

# ***Introduction to Anthropology: ANT 101***

Oxford College of Emory University

Spring 2005

Dr Valerie Singer

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and by appointment (any changes to office hours will be posted on class conference)

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## **Course Description**

Anthropology is the study of humankind, across both time and space – from our earliest beginnings to our most current dilemmas and from the most urban ‘modern’ settings to the most rural ‘backwoods’ locales. It is thus an extremely broad discipline. An introductory course such as this one necessarily only brushes the surface of many topics. Yet it is the goal of this course to provide students with an overall understanding of anthropological concepts, particularly the holistic approach to studying humanity. We will touch on each of anthropology's four sub-disciplines: cultural anthropology, biological anthropology, archaeology, and linguistics. To illustrate these sub-disciplines, the course will focus on the issue of race as it has been understood anthropologically, particularly in relation to Native Americans. We will be looking at how American anthropology has grown as a discipline through studying American Indians, and how American Indians have viewed “the whiteman” and the anthropologist over time. We will look at how cultural images of “the other” are formed, and what these images say about those who create them.

## **Course Objectives:**

By the end of this course students will:

- Be familiar with basic anthropological terms and concepts
- Understand the basic methods and challenges of ethnographic fieldwork
- Understand why race has no biological meaning, but significant, varying historical and cultural meanings
- Be familiar with the principals of human evolution and modern human variation
- Be able to discuss the interrelationship of cultural change and continuity in long term anthropological studies
- Be familiar with introductory concepts of language performance and linguistic anthropology

### **Required texts**

- Window on Humanity, a Concise Introduction to Anthropology by Conrad Kottak
- Portraits of the Whiteman, Linguistic Play and Cultural Symbols among the Western Apache by Keith Basso
- Thunder Rides a Black Horse, Mescalero Apaches and the Mythic Present by Claire Farrer
- The Bakairi Indians of Brazil, Politics, Ecology, and Change by Debra Picchi
- Additional reading available through e-reserve (listed with an R on course schedule)

### **Course Grade Breakdown**

Exam One:	15%
Exam Two:	20%
Final Exam:	25%
Term Paper:	20%
Pop quizzes	5%
Attendance and Participation:	15%
Total	100%

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### **Academic Honesty:**

Both Oxford College and I take the matter of academic honesty very seriously. I would like to remind you that you are required to follow the Honor Code. Any suspected breaches to the Honor Code will be referred to the Honor Council for review and possible disciplinary action. This includes acts of plagiarism. I have found in the past that many college students do not understand what does and does not constitute plagiarism. We will be discussing what constitutes plagiarism and proper citation methods later in the semester.

### **Attendance:**

I will be taking attendance each day. Each student is allowed TWO absences during the semester. This is to allow for the occasional illness, personal matter, or accidental nap.

**Each additional absence will result in a 1 point lose to your attendance and participation grade (out of 15 points).** There are only two exceptions to this policy: 1) absences for religious holidays *if you notify me ahead of time that you will be absent*, and 2) extreme unexpected situations (extended illnesses, death in the family, etc.). If you have an extreme situation that prevents you from attending class, please notify me as soon as possible, and be prepared to show documentation of the situation.

### **Participation:**

Your active participation is a vital part of this course. You are expected to have carefully read the assigned materials before each class session, and come prepared for discussion. I believe strongly that you can each learn a great deal in the classroom from your fellow students, not just from your professor. We are all both learners and teachers. You share with me the responsibility of creating a classroom atmosphere in which all of your classmates feel comfortable expressing their individual questions, ideas, and opinions.

I will be setting up a class conference for us on Learn Link. **As part of your participation grade, you need to contribute to the class conference at least once a week.** Your contributions may include comments on the readings or in-class lectures, discussions, or films. I also encourage you to write “discussion questions” for the rest of the class to respond to or comment on. I envision this conference as being a way to create more dialogue between students and help connected anthropology to our daily lives.

### **Exams**

There will be three exams over the course of the semester. The third, final exam will be cumulative. The first exam will be multiple choice and short answer. The second and third exams will be multiple choice, short answer, and essay. I will provide you with a review sheet for each exam, although we may not have specified review sessions before each exam.

