ANT2000: General Anthropology
Fall 2023

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Office Hours: TBA

TBA, Teaching Assistant
Office Hours:

Students should email their assigned TA with any questions or concerns. They have 48 business hours to respond (emails sent Friday may not receive a response until Tuesday). If the issue cannot be resolved between the TA and the student, then the student should email the instructor.

Course Description

Anthropology is the study of human diversity through all time and across all space. Anthropology differs from other fields of social science in its emphasis on comparative or cross-cultural perspectives on human biology, society, and culture. Also setting anthropology apart from related disciplines is its holistic, unified perspective on the human condition. In this regard anthropology appears boundless, spanning topics such as social organization, religion, technology, economics, symbolism, gender, reproduction, politics, genetics, biomechanics, subsistence, settlement patterns, migration, warfare, health and disease, growth and development, material culture, art, music, storytelling, and more. You have to open your mind, as famed anthropologist Margaret Mead insisted, to appreciate the breadth of the human condition. Anthropology provides the concepts and perspectives to help you achieve this goal. No matter what walk of life you pursue, anthropology provides relevant guideposts for your journey.

Although the field of anthropology encompasses an immense range of subjects, it is usually divided into four subfields: sociocultural anthropology, physical or biological anthropology, archaeology, and linguistic anthropology. In this course you will be introduced to each of the subfields, gaining an appreciation not only for the breadth of anthropological inquiry, but also for the interrelationships among its diverse perspectives. By focusing on concepts of human culture—the symbolic, material, and energetic means by which humans adapt to their 2 environments—you will learn about the diversity of contemporary human societies in all of their social and biological dimensions; examine the long-term processes and conditions (such as globalization) that contributed to this diversity; and investigate methods for obtaining information about ancient peoples from the mute shreds of material culture they left behind.

We often think of anthropologists as strange, eccentric scientists who sacrifice the comforts of modern life to be among primitive people in exotic places. We might also conjure-up the image of a bearded old man in pith helmet and khakis when contemplating the work of archaeologists. While these stereotypes indeed describe many of the anthropologists of yesteryear, today's practitioners are usually found in much more familiar, even mundane settings. Contemporary anthropologists have been busy investigating modern topics such as transnationalism, neoliberal reforms, terrorism, climate change, emergent pathogens, multilingual America, sexual and racial discrimination, materials recycling, and world hunger. In this course we will examine many of these contemporary issues to see how an anthropological perspective promotes solutions to human problems that are both methodologically scientific and philosophically humanitarian. As anthropologist Ruth Benedict insinuates in the quote above, greater appreciation for human diversity helps to make the world a better place for all humans.

On a more practical note, ANT 2000 is a Social Science General Education course. Moreover, it is one of only six social sciences courses to fulfill the new General Education State Core. Florida State Statue 1007.25 was revised in recent years to improve articulation of General Education with other curriculum. The revised bill applies to students entering the university system in 2015–2016 and thereafter. It mandates that 15 of your 36 required General Education credits be chosen from a set of 23 courses in five categories. ANT 2000 is one of those select courses. In fulfilling core requirements in Social Sciences, "students will demonstrate the ability to examine behavioral, social, and cultural issues from a variety of points of view. Students will demonstrate an understanding of basic social and behavioral science concepts and principles used in the analysis of behavioral, social, and cultural issues, past and present, local and global" (http://gened.aa.ufl.edu/state-gen-ed-core.aspx). Specific objectives for ANT 2000 follow below.

Course Outcomes

Through lectures, readings, films, assignments, and discussions, you will develop the basic skills and knowledge to:

1. Identify, describe, and explain variation in human biology.
2. Identify, describe, and explain variation in human culture.
3. Identify, describe, and explain the interplay between biology and culture among humans.
4. Identify and describe processes of change among humans and resulting patterns of biological and cultural variation.
5. Identify and describe ethnocentrism in popular perspectives on human variation and identify how the cultural relativism of an anthropological perspective provides alternatives to ethnocentric thinking.
6. Identify and describe anthropological contributions to contemporary issues, such as globalization, health, social justice, migration, warfare, racism, gender, sexuality, and other dimensions of variation among modern societies.

