
Anthropology 101

INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY

Lecture 11:30 Tu/Th Library Video Conference Room

Fall Semester, 2004

Instructor: Dr. Wendy Dirks

Office: Language 102

Office Hours: MWF 11:00 – 12:00 or by appointment. I will be very flexible in scheduling appointments, so please feel free to come and see me with any concern or question.

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Textbooks: Park MA (2003) *Introducing Anthropology* 2nd Edition. Boston: McGraw Hill.

Weber B and Vedder A (2001) *In the Kingdom of Gorillas*. New York: Simon & Schuster.

Fernea EW (1965) *Guests of the Sheik: An Ethnography of an Iraqi Village*. New York: Anchor Books.

Koff C (2004) *The Bone Woman: A Forensic Anthropologists Search for Truth in the Mass Graves of Rwanda, Bosnia, Croatia, and Kosovo*. New York: Random House.

Lessinger, J (1995) *From the Ganges to the Hudson: Indian Immigrants in New York City*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

Additional readings may be assigned throughout the semester. There will be several in-class video presentations and a movie that will be shown outside of class time.

Internet resources:

<http://www.aaanet.org/> - American Anthropological Association

<http://www.physanth.org/> - The American Association of Physical Anthropologists

<http://www.paleoanth.org/> - The Paleoanthropology Society

<http://www.asp.org> – The American Society of Primatologists

<http://www.primate.wisc.edu/pin/> - The Primate Info Net

<http://www.saa.org/> - Society for American Archaeology

Goals of the Course:

Anthropology is the study of human beings as biological and cultural organisms in the past and present. In this course, we will focus on developing a broad understanding of biological anthropology, archaeology, linguistics, and cultural anthropology, anthropology's four sub-disciplines. We will do this using a general textbook and readings designed to complement its discussion of the topics studied by anthropologists. However, because anthropology is such a broad discipline, our main goal in this course will be to learn how anthropologists think about problems and the methods they use in their research. We will read and discuss three supplemental texts that cover fieldwork in specific topics in biological anthropology and cultural anthropology. We will also read

an ethnography about our own culture, and what it is like to come here from somewhere else.

This year, because of the crisis in Sudan, a number of faculty and staff will be focusing on genocide awareness and prevention. As part of that effort, two of the textbooks discuss genocide in the context of understanding fieldwork in anthropology.

The specific goals for students are to:

1. Demonstrate a basic understanding of human biology, evolution, and cultural variation in the past and present on quizzes and exams;
2. Demonstrate an understanding of how anthropologists study these topics through class discussion and short written assignments;
3. Develop “anthropological thinking” as we consider how anthropologists do ethnographic research on a particular culture through an ethnographic study written about the culture depicted in film, *The Fast Runner*.

Student Requirements for Completing the Course:

1. There will be a mid-term exam, a final exam, a paper, and several quizzes and short written assignments.
2. The exam format will be short answer, multiple choice, true/false, and essays. Makeup exams will be given only under conditions of a documented severe illness or serious emergency. Each exam will be worth 100 points and will be one quarter of the final grade.
3. One quarter of the final grade will be based on class participation. Attendance, arriving to class on time, participating in discussion, completing quizzes and assignments will all be components of this grade, as will inappropriate behavior in class. This includes sleeping in class or engaging in behaviors that disturb others or interfere with the atmosphere of a learning community. The participation grade may be augmented by attending up to five events (TBA) for one point of extra credit each. The following are guidelines for the participation grade, but the final grade will be at the discretion of the instructor, taking all the components into account:
 - a. A (95 pts) Misses no more than one class, never late to class, regularly participates in class discussion, misses no more than one quiz, turns in all assignments, behaves appropriately in class.
 - b. B (85 pts) Misses no more than two classes, late to class once, participates frequently in class discussion, misses no more than two quizzes, turns in all assignments, behaves appropriately in class.
 - c. C (75 pts) Misses no more than three classes, late to class twice, participates occasionally in class discussion, misses no more than three quizzes, turns in all assignments, behaves appropriately in class.
 - d. D (65 pts) Misses four or five classes, late to class four or five times, rarely participates in class discussion, misses four or five quizzes, doesn't turn in all assignments, behaves appropriately in class.
 - e. F (less than 60 pts) Misses more than five classes, late to class more than five times, never participates in class discussion, misses more than five quizzes, doesn't turn in several assignments, inappropriate behavior in class.

