

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

Oxford College of Emory University

Fall 2005

Dr Valerie Singer

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Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 2-3 pm; Tuesdays and Thursday 10-11 am  
and by appointment (any changes to office hours will be posted on class conference)

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(Feel free to call me at home, however I ask that you don't call after 9 PM.)

## **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. 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 examine Brazilian understandings of race and racism in comparison to US understandings. 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
- Understand the significance and meaning of cultural relativism
- 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
- Blessed Anastacia, Women, Race, and Popular Christianity in Brazil by John Burdick
- 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%

### **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. Please be aware that students with perfect attendance who remain silent all semester in the classroom will NOT received 15 points on their attendance and participation grade.

### **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 November 21<sup>st</sup>. The paper is due December 5.

### **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.)

Aug 31        Introductions

Sept 2        What is Anthropology?  
Kottak chapter 1

Sept 7        Ethics and Methods  
Kottak Chapter 2

### **Understanding Evolution**

Sept 9        Kottak Chapter 3 pages 49-61

### **Non-Human Primates**

Sept 12       Kottak Chapter 4

Sept 14       Film: Among the Wild Chimpanzees  
*These are Real Swinging Primates* (R)

Sept 16       Primate Social Dynamics  
*What Are Friends For?* (R)

### **Hominid Evolution**

Sept 19       Early Hominids  
Kottak Chapter 5

Sept 21       Bi-pedalism and other developments  
*Food For Thought* (R)  
*The Evolution of Human Birth* (R)

Sept 23       Recent Hominids  
Kottak Chapter 6

Sept 26       *Who Were the Neandertals?* (R)  
*Multiregional Theory of Evolution* (R)  
Film: Neandertals on Trial

Sept 28       On Discovering the “Hobbit”, or “Neandersmall”  
*The Littlest Human* (R)

Sept 30       Review Session

Oct 3        **Exam One**

Oct 5        “CULTURE”  
Kottak chapter 9

Oct 7        Why There is No Such Thing as Biological Race  
Kottak chapter 3 pages 62-72  
*Skin Deep* (R)

Oct 10       Fall Break

**The Cultural Construction of Race**

Oct 12       Kottak chapter 10  
Film: Mirrors of the Heart

**American Indians, and the History of Anthropology**

Oct 14       Thomas prologue to Chapter 2 (R)

Oct 17       Thomas chapters 3-6  
Film: Ishi

Oct 19       Thomas chapters 9 and 11

**Linguistic Anthropology**

Oct 21       Kottak chapter 11  
*Reading Shakespeare in the Bush* (R)  
***Submit preferences for your monograph for final paper***

Oct 24       Portraits of the Whiteman  
Basso, preface, chapters 1 and 2

Oct 26       Basso, chapters 3, 4, and 5

Oct 28       **Exam Two**

Oct 31       Subsistence and Exchange  
Kottak Chapter 12  
Eating Christmas in the Kalahari (R)

Nov 2       Kottak Chapter 13

**Families, Kinship, and Marriage**

- Nov 4            Kottak Chapter 14
- Nov 7            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)
- Nov 9**            Gender  
Kottak chapter 15  
*When Debbie Met Chris* (R)
- Religion, Race, and Culture in Brazil**
- Nov 11           Kottak chapter 16  
*Paper articles due to me*
- Nov 14           Blessed Anastacia Introduction and Chapter 1
- Nov 16           Blessed Anastacia Chapter 2
- Nov 18           Blessed Anastacia Chapter 3  
The Afro-Brazilian religion of Candomble  
(Dr Singer's fieldwork)
- Nov 21           Blessed Anastacia Chapters 4 & 5  
*Rough Draft of paper due (not mandatory)*
- Nov 23-25 Thanksgiving Break
- Nov 28           Blessed Anastacia, Chapter 6 & Conclusion
- Nov 30 & Dec 2    Dr. Singer at American Anthropology Conference
- Dec 5            "The GAP revolution": Dr Singer's fieldwork part two  
**Final Paper Due**
- Dec 7            Paper Presentations
- Dec 9            Paper Presentation
- Dec 12           Last Day of Class  
Paper Presentations
- Final Exam : Monday December 19, 9-12 AM**

