



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE - FALL 2020

AN1010 (A2): Introductory Anthropology – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

INSTRUCTOR: Shawn Morton, PhD
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OFFICE HOURS: By appointment

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CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

This course studies mankind through primate and cultural evolution, symbolic systems, cultural theory and culture change.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: None

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

Kottak, Conrad (2019) *Anthropology: Appreciating Human Diversity*, 18th Ed. McGraw-Hill Higher Education.

FALL 2020 DELIVERY: Remote Delivery. This course is delivered remotely. There are no face-to-face or onsite requirements. Students must have a computer with a webcam and reliable internet connection. Technological support is available through helpdesk@gprc.ab.ca.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

To demonstrate that:

- Cultures are ways of life developed by human communities, essential to our survival. They must be approached with curiosity rather than judgment (ethnocentrism).
- All animals must communicate. Humans develop languages, all of which are capable of conveying all necessary messages, although they are mutually unintelligible.
- All animals must work to satisfy their needs. Human communities develop economic systems to distribute resources, labor and products.
- All animals deal with cooperation, competition, leadership and dominance. Humans deliberately develop political systems to allocate power.
- All animals require a social life, at least for the purposes of biological and social reproduction. Humans create communities and families, often elaborating gender roles to put a cultural stamp on biological traits.
- There are many ways of making sense of our position in time and in space. Religion and ideologies have been created to deal with these.
- Through the process of natural selection, populations in different environments have come to differ physically. Seldom can the physical variation be linked with intellectual, moral, and/or social characteristics.
- Humans are animals; we are primates, similar to and different from prosimians, monkeys and apes.

- Homo sapiens sapiens emerged as a result of intergenerational changes in gene frequencies, as can be seen in the comparison of skulls.
- The way we live now is not the way all humans have lived throughout time. All humans have left behind evidence of their lives, whether in discards or in monuments.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will be able to:

- Explain how the rooms in their homes are designated and defined by their culture.
- Identify and provide research examples of various branches of linguistic anthropology.
- Describe subsistence systems, their role in human socio-cultural evolution, and the relationships between them.
- Describe political systems and their relationship with subsistence systems.
- Describe marriage and family patterns and the practical needs they satisfy.
- Distinguish various forms of religion and ideology (e.g. science) and connect them to political and economic systems.
- Explain why the concept of biological race is not tenable, and social race is an invention.
- List differences and similarities between humans and other primates. Explain how physical characteristics differentiate primates from other mammals.
- Compare numerous primate and anthropoid skulls along a variety of dimensions. List the types of evidence used by paleoanthropologists to reach conclusions about human evolution.
- Distinguish between ceramic and lithic materials, identifying signs of construction, decoration and use. List the types of evidence used by archeologists to reach conclusions about material culture and people's lives.
- Define, use and distinguish a great deal of anthropological vocabulary, especially in multiple-choice question format.
- Recognize many inaccurate assumptions about human nature and human societies, often presented as alternatives in a multiple-choice or true/false question format.
- Read texts carefully, seeking answers to questions posed by the instructor.
- Write coherent answers to the same!

TRANSFERABILITY: UA, UC, UL, AU, AF, CU, CUC, KUC, GMU

***Warning:** Although we strive to make the transferability information in this document up-to-date and accurate, **the student has the final responsibility for ensuring the transferability of this course to Alberta Colleges and Universities.** Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at Alberta Transfer Guide at <http://transferalberta.alberta.ca/transfer-alberta-search/#/audienceTypeStep>

** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. **Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability.**

EVALUATIONS:

Assessment	Weight
8 reading quizzes, 2 points each, for 16 points total	8%
4 forums, 6 points each, for 24 points total	12%
4 assignments, 15 points each, for 60 points total	30%
Midterm exam for 40 points total	20%
Final exam for 60 points total	30%
Total = 200 points	100%
Note: All points are weighted equally for 200 points total.	
Extra credit for up to 10 points	5%

Reading Quizzes (8 reading quizzes at 2 points each for 16 points total)

You will be given 8 reading quizzes covering your syllabus and chapters in our textbook throughout the semester. Each quiz will consist of a small number of questions (multiple choice, matching, etc.) and are intended to encourage you to keep up with your readings. They are not worth a whole lot of points in the grand scheme of things, but could mean the difference between one letter grade and the next; don't let them slip past you! **Reading Quizzes are to be completed on our myClass page, and will open Mondays at 8 am of the week assigned and close Sundays at 11:59 pm (see due dates on schedule).**

Forums (4 forums at 6 points each for 24 points total)