In addition to course outcomes, each of the 12 modules of this course is structured by detailed objectives or outcomes that are specific to the subject of that module. Descriptions of module objectives are published on the Canvas e-learning site for the course.

General Education Outcomes

Content, *Communication*, and *Critical Thinking* are the three criteria of outcomes applied to General Education courses. Descriptions for each outcome can be found in the links in Canvas. Your mastery of each of these outcomes is measured from your best performance in exams, quizzes, assignments, and discussion boards. However, point values assigned to outcomes do not factor into your grades for any of the assessments, or your final grade for the course. Outcomes are tracked apart from course grades to enable us to gauge how well this course serves the purpose of General Education. Course Outcomes are also used to track mastery of the objectives specific to ANT 2000. You will see outcomes scored for every graded assessment returned to you, but the set of outcomes for any given assessment will vary depending on what it is we are assessing.

Content: Students will demonstrate competence in the terminology, concepts, methods, and theories used in Anthropology. Students will acquire a thorough introduction to anthropology, an appreciation of human diversity, a better understanding of the past and how it impacts the present, and an active and more open-minded outlook of our globalized world. Achievement of this learning outcome will be assessed through quizzes, examinations, individual assignments, and group discussion.

Communication: Students will communicate knowledge, ideas, and reasoning clearly and effectively in written or oral forms appropriate to the discipline. Achievement of this learning outcome will be assessed through individual assignments and group discussions.

Critical thinking: Students will analyze information carefully and logically from multiple perspectives, using discipline-specific methods, and develop reasoned solutions to problems. Achievement of this learning outcome will be assessed through individual assignments and group discussions.

Required Book

Haviland, William A., Harald E. L. Prins, Dana Walrath, Bunny McBride 2016 *The Essence of Anthropology*. 4th Edition. Cengage Learning, Boston.

In addition to the textbook, which we will read in its entirety, you have readings and links to other resources that are posted on the e-learning site. The schedule for all readings and 4 assignments is also provided online, as are due dates for all graded assignments, which are repeated in the Course Outline below. Please note that we do not cover the Haviland et al. textbook in the order in which it is presented; consult the e-learning schedule for details.

Assessments and Grading

We will assess your performance in this course through four measures: exams, quizzes, individual assignments, and participation in discussion boards. You have three exams, one at the end of each of three Units, and each worth 10% of your final grade, or 30% total. These are objective exams of 40 questions each that you take online during the week following each Unit, when you have no other assignments. Exams are non-accumulative.

You have a quiz to take for each of the 12 Modules of this course, four for each Unit. Quizzes account for 20% of your final grade; they too are non-accumulative and will consist of five questions each. Questions for each quiz are drawn from a bank of 20 questions, which are combined for each Unit (four modules each) to construct your exams.

Eight individual assignments are worth a total of 30% of your final grade. These are generally short writing assignments in response to additional readings or a video posted on the e-learning site, and occasionally a news item or website that you locate on your own. Grading rubrics for each assignment are posted on the e-learning site.

Finally, you are asked to participate in 10 discussion boards online that will account for 20% of your final grade. You will be assigned to a discussion group of ten students. For each discussion, you are asked to post one comment of ~100 words and respond to the comments of at least two members of your group. Responses do not have a word quota or limit, but they have to be more than simply "I agree," or "I disagree." Rules for discussion and all other online activity are provided in the "Netiquette" tab in e-learning.

Grading Scale

Letter grades are assigned based on the total percent of all assessments according to the following scale:

A 93% or above
A- 90-92.99%
B+ 87-89.99%
B 83-86.99%
B- 80-82.99%
C+ 77-79.99%
C 73-76.99%
C- 70-72.99%
D+ 67-69.99%
D 63-66.99%
D- 60-62.99%
E below 60%

Current grade status is available under the "Grades" section of the e-learning site. For more information see the undergraduate catalogue for grading policies: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

Course Outline and Schedule

ANT 2000 is divided into three Units of four Modules each. The class is presented to you in the Canvas platform of e-learning, which lists all requirements and deadlines by Units and Modules, as well as abundant information that is useful for succeeding in this course. Canvas is your interface for downloading material, taking quizzes and exams, holding group discussions, uploading assignments, directing questions to your instructor and TA, and checking your grades.

