

Introduction to Anthropology

ANT 1013.004

Fall 2014



Time: T-Th 8:30-9:45AM

Location: MH 2.01.24

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Office Hours: T-TH 10:00-11:30AM

COURSE DESCRIPTION

(From the catalogue) “The study of human culture, past and present; its origins, development, and contemporary change; and the exploration of human physical and cultural differences using the paradigm of adaptation.”

How do people in different places and times in history live their lives? What factors influence this diversity in humanity? How do these many different ways of living change the way you see your own life?

This course will introduce students to the methods, concepts, and theories of general anthropology, the multi-faceted study of what it means to be a human being. It will place special emphasis on the question of human diversity, or how people vary biologically, culturally, and linguistically across space and time. Students will have the opportunity to learn about the four anthropological subfields: physical or biological anthropology; archaeology; cultural anthropology; and linguistic anthropology. We will explore the place of anthropology in the humanities and the social sciences, and we will discuss the practical, professional, and political applications of anthropology in the larger world.

This course is part of UTSA's Core Curriculum, and it satisfies the requirement for Social and Behavioral Sciences.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of this course is to introduce students to the basic principles, methods, and analytical approaches of anthropology's four subfields. The course will present historical information about the development of anthropology, and it will examine current theories used to explain biological and cultural diversity and change. Specifically, this course seeks to promote:

Critical Thinking Skills. This course will promote critical evaluation of and inquiry into relationships between biology and culture. By engaging the fact of human diversity from ethnographic, archaeological, linguistic, and biological perspectives, students will develop the ability to analyze anthropological arguments and evaluate case studies by comparing, contrasting, and synthesizing important theoretical concepts, including "evolution," "adaptation," "complexity," "culture," "symbolism," and "relativism."

Communication Skills. Students will develop a variety of communication skills over the course of the semester. They will have the opportunity to diagram visually social and biological relationships and processes; to interpret this visual material and express their conclusions in a written analysis; and to present, debate, and evaluate their findings in discussions among individuals, small groups, and the class as a whole.

Empirical and Quantitative Skills. This course will promote the analysis of observable and numerical facts concerning the material and behavioral dimensions of human life and the evolutionary processes operating within human and nonhuman primate populations. Students will have firsthand opportunities to use empirical data to describe and interpret the archaeological record of their own everyday activities as

well as the generational gene frequency changes operating in a hypothetical primate population.

Social Responsibility. As the only discipline dedicated to understanding the full dimensions of human diversity, anthropology is uniquely positioned to develop the skills of intercultural competence that are necessary to negotiate regional, national, and global communities. The course will ask students to reflect on the ways in which biological and cultural difference factor into tension and cooperation at multiple scales. Portions of the course will focus especially on how the principles of linguistic and cultural relativism can help individuals produce informed responses to situations in which social diversity can contribute to social conflict.

This class will cover a variety of topics including culture, language, politics, economics, past societies, and our human origins. During this introduction to the broad discipline of anthropology, we will address such questions as:

How do people in different places and times in history live their lives?

What factors influence this diversity in humanity?

What is our place in nature?

How did we biologically develop into the species we are today?

How do the many different ways of living change the way you see your own life?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students' mastery of the objectives will be measured by the following outcomes:

Students will be able to demonstrate comprehension of evolutionary concepts as they apply to humans and nonhuman primate biological diversity. (*Critical Thinking Skill*)

Students will be able to analyze the ways in which culture determines differences in human social life. (*Critical Thinking Skill*)

Students will be able to diagram, analyze, and discuss social relationships between living human beings. (*Communication Skill*)

Students will be able to observe, describe, and analyze the creation of a material record of human activity using empirical observations and quantitative measurements and calculations. (*Empirical and Quantitative Skill*)

Students will develop intercultural competence using the principles of cultural and linguistic relativism. (*Social Responsibility Skill*)

REQUIRED MATERIALS

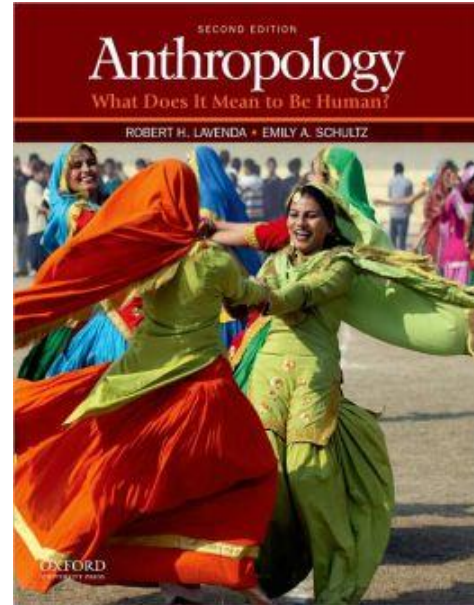
Clicker: You will need an iClicker 2 remote for daily quizzes as well as exams. You **MUST** use the iClicker 2 remote for your exams in order to earn credit. iClicker remotes are available at the UTSA bookstore and can be checked out for the semester from the UTSA library.

