “Is this a question that I can ask in Professor Alexander’s next office hours?” If it is an urgent request, then remember that a professional tone should always be maintained when communicating with your professors (even

though email has become a largely informal means of communication) and please understand that it often takes me more than 24 hours to respond.

### **SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS**

If you are a student with a disability on record with Oxford College and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this course, please make an appointment to see me in my office during the first week that classes are in session. We will work together to ensure that this class meets all of your needs.

### **HONOR CODE**

As a student of Oxford College, you are responsible “for maintaining standards of unimpeachable honesty in all academic work... The Honor Code is based on the fundamental expectations that every person in Oxford College will conduct his or her life according to the dictates of the Honor Code and will refuse to tolerate actions in others which would violate the honor code.”

[http://oxford.emory.edu/audiences/current\\_students/Academic/academic-success/student-honor-code/](http://oxford.emory.edu/audiences/current_students/Academic/academic-success/student-honor-code/)

## Anthropology 101: Introduction to Anthropology

### SYLLABUS

*Please note: This syllabus is subject to change at the professor's discretion throughout the semester. Any changes will be announced in class and reminders of these changes will be sent via e-mail.*

**Th Aug 28** (*First day of class*)

Introduction to syllabus and course objectives

**Week 1:**

**T Sept 2 –**

*Cultural Anthropology in a Globalizing World* Chapter 1, presented by Professor Alexander

**Th Sept 4 –**

*Cultural Anthropology in a Globalizing World* Chapter 2, presented by Professor Alexander

Sign up for chapter presentations

**Week 2:**

**T Sept 9 –**

*Cultural Anthropology in a Globalizing World* Chapter 3, presented by...

**Th Sept 11 –**

Short essay due – current event related to world region of interest (more details to follow)

**Week 3:**

**T Sept 16 –**

*Cultural Anthropology in a Globalizing World* Chapter 4, presented by...

**Th Sept 18 –**

Short essay due – current event related to anthropological issue of interest (more details to follow)

**Week 4:**

**T Sept 23 –**

*Cultural Anthropology in a Globalizing World* Chapter 5, presented by...

**Th Sept 25 –**

Sign up for final group presentations

**Week 5:**

**T Sept 30 –**

*Cultural Anthropology in a Globalizing World* Chapter 6, presented by...

**Th Oct 2 –**

Final group presentation proposal due (more details to follow)

**Week 6:**

- T Oct 7 –** *Cultural Anthropology in a Globalizing World* Chapter 7, presented by...
- Th Oct 9 –** *Cultural Anthropology in a Globalizing World* Chapter 8, presented by...  
Final paper proposal due (more details to follow)
- Week 7:**
- T Oct 14 –** Fall Break: No Class
- (**W Oct 15 – Midterm Reports**)
- Th Oct 16 –** *Cultural Anthropology in a Globalizing World* Chapter 9, presented by...
- Week 8:**
- T Oct 21 –** *Cultural Anthropology in a Globalizing World* Chapter 10, presented by...
- Th Oct 23 –** Library session on research resources (date subject to change)  
Final group presentation outline due (more details to follow)
- Week 9:**
- T Oct 28 –** *Cultural Anthropology in a Globalizing World* Chapter 11, presented by...  
Annotated bibliography for final research paper due (more details to follow)
- Th Oct 30 –** Technology session on presentations techniques (date subject to change)
- Week 10:**
- T Nov 4 –** *Cultural Anthropology in a Globalizing World* Chapter 12, presented by...
- Th Nov 6 –** Final paper outline DUE (more details to follow)
- Week 11:**
- T Nov 11 –** *Cultural Anthropology in a Globalizing World* Chapter 13, presented by...
- Th Nov 13 –** Final Group Presentations (groups 1-2)

**Week 12:**

**T Nov 18 –**

Final Group Presentations (groups 3-5)

**Th Nov 20 –**

Final Group Presentations (groups 5-8)

**Week 13:**

**T Nov 25 –**

Thanksgiving Holiday: No class

**Th Nov 27 –**

Thanksgiving Holiday: No class

**Week 14:**

**T Dec 2 –**

Final Paper Editing Sessions

**Th Dec 4 –**

Final Paper Editing Sessions

**Week 15:**

**T Dec 9** (*Last day of class*)

Final Papers DUE

**Th Dec 11** (*Exam Period*)

**T Dec 16** (*Exam Period*)

(**Th Oct 18** – *Final Grades*)