DEPARTMENT Humanities and Social Sciences

COURSE OUTLINE - Fall 2025

AN1010(B2): Introductory Anthropology - 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR:	Matt Longstaffe	**PHONE:**	(780) 539-2710
OFFICE:	C402	**E-MAIL:**	mlongstaffe@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	W 12:30–15:00 or by appointment		

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

PREREQUISITE(S):
None

COREQUISITE(S):
None

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Kottack, Conrad P (2025) *Anthropology: Appreciating Human Diversity*, 2025 Release. McGraw-Hill Ryerson Ltd.

DELIVERY MODE(S): On-Campus

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Define anthropology and articulate what distinguishes anthropology from other fields that study human beings.
- Articulate the similarities and differences between the various sub-disciplines of anthropology.
- Apply critical thinking skills to access, evaluate, and interpret information to draw conclusions and shape arguments.

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- Demonstrate a scholarly mindset that is open to different perspectives, acknowledges the provisional nature of knowledge, and can identify the limits of research and understanding within the discipline of anthropology.
- Express ideas clearly and effectively in writing.
- Act with honesty and integrity to both complete academic work and conduct themselves in an academic environment.

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page http://ww.transferalberta.alberta.ca

** For courses with alpha (letter) grading, a 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, 4 points each, for 32 points total	16%
4 assignments, 27 points each, for 108 points total	54%
Final exam for 60 points total	30%
Total = 200 points	100%
Note: All points are weighted equally for 200 points total	

Reading Quizzes (8 quizzes total at 4 points each for 32 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! Easy marks! And, they'll help keep you on top of the course content! **Reading Quizzes are to be completed on our myClass page, 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 27 points each for 108 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

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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. Don't stress. These are supposed to be fun, so jump in and enjoy! **Assignments are to be completed on our myClass page, 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!

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 on campus and will follow the same format as your midterm exam. Your exam is a TAKE HOME. 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. I will let you know when this information is available.**

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

Grading Chart

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100	C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94	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

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COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Week	Date	Topic(s)	Reading(s)
Getting Started			
1.1	Sept 4	Introduction to the Course	Syllabus
Homework: Reading Quiz 1 – Due Sunday, Sept 7, 11:59 PM			
Module 1: What is Anthropology			
2.1	Sept 9	What is anthropology What is a social science?	Chapter 1
2.2	Sept 11	What do anthropologists do?!?	Chapter 2
Homework: Reading Quiz 2 – Due Sunday, Sept 14, 11:59 PM			
3.1	Sept 16	What is culture?	Chapter 2
Module 2: Introduction to Biological Anthropology			
3.2	Sept 18	What is biological anthropology?	Chapter 4
Homework: Reading Quiz 3 – Due Sunday, Sept 21, 11:59 PM			
4.1	Sept 23	The basics of evolution	Chapters 5 & 8
4.2	Sept 25	Race as a biological concept	Chapter 6
Homework: Assignment 1 – Due Sunday, Sept 28, 11:59 PM			
5.1	Sept 30	No Classes – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	
5.2	Oct 2	Forensic anthropology	Chapter 6
Homework: Reading Quiz 4 – Due Sunday, Oct 5, 11:59 PM			
Module 3: Introduction to Archaeological Anthropology			
6.1	Oct 7	What is archaeological anthropology	Chapters 9 & 10
6.2	Oct 9	The great human journey	Chapters 9 & 10
Homework: Assignment 2 – Due Sunday, Oct 12, 11:59 PM			
7.1	Oct 14	The agricultural revolution	Chapter 11
7.2	Oct 16	The urban revolution	Chapter 12
Homework: Reading Quiz 5 – Due Sunday, Oct 19, 11:59 PM			
Module 4: Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology			
8.1	Oct 21	What is linguistic anthropology?	Chapter 14
8.2	Oct 23	What's the big deal about language?	Chapter 14
Homework: Assignment 3 – Due Sunday Oct 26, 11:59 PM			
Module 5: Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology			
9.1	Oct 28	What is sociocultural anthropology?	Chapter 13
9.2	Oct 30	Ethnography	Chapter 13
Homework: Assignment 4 – Due Sunday, Nov 2, 11:59 PM			
10.1	Nov 4	Ethnicity and race as social and cultural concepts	Chapter 15

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Week	Date	Topic(s)	Reading(s)
10.2	Nov 6	Sex, sexuality, and gender	Chapter 18
Homework: Reading Quiz 6 – Due Sunday, Nov 9, 11:59 PM			
11.1	Nov 11	Reading Break – No Classes	
11.2	Nov 13	Reading Break – No Classes	
Module 6: Topics in Anthropology			
12.1	Nov 18	Economy	Chapter 16
12.2	Nov 20	Politics	Chapter 17
Homework: Reading Quiz 7 – Due Sunday, Nov 23, 11:59 PM			
13.1	Nov 25	Family and marriage	Chapters 19 & 20
13.2	Nov 27	Arts	Chapter 22
Homework: Reading Quiz 8 – Due Sunday Nov 30, 11:59 PM			
14.1	Dec 2	Religion	Chapter 21
Module 7: Why do we care?			
14.2	Dec 4	A troubled history	Chapter 23
15.1	Dec 9	Anthropology in a globalizing world	Chapter 24
15.2	Dec 11	Wrap-up	
Final Exam – 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 my permission.** Make note of the due dates (and as you see, there is a lot of flexibility to complete and submit the assignment, BEFORE the due date)

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. To get the most for your money and effort, **attendance is strongly encouraged**.

Classroom Climate Expectations: 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. This does not mean that you need to agree with all 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.
4. **Refrain** from excessive talking or use of technology for NONACADEMIC PURPOSES. You are supposed to be in class, so BE IN CLASS.

Use of Generative AI in Assignments and Exams: We all know that Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) can create pieces of writing and other creative outputs.

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These tools include ChatGPT, Claude, Microsoft Copilot, and so on. These tools are now with us, so it is important to learn how to use them responsibly. You may use AI tools to learn and practice concepts in this course but remember to use a critical eye to what it is telling you. However, you **may not** use AI to write your class assignments or exams for you. This course policy is designed to promote learning and development and help you reach the course learning outcomes. You're here to learn and learning how to communicate ideas through writing is one of the most important parts of being a student.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available at https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/polytechnic-leadership/policies-directory.

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: I'm here to help you! Ask me questions. Talk to me after class. Come to my office hours.

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