### **Term Paper**

For the term paper in this course, you will each choose a full monograph/ethnography that addresses one (or several) of anthropology’s four sub-fields. (I will give you a list of books to choose from.) You will then be required to find two additional articles written by anthropologists on a closely related topic. Your paper will be a review of how these works connect or contrast with each other, and how they reflect the field of anthropology as a whole. You will need to submit your chosen articles to me for approval several weeks before the paper is due. *I will not accept papers if I have not previously approved the articles in your bibliography.* While a rough draft is not required, I am happy to read and comment on any drafts submitted to me by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Film Series**

The anthropology department is presenting a series of films this semester, usually on Tuesday nights. As part of your participation grade, you are required to attend at least four of the ten films being shown. If you see more than 4 of the films, it will constitute extra credit. (I only allow students to accumulate 3% extra credit towards their final grade in a semester.) If you have a schedule conflict EVERY Tuesday night, come see me as soon as possible, and I will help you make other arrangements. After most films, there will be a half hour discussion. These are additional to films being shown in the classroom.

### **Grading**

Please note that I WILL be grading using the plus-minus system.

100-93% = A	79-77% = C+
92-90% = A-	76-73% = C
89-87% = B+	72-70% = C-
86-83% = B	69-67% = D+
82-80% = B-	66-60% = D
	59% and below = F

## Course Schedule

(I reserve the right to make additions or changes to this schedule. All changes will be posted on the class conference.)

Jan 19	Introductions
Jan 21	What is Anthropology? Kottak chapter 1
Jan 24	Ethics and Methods Kottak Chapter 2
Jan 26	<b>Understanding Evolution</b> Kottak Chapter 3 pages 49-61
Jan 28	Primates Kottak Chapter 4
Jan 31	Film: Among the Wild Chimpanzees <i>These are Real Swinging Primates</i> (R)
Feb 2	Primate Social Dynamics <i>What Are Friends For?</i> (R)
Feb 4	<u><b>Hominid Evolution</b></u> Early Homonids Kottak Chapter 5
Feb 7	Bi-pedalism and other developments <i>Food For Thought</i> (R) <i>The Evolution of Human Birth</i> (R)
Feb 9	Recent Homonids Kottak Chapter 6
Feb 11	<i>Who Were the Neandertals?</i> (R) <i>Multiregional Theory of Evolution</i> (R) Film: Neandertals on Trial
Feb 14	On Discovering the “Hobbit”, or “Neandersmall” (to be posted on e-reserve)
Feb 16	Why There is No Such Thing as Biological Race Kottak chapter 3 pages 62-72 <i>Skin Deep</i> (R)

Feb 18	Review Session
Feb 21	Exam One
Feb 23	Subsistence and Domestication Kottak chapter 7
Feb 25	Kottak chapter 8 <i>Life Without Chiefs</i> (R)
Feb 28	“CULTURE” Kottak chapter 9
Mar 2	The Cultural Construction of Race Kottak chapter 10
Mar 4	Film: Mirrors of the Heart American Anthropological Association statement on race
Mar 7	Race, American Indians, and the History of Anthropology Thomas prologue to Chapter 7 (R) <b><i>Submit preferences for your monograph for final paper</i></b>
Mar 9	Film: Ishi Thomas chapters 9 and 11
Mar 11	Linguistic Anthropology Kottak chapter 11 <i>Reading Shakespeare in the Bush</i> (R)
March 14-18	Spring Break
Mar 21	<u>“Portraits of the Whiteman”</u> Basso, preface, chapters 1 and 2
Mar 23	Basso, chapters 3, 4, and 5
Mar 25	Film: Smoke Signals
Mar 28	Film: Smoke Signals
Mar 30	<b><u>Exam Two</u></b>
Apr 1	Subsistence and Exchange Kottak Chapter 12 Eating Christmas in the Kalahari (R)

**Paper articles due to me**

- Apr 4            Kottak Chapter 13
- Apr 6            **Families, Kinship, and Marriage**  
Kottak Chapter 14
- Apr 8            Models of the Family: Polygamy  
*How Many Fathers are Best for a Child?* (R)  
*African Polygyny, Family Values and Contemporary Changes* (R)  
*When Brothers Share a Wife* (R)
- Apr 11           Gender  
Kottak chapter 15  
*When Debbie Met Chris* (R)
- Apr 13           Religion and the Apache's Mythic Present  
Farrer Thunder pages 1-61
- Apr 15           Farrer Thunder pages 63-108  
***Deadline for optional rough drafts***
- Apr 18           Religion  
Kottak chapter 16
- Apr 20           The Afro-Brazilian religion of Candomble  
(Dr Singer's fieldwork)
- Apr 22           Picchi Bakairi Chapters 1 and 2
- Apr 25           Picchi Bakairi Chapters 3 and 4  
Film: The Kayapo  
**Final Paper Due**
- Apr 27           Picchi Bakairi Chapters 5 and 6
- Apr 29           Picchi Bakairi Chapters 7 and 8
- May 2           Kottak Chapter 19  
*Living La Chulla Vida* (R)  
Last Class

Friday May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2-5 PM, **Final Exam**