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# Anthropology 101

## INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY

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Lecture MWF 12:50-1:40

Spring Semester, 2006

Instructor: Dr. Wendy Dirks

Office: Language 102

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 2:15-4:15 or by appointment.

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### **Textbooks:**

Abu-Lughod, L (1986/1999) *Veiled Sentiments: Honor and Poetry in a Bedouin Society*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Boehm, C (1999) *Hierarchy in the Forest: The Evolution of Egalitarian Behavior*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Lakoff, G (2002) *Moral Politics: How Liberals and Conservatives Think*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Walker, A & Shipman, P (2005) *The Ape in the Tree: An Intellectual & Natural History of Proconsul*. Cambridge: Belknap Press.

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### **Goals of the Course:**

Anthropology is the study of human beings as biological and cultural organisms in the past and present. Traditionally, American anthropology includes biological anthropology, archaeology, cultural anthropology, and linguistics. In this course, we will read and discuss four texts; one by a biological anthropologist, two by cultural anthropologists, and one by a cognitive linguist. In addition, class lectures throughout the semester will help to place these texts into the broader context of the four subdisciplines.

The specific goals for students are to:

1. Demonstrate a basic understanding of human biology, evolution, and cultural variation in the past and present in class discussion and assignments;
2. Demonstrate an understanding of how anthropologists study these topics through class discussion and exams;
3. Develop critical thinking as we discuss the texts, demonstrated through writing papers and class discussion;
4. Learn how to express ideas in writing, demonstrated through class papers.

### **Student Requirements for Completing the Course:**

1. There will be a midterm exam, a final exam, and three papers. Each is worth 20% of the final grade. One half of a grade (+/-) will be deducted for each day a paper is late. Makeup exams will only be given in the case of a **documented** serious illness or emergency. Other than the exams, the course will be paperless. Papers will be turned in and returned via Learnlink or the class Blackboard site.
2. Class participation is critical for the successful completion of the course requirements. Class participation includes attendance, arriving to class on time,

participating in discussion, and completing assignments on time, as well as appropriate behavior in class. Inappropriate behavior includes sleeping in class or engaging in behaviors that disturb others or interfere with the atmosphere of a learning community.

**The grading scale is A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C-, D+, D, F**

**Course policies:** All students are expected to be familiar with, and abide by, the Oxford College Honor Code. The papers and assignments are to be the students' own work; the papers are to draw on the texts and these must be referenced. Internet sites not posted on the Blackboard site are not to be used. Discussion with other students about papers and assignments is encouraged, but acknowledgement of other students' ideas should be made in the papers. If any student has any questions about the application of the Honor Code to the work in this course, it is that student's responsibility to contact me immediately.

### Class Outline

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Topics, Assignments, and Special Events</b>	<b>Reading</b>
Jan 18	Introduction to the course	
Jan 20	Introduction to Evolution	
Jan 23	Primates	
<b>Jan 24</b>	<b>Last day to drop</b>	
Jan 25	<i>The New Chimpanzees</i>	Video
Jan 27	Primate Evolution to the Miocene	
Jan 30	<i>Proconsul</i> I	Walker & Shipman, Prologue & Chaps 1-2
Feb 1	<i>Proconsul</i> II	Walker & Shipman, Chaps 3-4
Feb 3	<i>Proconsul</i> III	Walker & Shipman, Chaps 5-6
Feb 6	<i>Proconsul</i> IV	Walker & Shipman, Chaps 7-8
Feb 8	<i>Proconsul</i> V	Walker & Shipman, Chap 9
Feb 10	<i>Proconsul</i> VI	Walker & Shipman, Chap 10
Feb 13	<i>Proconsul</i> VII	Walker & Shipman, Chap 11
Feb 15	<i>Proconsul</i> VIII	Walker & Shipman, Chap 12 & Epilogue
Feb 17	Human Evolution I	
Feb 20	Human Evolution II	
Feb 22	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	
Feb 24	Culture and Worldview	
Feb 27	<i>Hierarchy</i> I	Boehm, Chaps 1-2
Mar 1	<i>Hierarchy</i> II	Boehm, Chaps 3-4
Mar 3	<i>Hierarchy</i> III	Boehm, Chaps 5-6
Mar 6	<i>Hierarchy</i> IV	Boehm, Chaps 7-8
Mar 8	<i>Hierarchy</i> V	Boehm, Chaps 9-10
Mar 10	<i>The Mountain Gorilla</i>	Video
<b>Mar 13-17</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>	

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Mar 20	Foragers <b>You will see a film outside of class this week, venue TBA</b>	<i>The Fast Runner</i>
Mar 22	<i>Veiled Sentiments</i> I	Abu-Lughod, Chaps 1-2
Mar 24	Testing Boehm's Hypothesis I	Discussion of paper
Mar 27	<b><i>Fast Runner</i> paper Due; <i>Veiled Sentiments</i> II</b>	Abu-Lughod, Chaps 3-4
Mar 29	<i>Veiled Sentiments</i> III	Abu-Lughod, Chaps 5-6
Mar 31	<i>Veiled Sentiments</i> IV	Abu-Lughod, Chaps 7-8
Apr 3	Testing Boehm's Hypothesis II	Discussion of paper
Apr 5	<i>Moral Politics</i> I	Lakoff, Chaps 1-2
Apr 7	<i>Moral Politics</i> II	Lakoff, Chaps 3-4
Apr 10	<b><i>Veiled Sentiments</i> paper due; <i>Moral Politics</i> III</b>	Lakoff, Chaps 5-6
Apr 12	<i>Moral Politics</i> IV	Lakoff, Chaps 7-8
Apr 14	<i>Moral Politics</i> V	Lakoff, Chaps 9-10
Apr 17	<i>Moral Politics</i> VI	Lakoff, Chaps 11-12
Apr 19	<i>Moral Politics</i> VII	Lakoff, Chaps 13-14
Apr 20	<i>Moral Politics</i> VIII	Lakoff, Chaps 15-16
Apr 24	<i>Moral Politics</i> IX	Lakoff, Chap 17-19
Apr 26	"Race" and Human Variation I	
Apr 28	"Race" and Human Variation II	
May 1	<b><i>Moral Politics</i> paper due; Culture in the 21<sup>st</sup> century</b>	Music videos and commercials from around the world
May 4	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>9:00-12:00</b>

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