For each Module you have lectures to view, textbook chapters to read, and a quiz to take. For 10 of the 12 Modules you also have discussion boards to contribute to, both an original post and responses to the posts of at least two students in your discussion group. For all but four Modules you also have additional readings to read, a video to watch, and occasionally a research assignment that requires you to locate some other material, such as a news item or website. Your three exams are scheduled during "off" weeks, at the end of each Unit, when you have no other responsibilities.

Unless otherwise indicated, due dates and other relevant dates for each Module are scaled to the respective week, which starts on Monday at midnight (that is, Sunday night at 12:00 am EST) and runs through the following Monday at 11:59 pm EST. Thus, each week has a one-day overlap on Mondays, to avoid any assessments being due over the weekend. Quizzes and Individual Assignments for each Module will open at the beginning of the respective week and close at the end of that week. Discussion Boards require that you make your original post no later than Friday at 11:59 pm for that week and post your responses to at least two students in your group by Monday 11:59 pm, at the end of that same week. The first two exams open on Wednesdays at midnight and close on Fridays that follow at 11:59 pm. The third exam opens on Monday, December 4th at midnight and closes on Wednesday, December 6th at 11:59 pm. You have a full three days to schedule each of the three exams.

Quizzes, exams, individual assignments, and discussion boards will not be accepted late without proper documentation from a legitimate emergency. The instructor reserves the right to determine what constitutes an emergency.

Specific dates and times for all assessments follow in the schedule below and in the Canvas platform online.

NOTE: Comprehension of the syllabus and class policies is essential. An online syllabus/course policies quiz will be made available during the first and second weeks of the semester. This quiz does not count towards your grade, but you will not be able to proceed with the course until you pass this quiz. The quiz can be taken repeatedly until you have passed.

<u>Unit 1</u>

Module 1, Aug 23-25: What is Anthropology? What is Culture?

NOTE: To accommodate anyone who adds this course during the Drop-Add period, all due dates for Module 1 are pushed back to the second week of classes. Also, with Labor Day on Monday, September 4, the due date for the Module 1 and 2 assessments is Tuesday, September 5.

Due Dates: **Discussion Post:** Friday, September 1, 11:59 pm
Responses to other Posts: Tuesday, September 5, 11:59 pm
Quiz 1: Tuesday, September 5, 11:59 pm

Module 2, Aug 28-Sep 1: Biological Basis for Human Variation/Living Primates

Due Dates: **Discussion Post:** Friday, September 1, 11:59 pm
Responses to other Posts: Tuesday, September 5, 11:59 pm
Individual Assignment: Tuesday, September 5, 11:59 pm
Quiz 2: Tuesday, September 5, 11:59 pm

Module 3, Sep 4-8: Human Evolution

Due Dates: **Individual Assignment:** Monday, September 11, 11:59 pm
Quiz 3: Monday, September 11, 11:59 pm

Module 4, Sep 11-15: Hunter-Gatherers and the Origins of Agriculture

Due Dates: **Discussion Post:** Friday, September 15, 11:59 pm
Responses to other Posts: Monday, September 18, 11:59 pm
Individual Assignment: Monday, September 18, 11:59 pm
Quiz 4: Monday, September 18, 11:59 pm

Unit 1 EXAM: Modules 1-4

OPENS: Wednesday, September 20, 12:00 am
CLOSES: Friday, September 22, 11:59 pm

<u>Unit 2</u>

Module 5, Sep 25-29: Cities, States, and Civilizations

Due dates: **Discussion Post:** Friday, September 29, 11:59 pm
Responses to other Posts: Monday, October 2, 11:59 pm
Quiz 5: Monday, October 2, 11:59 pm