Textbook: The majority of the readings are found in the primary text, which is available in both print and ebook formats. Print versions are available at the UTSA bookstore, off-campus bookstores, and online at www.amazon.com and www.coursesmart.com. The ebook version is available at www.coursesmart.com.

Anthropology: What Does It Mean to Be Human?

Second Edition

By Robert H. Lavenda & Emily A. Schultz



COURSE PREREQUISITES

There are **NO** prerequisites for this course aside from an interest in learning more about the wide variety of ways in which humans exist or have existed.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

You are all expected to **take responsibility for your learning** in this course. This includes attending lectures, completing assigned readings, participating in small group and class discussions, turning in projects on time and keeping up to date on all information presented via BlackboardLearn. Lecture slides **will be posted** on BlackboardLearn **after** class meetings. You are encouraged to use these as study guides. There will be **NO MAKE-UP** opportunities for in-class activities except in the case of **documented, university approved** excuses. Therefore, class attendance is crucial for successful completion of the course. All of you are encouraged to visit me during my office hours for assistance.

LEARNING TEAM WORK: You will be assigned to small groups for in-class discussions and activities and will remain with the same group for each of the four course units. Group exercises will be turned in at the end of the activity period and will be graded. Dates for

Learning Team exercises will **not** be announced ahead of time. Each exercise will be worth 10 points and 10 exercises will be completed over the semester for a total of 100 points. All group members will receive the same grade for the group exercises. However, feedback will also be collected at the conclusion of each unit. You will be asked to assess the level and quality of participation of your fellow group members. Group feedback and personal observations by the instructor will be used to grade each student's participation and will count for 20 points towards your final grade.

PROJECTS: You are required to complete **two** projects during the semester. The projects are due **at the beginning of class on the day they are listed on the syllabus**. Late assignments will be penalized 10% for each 24 hour period after they are due. Details for each project option will be provided in class and via Blackboard.

VIDEOS: Throughout the semester, I will be showing videos that help clarify or expand on topics covered in class. The videos do not serve to fill empty time, but should instead be considered valuable learning material. Therefore, you will be asked to write short response papers worth 10 points each for a total of 40 points towards your final grade. All response papers are due at the beginning of the next class meeting after we watch the video.

QUIZZES: Daily reading quizzes will be given during the **first five minutes** of class and will assess your understanding of the readings assigned for that day. You will need your iClickers to complete the quizzes. As these quizzes are designed to provide immediate feedback, they will be taken as a class and will not be available after the first five minutes, so be sure to **arrive on time** for lectures. These quizzes will comprise 50 points towards your final grade.

EXAMS: Four exams will be given throughout the semester. The first three exams will consist of fifty multiple-choice, true/false, and matching questions and will be worth 100 points. The final exam **will** be cumulative. It will consist of 75 multiple-choice, true/false, and matching questions and will be worth 150 points. The exams will cover information included in **readings, lectures, videos and class discussions**. If time permits, we will have in-class review sessions during the class period prior to the exam. You are required use your iClicker 2 remote for all four exams. There will be **NO MAKE-UP EXAMS** except in the case of **documented, university approved** excuses.

COURSE UNITS

Unit One: Anthropological Foundations

In this unit, we will discuss the history of anthropology as a discipline and some of the key concepts within anthropological thinking. We will also establish a strong understanding of human variation throughout the world, both present and past. This unit will introduce important principles that will be needed throughout the course.

Unit Two: The Human Past

The second unit will begin with an introduction to our closest living relatives, the primates. We will discuss our place in nature and how we came to be the biological

species we are today. We will then look at the earliest societies and delve into the archaeological record to learn about people from the past.

Unit Three: Culture and Society

This unit will deal with foundational concepts in cultural anthropology: culture, language, and how we assign meaning. We will examine modern societies, including our own, and discuss how culture is created, maintained, and transmitted to others.

Unit Four: Current Topics in Anthropology

Our final unit will look more closely at specific areas of cultural anthropology, including the study of economics and politics in societies throughout the world. We will also look at ways in which anthropologists are contributing to current issues including globalization, climate change, and social inequality.

