



National Taiwan University of Science and Technology

2020 Winter Program

ANTH 105 Introduction to Anthropology

Course Outline

Course Code: ANTH 105

Instructor: D. Bruce Carter, Ph.D.

Home Institution: Syracuse University

Office Hours: TBA

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Credit: 4

Course Description:

Anthropology is one of the most holistic social sciences studying humanity; who we are, where we have been, how we're different and how we are all the same. Through the different subfields of anthropology, we can explore humans as animals, as a single species with staggering diversity, as cultural groups, as performers, workers, oppressors, families and healers.

This course provides an overview of the four major subfields of anthropology.

- (1) **Physical/biological anthropology** concerns human evolution, adaptation and physiology.
- (2) **Archaeology** concerns ancient and historical societies and cultural evolution.
- (3) **Cultural anthropology** concerns the similarities and differences in societies and cultures.
- (4) **Linguistic anthropology** concerns the evolution and diversity of human language systems.

Anthropologists bring in theories and methods from a variety of other fields and disciplines such as biology, geology, chemistry, medicine, law, public health, development, economics, education, sociology and agriculture. Throughout this course we will see how these other fields help create a perspective that is uniquely anthropological.

There will be discussions of controversial/sensitive topics such as race, sex, gender issues, politics, etc., some of which students may find outside of their comfort zone. Please be open to discussion and accepting of other's opinions and perspectives. We don't all have to agree, but we do all have to be respectful of others' viewpoints. We should all strive for an atmosphere of professionalism at all times. Inappropriate language toward me or other students will not be tolerated and offending students will be asked to leave.

Required Textbook:

Robert L. Welsch, Luis A. Vivanco and Agustin Fuentes (2017). [Anthropology: Asking Questions About](#)



Human Origins, Diversity, and Culture. (1st Edition). Oxford University Press.

Print Version: ISBN: 978-0-19-994759-1

E-Text: ISBN: 978-0-19-9947621 The E-Text may be purchased on Vital Source bookshelf at this web link if interested: <https://www.vitalsource.com/>

Students are asked to attain the book prior to the class beginning.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Identify the four sub-fields of Anthropology: Cultural, Physical/Biological, Archaeology and Linguistics.
2. Understand the scientific evidence of the origins of humanity and its cultural development.
3. Analyze the concepts and theories of human evolution.
4. Analyze the principles of biological variation in modern man.
5. Evaluate past and contemporary cultures of mankind worldwide.
6. Develop their critical thinking skills by exposing them to different cultures.
7. Develop a more critical and analytical approach to conditions within their own society.
8. Read, write and speak more effectively about subject matter that is new and different.
9. Understand the unique quality of the discipline with respect to the other social sciences.
10. Understand key issues of social structure/stratification and individual/society relationships from a holistic perspective.
11. Apply knowledge of anthropological concepts to human concerns, drawing examples from geographically diverse settings.
12. Apply scientific, comparative and interpretative methods in the field of Anthropology.
13. Critically evaluate descriptive accounts of social phenomena in their physical setting.

Syllabus:

All of the information required for successful completion of this course is outlined in this syllabus. Students are expected to read it over and refer to it as needed. Please contact the instructor as soon as possible if any expectations or assignments are unclear. Any updates or revisions to the syllabus will be discussed in class. I will provide ample warning of any changes.

Readings:

Students are responsible for reading the materials assigned for each lecture, prior to attending class, including those from the textbook and from outside sources.

Grading and Evaluation:

Assignment	Points total	Percent of Grade
4 Unit Quizzes (on SchoolIn; 40 points each)	160 points	80%
Video Responses (10 points per Response)	40 points	20%
Total	200 points	100%



Grade Policy

Grade	Percent	GPA
A+	95-100	4.3
A	87-94	4.0
A-	82-87	3.7
B+	78-81	3.3
B	75-77	3.0
B-	71-74	2.7
C+	68-70	2.3
C	65-68	2.0
C-	61-64	1.7
D	50-60	1.0
E	49 or below	0
X	0	0; Not graded due to unexcused absences or other reasons