4. There will be a paper based on a film to be viewed outside of class time. The paper will be an ethnography, reporting on aspects of the culture determined through analysis of the story and its setting. The paper is to be treated as an exam. No outside sources should be consulted, nor should there be any discussion of the film with other students until the paper is turned in. Late papers will have five points deducted for each day past the due date.
5. The final grade for the course will be an average of the two exams, paper, and the participation grade.
6. The grading scale is as follows:
 - A = 90 pts or above
 - B = 80-89 pts
 - C = 70-79 pts
 - D = 60-69 pts
 - F = less than 60 pts

Course policies:

The syllabus is subject to change, except for the final exam time. I want to be flexible in allowing for unexpected or interesting developments that we may want to discuss in class. All students are expected to be familiar with, and abide by, the Oxford College Honor Code. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and will be reported immediately to the Honor Council

Class Outline

| Date: | Topic | Reading |
|--------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Aug 26 | Introduction to the course | |
| Aug 31 | Introduction to Anthropology | Park, Chapter 1,2 |
| Sep 2 | Evolutionary Theory | Park, Chapter 3 |
| Sep 7 | Primates | Park, Chapter 4 |
| Sep 9 | “Among the Wild Chimpanzees” | <i>Gorillas in the Mist</i> (Extra Credit) (September 8) |
| Sep 14 | Gorillas I | Weber & Vedder, pp 5-89 |
| Sep 16 | Primate Evolution and Fieldwork | Weber & Vedder, pp 93-145 |
| | Gorillas II & III | Park, Chapter 5 |
| Sep 21 | Human Evolution | Weber & Vedder, pp 93-223 |
| Sep 23 | Gorillas IV | Park, Chapter 5 |
| Sep 28 | Gorillas V & VI | Weber & Vedder, pp 227-308 |
| Sep 30 | Reproduction | Weber & Vedder, pp 311-370 |
| | | Park, Chapter 6 |

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| Oct 5 | Midterm Exam | Park, Chapters 1-6, Weber & Vedder |
| Oct 7 | Culture & Worldview, Food | Park, Chapter 7, 8 |
| Oct 12 | MIDSEMESTER HOLIDAY | |
| Oct 14 | Iraq I Kinship | Fernea, pp 3-102 Park, Chapter 9 |
| Oct 19 | Iraq II, Kinship | Fernea, pp 105-170, Park Chapter 9 |
| Oct 21 | Iraq III & IV, Archaeology | Park, Chapter 10, Fernea, pp 173-266 |
| Oct 26 | Iraq V & VI, Communication | Fernea, pp 268-333, Park, Chapter 11 |
| Oct 28 | Bone Woman I & II | Koff, pp 5-112 |
| Nov 2 | “Can Chimpanzees Talk?” | VOTE!!! |
| Nov 4 | | TBA |
| Nov 9 | Bone Woman III & IV | Koff, pp 115-194 |
| Nov 11 | Religion, Bone Woman, V | Park, Chapter 12, Koff, pp 197-271 |
| Nov 15 | | Physicians for Human Rights & Care (Extra Credit) |
| Nov 16 | Behavior & Violence I | Park, Chapter 13 |
| Nov 18 | Human Variation I | Park, Chapter 14 * <i>The Fast Runner</i> will be shown on November 17 th & 18 th |
| Nov 23 | “The Invention of Thanksgiving” | Siskind (E-reserve) |
| Nov 24-26 | Thanksgiving Break | Eat |
| Nov 30 | Culture Change | Park, Chapter 15 Papers Due |
| Dec 2 | Indian Immigrants I, II, & III | Lessinger, pp xi-70 <i>Monsoon Wedding</i> (Extra Credit) |
| Dec 7 | Indian Immigrants IV, V & VI | Lessinger, pp 71-159 |
| Dec 8 | READING DAY | |
| Dec 9 9:00-12:00 | FINAL EXAM | CUMULATIVE ESSAY EXAM |