GRADING

Assessment	Points	Approximate percent of final grade
First Exam	100 points	13%
Second Exam	100 points	13%
Third Exam	100 points	13%
Final Exam	150 points	19%
In-Class Quizzes	75 points	10%
Sombrilla Project	50 points	6%
Kinship Project	50 points	6%
Learning Team Work	100 points	13%
Learning Team Participation	20 points	3%
Video Response Papers	100 points	5%
Total	785 points	100%

Final course grades will be assigned as follows:

A	719 and up	92-100%
A-	703-718	90-91%
B+	687-702	88-89%
B	640-686	82-87%
B-	625-639	80-81%
C+	609-624	78-79%
C	562-608	72-77%
C-	546-561	70-71%
D+	530-545	68-69%
D	483-529	62-67%
D-	471-482	60-61%
F	470 and below	<60%

Extra Credit: Extra credit questions may be added to the end of an exam; however, there are no stand-alone extra credit assignments.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

My classroom is a place where open-minded, independent thinking is encouraged. To facilitate this environment, all students are expected to act with respect and maturity towards their fellow students, the instructor, and any visiting speakers. I hold the following expectations for my students:

- 1) All cell phones, mp3 players, and other personal electronics must be **turned off before the start of class** and kept out of sight. If you are using a laptop, I ask that you use it **only for taking notes or completing in-class activities**.
- 2) To reduce in-class distractions, please **remain seated during lectures**. If you know you need to leave prior to the end of class, please speak to me before class begins.
- 3) Please save your personal discussions for after class and avoid interrupting classmates.
- 4) Arrive **on-time** for class and refrain from packing up your belongings before the lecture is finished. While it is reasonable to be late occasionally, habitual tardiness is not acceptable. If you have extenuating circumstances, please contact me.
- 5) Some of the material covered in class may be perceived as controversial. Please remain respectful of your classmates (and instructor) during discussions of such nature.

By following these guidelines, we will increase both learning and enjoyment.

ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE AND SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY

I encourage all of my students to seek out additional assistance if they are concerned about their academic performance (and even if they are not). I am always available to meet with students either during my office hours or by appointment. In addition, the university provides a number of services designed to help students excel academically. While I recognize that adjusting to college academics can be a challenging time, I do not tolerate any form of academic dishonesty in my class. I will not tolerate any attempts to manipulate grading opportunities or misappropriate credit for work done and will penalize any student violating the university policies on scholastic dishonesty. For more information regarding UTSA policies and services regarding disabilities, dishonesty, counseling and tutoring, plus the Roadrunner Creed, please refer to the [common information link](http://provost.utsa.edu/syllabus.asp) (provost.utsa.edu/syllabus.asp).

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

	Week	Date	Class Topic	Assignment Due	
Unit 1	1	Aug. 28	Introduction		
	2	Sept. 2	Anthropology	TEXT CH. 1	
		Sept. 4	Evolutionary Theory I	TEXT CH. 2	
	3	Sept. 9	Evolutionary Theory II	Blackboard Reading #1	
		Sept. 11	Human Variation	TEXT CH. 3	
	4	Sept. 16	Video	Blackboard Reading #2	
		Sept. 18	Review		
5	Sept. 23	Exam 1			
Unit 2		Sept. 25	Primatology	TEXT CH. 4	
	6	Sept. 30	Human Origins	TEXT CH. 5	
		Oct. 2	Human Past	TEXT CH. 6	
	7	Oct. 7	Video	Blackboard Reading #3	
		Oct. 9	Early Societies I	TEXT CH. 7	
	8	Oct. 14	Early Societies II	Blackboard Reading #4	
		Oct. 16	Exam 2	SOMBRILLA EXERCISE DUE!!!	
Unit 3	9	Oct. 21	Culture	TEXT CH. 8	
		Oct. 23	Language	TEXT CH. 9	
	10	Oct. 28	Video	Blackboard Reading #5	
		Oct. 30	Meaning	TEXT CH. 10	
	11	Nov. 4	"Kinship" Exercise	Blackboard Reading #6	
		Nov. 6	Exam 3	KINSHIP EXERCISE DUE!!!	
Unit 4	12	Nov. 11	Economics	TEXT CH. 11	
		Nov. 13	Politics	TEXT CH. 12	
	13	Nov. 18	Video	Blackboard Reading #7	
		Nov. 20	Human Relationships	TEXT CH. 13	
	14	Nov. 25	Social Inequality	TEXT CH. 14	
		Nov. 27	NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY		
	15	Dec. 2	Globalization	TEXT CH. 15	
		Dec. 4	Review		
	FINAL EXAM: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19 9:45AM-12:15PM				