Assignments

1. **Quizzes-** I will administer a quiz at the end of each unit. These quizzes will be a way to check your learning of the material in the text and lecture. Each quiz will cover the material covered in class and in readings that week. Each quiz is worth 20% of your grade in the course. Exams will be administered online.
2. **Video Response-** Each week you will be shown a video as one of your lectures. The video will present information that is part of what is being discussed in class that week. The Videos are labelled "Video 1," "Video 2," etc. in the schedule. Your task is to write a one page typed, double-spaced response to the video. You may express agreement or disagreement with one or more of the points the speaker made in the video. OR you can relate the material in the video to something that is happening currently in the world or in your society today. OR you can present your own ideas about the topic discussed in the video. You may watch the video any time during the week the topic is discussed but you must send your response during that week (that is, by the Saturday EDST at the end of the week) to me attached to an email message. My email address is dbcarter@sy.edu . I will grade your response on a 0 (no response) to 10 (excellent response) scale. Video Response assignments are due by 23:59 Saturday of the Unit.
3. **Attendance-** This course is online so there is no in-person attendance.

CLASS POLICIES

Academic Honesty: The University and the faculty are committed to academic integrity in all its practices. Activities that violate academic integrity undermine the quality and diminish the value of educational achievement and are treated seriously. Cheating on papers, tests or other academic works is a violation of College rules. No student shall engage in behavior that, in the judgment of the instructor of the class, may be construed as cheating. This may include, but is not limited to, plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty such as acquisition without permission of tests or other academic materials and/or distribution of these materials and other academic work. Students who aid and abet as well as those who attempt such behavior will be treated similarly.



Attendance Policy: Because this course is online, there is no attendance policy. However, you are expected to listen to the online lectures, participate in the online discussions, and complete all assignments.

Missed/Late Assignments: Assignments are due on the date listed. Without prior approval from the instructor, no late assignments will be accepted.

Time Zone: The official time zone for this course is **EASTERN DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME** (New York, NY time). Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) is 4 hours ahead of EDST; China Standard Time is 12 hours ahead of EDST. So 09:00 EDST is 21:00 China Standard Time the same day; 21:00 EDST is 09:00 the following day (Thursday night in New York is Friday morning in Taipei and Beijing). So, if an assignment is due by 10 PM (22:00) EDST then it is due by 10:00 in Beijing/Taipei.

Reading Assignments & Lecture Schedule*

(NOTE: Each chapter or topic may have more than 2 lectures associated with it)

View ALL lectures in order

Course Schedule

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the schedule as she sees fit. This includes changing the order of topics, assigning additional readings, changing due dates, etc. I will make you aware of any such changes in a timely manner. Changes to due dates or the timing of course topics will be made only under exceptional circumstances.

Unit Reading Assignments and Lecture Videos

Course Schedule

UNIT 1: Asking Questions about Humanity & Culture (chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, & 6)

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| 1 | Anthropology: Asking Questions About Humanity & Culture | Chapter 1 & 2 |
| 2 | Anthropological Methods | Chapter 4 |
| 3 | Linguistic Anthropology | Chapter 5 |
| 4 | Globalization & Culture | Chapter 6 |
| 5 | VIDEO UNIT 1 | |
| 6 | Quiz 1 (Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, & 6 plus Unit 1 Lectures) | |

UNIT 2: Biological Anthropology and Evolution (Chapters 7, 8, 9, & 10)

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| 7 | Living Primates | Chapter 7 |
| 8 | Ancestral Humans | Chapter 8 |
| 9 | Human Biocultural Evolution | Chapter 9 |
| 10 | Contemporary Human Biodiversity | Chapter 10 |
| 11 | VIDEO UNIT 2 | |
| 12 | Quiz 2 (Chapters 7, 8, 9, & 10 plus Unit 2 Lectures) | |

UNIT 3: Biodiversity, Ecology, and the State (Chapters 12, 13, & 14)

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| 13 | Early Agriculture and the Neolithic Revolution | Chapter 12 |
| 14 | The Rise of Cities and States | Chapter 13 |
| 15 | The Decline of Cities and States | |
| 16 | Economics, Working, Sharing and Buying | Chapter 14 |
| 17 | Sustainability, Environment and Foodways | Chapter 15 |
| 18 | VIDEO UNIT 4 | |



19 Unit 4 Quiz (Chapters 12, 13, 14, 15 and Unit 3 lectures)

UNIT 4: Power and Social Institutions (Chapters 15, 16, 17, & 18)

20 Politics and Social Control

Chapter 16

21 Political Power

22 Kinship and Marriage

Chapter 17

23 Gender & Sexuality

24 Religion

Chapter 18

25 VIDEO UNIT 4

26 Unit 4 Quiz (Chapters 14, 15, 16, 17 & 18 and Unit 4 lectures)

- **NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change. All changes will be announced in class.**