Module 6, Oct 2-5: Modern Human Diversity and Race

****NOTE:** Shortened Week due to Homecoming (October 6-7)

Due dates: **Discussion Post:** Thursday, October 5, 11:59 pm
Responses to other Posts: Monday, October 9, 11:59 pm
Individual Assignment: Monday, October 9, 11:59 pm
Quiz 6: Monday, October 9, 11:59 pm

Module 7, Oct 9-13: Gender, Marriage, and Family

Due dates: **Discussion Post:** Friday, October 13, 11:59 pm
Responses to other Posts: Monday, October 16, 11:59 pm
Quiz 7: Monday, October 16, 11:59 pm

Module 8, Oct 16-20: Kinship and Non-Kin Groups

Due dates: **Individual Assignment:** Monday, October 23, 11:59 pm
Quiz 8: Monday, October 23, 11:59 pm

UNIT 2 EXAM: Modules 5-8

OPENS: Wednesday, October 25, 12:00 am
CLOSES: Friday, October 27, 11:59 pm

Unit 3

Module 9, Oct 30-Nov 3: Non-Western Economics, Politics, and Warfare

Due dates: **Discussion Post:** Friday, November 3, 11:59 pm
Responses to other Posts: Monday, November 6, 11:59 pm
Individual Assignment: Monday, November 6, 11:59 pm
Quiz 9: Monday, November 6, 11:59 pm

Module 10, Nov 6-9: Religion, Secularism, and Magic

****NOTE:** Due dates for Posts and Quiz 10 are pushed forward to Thursday, November 9 because of UF's Veterans Day observance on Friday, November 10.

Due dates: **Discussion Post:** Thursday, November 9, 11:59 pm
Responses to other Posts: Monday, November 13, 11:59 pm
Quiz 10: Monday, November 13, 11:59 pm

Module 11, Nov 13-17: Language and Culture

Due dates: **Discussion Post:** Friday, November 17, 11:59 pm
Responses to other Posts: Monday, November 20, 11:59 pm
Individual Assignment: Monday, November 20, 11:59 pm
Quiz 11: Monday, November 20, 11:59 pm

****NOTE:** Thanksgiving Holiday (November 22-24)

Module 12, Nov 27-Dec 1: Applied Anthropology

Due dates: **Discussion Post:** Friday, December 1, 11:59 pm

Responses to other Posts: Monday, December 4, 11:59 pm
Individual Assignment: Monday, December 4, 11:59 pm
Quiz 6: Monday, December 4, 11:59 pm

UNIT 3 EXAM: Modules 9-12

OPENS: Monday, December 4, 12:00 am
CLOSES: Wednesday, December 6, 11:59 pm

"Attendance and Make-Up Policy"

Although this is an online course, you are expected to review all material posted on the course elearning site (i.e., lectures, articles, videos, etc.), as scheduled, and to read your textbook in the order posted. You are also expected to complete all quizzes, individual assignments, discussion posts, and exams as scheduled above.

Students unable to complete assignments due to documented, excused absences or extenuating circumstances must contact the course instructor no less than 48 hours before a planned absence (e.g., university event, religious holiday) and no more than 48 hours after an unplanned absence (e.g., illness). Make-up opportunities will be offered for absences for which documentation is provided.
Requirements for make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog:
https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx

University Honesty Policy

Plagiarism and cheating in any form are subject to university policy as outlined by the Dean of Students (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/conductcode.php). UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states, "*We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment*."

The Honor Code (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/studentconduct-honor-code/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. You are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with your instructor or TA for this course.

Student Accommodations

Students requesting classroom accommodations must first register with the Dean of Students Office (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/), who will then provide the necessary documentation for the course instructor. Please do this no later than one week after the first day of class.

If you are experiencing personal problems that are interfering with your studies, you are encouraged to take advantage of the available university resources:

- UF Counseling and Wellness Center: 3190 Radio Road, (352)392-1575
- Student Mental Health: Student Health Care Center, (352)392-1171
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services: Student Health Care Center, (352)392-1161
- Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please visit http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints to submit a complaint.

Course Evaluations

Student feedback is greatly appreciated and taken seriously. Course evaluations are conducted online at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester. You will be notified via email when the online evaluation page is open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results.