Forums are intended to engage your critical thinking skills and get you interacting with your classmates (something we'll need to explicitly work on in these physically distanced COVID times). In order to complete this assignment, you must create a new post, providing your answer to the open-ended questions posed. You must also respond to/comment on *at least* one other post. Please try to keep posts below 250 words. This is your chance to answer freely with respect to the course material (try to restrict your responses to material from the text, lectures, etc.) and within the specific bounds of the question that you are answering. To receive full marks, your instructor does not have to agree with you, but you **MUST** back up your position with argumentation and facts. Single-sentence responses will not be sufficient for top marks. Rules of netiquette, as laid out below, apply. Abuse will not be tolerated and will result in a grade of 0 on the assessment. **Forums are to be completed on our myClass page, and will open Mondays at 8 am of the week assigned and close Sundays at 11:59 pm (see due dates on schedule).**

Assignments (4 assignments at 15 points each for 60 points total)

You will complete four minor assignments over the course of the semester. These assignments are intended to serve two primary purposes. First, they are intended to highlight the dynamic and developing possibilities within anthropological research and public dissemination. Second, they are intended to get you to engage critically and creatively with the materials that anthropologists produce (by writing short biographies, travelogues, etc.). While the requirements of these assignments vary significantly with the topics covered and resources available, they are each intended to give you an opportunity to explore the various sub-disciplines of anthropology (their methods and subjects) in a less structured context. These are supposed to be fun, so jump in and enjoy! **Assignments are to be completed on our myClass page, and will open Mondays at 8 am of the week assigned and close Sundays at 11:59 pm (see due dates on schedule). Don't worry, no prep work is required!**

Midterm Exam (40 points total)

You will write a single midterm exam in this class. This Exam will only directly cover the material preceding the exam date. The exam will be worth 40 points and consist of an essay question and response that will be provided in advance. **Your midterm is to be completed on our myClass page, and will open as scheduled on Monday at 8 am of the week assigned and close Sunday at 11:59 pm (see due date on schedule).**

Final Exam (60 points total)

You will have a scheduled final exam in this class, HOWEVER, your exam WILL NOT require you to be physically present at the college, and will follow the same format as your midterm exam. This Exam is NOT cumulative and will only directly cover the material covered since your midterm. This being said, as we will be invoking concepts that are foundational to the discipline of anthropology, it will build on the material covered throughout the course. Your final exam will be worth 60 points and consist of an essay question and response that will be provided in advance. **Your final is to be completed on our myClass page, and will open on the Monday (at 8 am) of the last week of scheduled classes. The exam is due and will close by 11:59 pm on the date scheduled by the registrar. Your instructor will let you know when this information is available.**

Note: I do NOT provide study guides. Significant quantities of research have served to demonstrate that it is not in a student's best interest to be provisioned with a study guide by the instructor. You may not like it, but the reality is that production of your own study guide is an important studying technique in its own rite. Like eating vegetables, this is for your own good. That being said, you are encouraged to ask questions in class and to approach me in office hours for guidance. Although this isn't a course where you need to memorize a lot of information, you do need to be familiar with what we've covered and where you can find it. Use the tables of objectives included in each module to structure your study guide.

Extra Credit (up to 10 points)

Extra credit is as stated, extra points above and beyond your regular class assignments. These points are somewhat easy to acquire, but in order to receive any point you must do exactly as asked. Opportunities for extra credit (worth 5 points each) will be announced throughout the semester.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	90-100	C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-89	C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84	C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79	D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76	D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72	F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE AND TIMELINE:

Week	Date	Topic(s)	Format	Reading(s)
1	Sep. 3	Introduction to Course	Zoom	Syllabus
Homework:		Reading Quiz 1 - Due Sunday, Sep. 6, 11:59 pm		
Module 1: What is Anthropology?				
2.1	Sep. 8	What is anthropology? What is a social science?	Zoom	Chapter 1
2.2	Sep. 10	What do anthropologists actually do?!	On Your Own	
Homework:		Reading Quiz 2 - Due Sunday, Sep. 13, 11:59 pm		
3.1	Sep. 15	What is cultura and why do we care?	Zoom	Chapter 2
3.2	Sep. 17	Culture, continued...	On Your Own	
Homework:		Reading Quiz 3 - Due Sunday, Sep. 20, 11:59 pm Forum 1 - Due Sunday, Sep. 20, 11:59 pm		
Module 2: Introduction to Biological Anthropology				
4.1	Sep. 22	What is biological anthropology? The ethics of studying us.	Zoom	Chapter 4 (spec. sections)
4.2	Sep. 24	Evolution.	On Your Own	Chapters 5 & 8
Homework:		Assignment 1 - Due Sunday, Sep. 27, 11:59 pm		
5.1	Sep. 29	Race as a biological concept. Species and sub-species.	Zoom	Chapter 6
5.2	Oct. 1	What is forensic anthropology?	On Your Own	
Homework:		Reading Quiz 4 - Due Sunday, Oct. 4, 11:59 pm Forum 2 - Due Sunday, Oct. 4, 11:59 pm		
Module 3: Introduction to Archaeological Anthropology				
6.1	Oct. 6	What is archaeological anthropology?	Zoom	Chapter 4 (spec. sections)
6.2	Oct. 8	The first modern humans and our spread around the world.	On Your Own	Chapters 9 & 10
Homework:		Assignment 2 - Due Sunday, Oct. 11, 11:59 pm		
7.1	Oct. 13	Fall Break - No Classes		
7.2	Oct. 15	Fall Break - No Classes		
8.1	Oct. 20	Humans as food producers.	Zoom	Chapter 11
8.2	Oct. 22	The first cities and states.	On Your Own	Chapter 12
Homework:		Reading Quiz 5 - Due Sunday, Oct. 25, 11:59 pm		
Midterm Exam - Due Sunday, Oct. 25, 11:59 pm				
Module 4: Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology				
9.1	Oct. 27	What is linguistic anthropology?	Zoom	Chapter 14
9.2	Oct. 29	What's the big deal about language?	On Your Own	
Homework:		Assignment 3 - Due Sunday, Nov. 1, 11:59 pm Forum 3 - Due Sunday, Nov. 1, 11:59 pm		
Module 5: Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology				
10.1	Nov. 3	What is socio-cultural anthropology?	Zoom	Chapter 13
10.2	Nov. 5	Ethnography.	On Your Own	
Homework:		Assignment 4 - Due Sunday, Nov. 8, 11:59 pm		
11.1	Nov. 10	Ethnicity and race as cultural features.	Zoom	Chapter 15
11.2	Nov. 12	Sex, sexuality, and gender.	On Your Own	Chapter 18
Homework:		Reading Quiz 6 - Due Sunday, Nov. 15, 11:59 pm Forum 4 - Due Sunday, Nov. 15, 11:59 pm		
Module 6: Topics in Anthropology				
12.1	Nov. 17	Making a living.	Zoom	Chapter 16
12.2	Nov. 19	Political systems.	On Your Own	Chapter 17
Homework:		Reading Quiz 7 - Due Sunday, Nov. 22, 11:59 pm		
13.1	Nov. 24	Family and marriage.	Zoom	Chapters 19 & 20
13.2	Nov. 26	Religion and arts.	On Your Own	Chapters 21 & 22
Homework:		Reading Quiz 8 - Due Sunday, Nov. 29, 11:59 pm		
Module 7: Why do we Care?				
14.1	Dec. 1	A troubled history.	Zoom	Chapter 23
14.2	Dec. 3	Anthropology in a globalizing world.	On Your Own	Chapter 24
15.1	Dec. 8	Wrap-up	Zoom	
Final Exam - Due Date TBD				

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Late Assignment/Make-up Policy: You are expected to follow the schedule as posted and **late assignments will not be accepted**, except with permission of the instructor. Contrary to a popular idiom, it is always better to ask for permission than forgiveness; if you know that you are going to miss a deadline, please let your instructor know in advance.

Attendance and Participation: Attendance will not be taken, and no part of your grade is directly tied to attendance/participation. You are paying good money for this class and committing a significant amount of time to it. In order to get the most for your money and effort, **attendance is strongly encouraged**.

Classroom Climate Expectations: In order to create and maintain a safe and productive learning environment in the classroom, standards of behaviours are expected as follows:

1. **Listen** attentively and **take notes**.
2. **Communicate** clearly and actively when asking questions or during discussions.
3. **Be respectful** when asking questions/discussing topics with everyone.
4. **Refrain** from excessive talking or use of technology for **NONACADEMIC PURPOSES**. You are supposed to be in class, so **BE IN CLASS**.
5. **Keep your mic muted** unless directly interacting with the class. Kids and pets are welcome, but please be mindful of disrupting your classmates.

If you choose to violate the above expectations, either once or repeatedly the following consequences will be enforced:

1. Verbal warning
2. Mandatory meeting after class/in office hours, or
3. Request to leave class immediately for that day, or
4. Dropping from the class roster (i.e. mandatory withdrawal from the class), or
5. More significant official action (only if repeated warnings and interventions and unsuccessful).

A Note on Netiquette: Some topics that we'll be covering in this course may be difficult/controversial for some people. Whether interacting with your classmates online during class time, or engaging in our forums, students are expected to be considerate and respectful. This does not mean that you need to agree with all of the views/opinions expressed, but note that there is a difference between being critical or engaging in a productive conversation, and being confrontational or abusive.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the section on Plagiarism and Cheating in the College policy titled Student Misconduct: Academic and Non-Academic at (<https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/fetch.php?ID=68>).

Instructors reserve the right to use electronic plagiarism detection services on written assignments.