

DEPARTMENT Humanities and Social Sciences

COURSE OUTLINE - Fall 2026

AN1010(A2): 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:	Shawn Morton, PhD	PHONE:	(780) 539-2830
OFFICE:	L109	E-MAIL:	smorton@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	W 11:00-12:00 or by appointment		

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

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

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:

None

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

Kottak (2025) *Anthropology: Appreciating Human Diversity*, 2025 Release. McGraw-Hill.

DELIVERY MODE(S):

On-Campus

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- 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.

- 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

<https://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
Attendance, 1 point each, for 20 points total	10%
8 reading quizzes, 5 points each, for 40 points total	20%
4 assignments, 20 points each, for 80 points total	40%
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%

Attendance (1 point each, for 20 points total)

One key to successfully completing your course is regular attendance. To encourage you to attend regularly, part of your final grade is tied to attendance. There are 24 lecture periods this semester. To earn your full attendance points, you'll need to attend 20 of them. Points will be awarded at the end of each class period when you submit your single-sentence "take-home point."

Reading Quizzes (8 reading quizzes at 5 points each for 40 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, 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 20 points each for 80 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, 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 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.**

Note: I do NOT provide study guides. Extensive research demonstrates that it is not in a student's best interest to be provided with a study guide by the instructor. You may not like it, but creating your own study guide is an important study technique in its own right. Like eating vegetables, this is for your own good. 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 to find it.

Extra Credit (MAX. 10 points)

Extra credit is as stated, extra points above and beyond your regular class assignments. These points are somewhat easy to acquire, but to receive any point, you must do exactly as asked. Extra credit opportunities (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-**.

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

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Week	Date	Topic(s)	Reading(s)
Getting Started			
1	Sep. 2	Introduction to course	Syllabus
Homework: Reading Quiz 1 - Due Sunday, Sep. 6, 11:59 PM			
2.1	Sep. 7	Labour Day - No Classes	
Module 1: What is Anthropology?			
2.2	Sep. 9	What is anthropology? What is a social science?	Chapter 1
Homework: Reading Quiz 2 - Due Sunday, Sep. 13, 11:59 PM			
3.1	Sep. 14	What is culture? Wait! Is culture even REAL?	Chapter 2
3.2	Sep. 16	What do anthropologists do?!	Chapter 3
Homework: Reading Quiz 3 - Due Sunday, Sep. 22, 11:59 PM			
Module 2: Introduction to Biological Anthropology			
4.1	Sep. 21	What is biological anthropology?	Chapter 4
4.2	Sep. 23	The basics of evolution	Chapters 5 & 8
Homework: Assignment 1 - Due Sunday, Sep. 27, 11:59 PM			
5.1	Sep. 28	Race as a biological concept	Chapter 6
5.2	Sep. 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - No Classes	
6.1	Oct. 5	Forensic anthropology	
Homework: Reading Quiz 4 - Due Sunday, Oct. 6, 11:59 PM			
Module 3: Introduction to Archaeological Anthropology			
6.2	Oct. 7	What is archaeological anthropology?	Chapter 9
7.1	Oct. 12	Thanksgiving - No Classes	
7.2	Oct. 14	The great human journey	Chapter 10
Homework: Assignment 2 - Due Sunday, Oct. 18, 11:59 PM			
8.1	Oct. 19	The agricultural revolution	Chapter 11
8.2	Oct. 21	The urban revolution	Chapter 12
Homework: Reading Quiz 5 - Due Sunday, Oct. 25, 11:59 PM			
Module 4: Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology			
9.1	Oct. 26	What is linguistic anthropology?	Chapter 14
9.2	Oct. 28	What's the big deal about language?	
Homework: Assignment 3 - Due Sunday, Nov. 1, 11:59 PM			
Module 5: Introduction to Socio-Cultural Anthropology			
10.1	Nov. 2	What is socio-cultural anthropology?	Chapter 13
10.2	Nov. 4	Ethnography	
Homework: Assignment 4 - Due Sunday, Nov. 8, 11:59 PM			
11.1	Nov. 9	Reading Break - No Classes	
11.2	Nov. 11	Remembrance Day - No Classes	
12.1	Nov. 16	Ethnicity and race as social and cultural concepts	Chapter 15
12.2	Nov. 18	Sex, sexuality, and gender	Chapter 18
Homework: Reading Quiz 6 - Due Sunday, Nov. 22, 11:59 PM			
Module 6: Topics in Anthropology			
13.1	Nov. 23	Economy and politics	Chapters 16 & 17
13.2	Nov. 25	Family and marriage	Chapters 19 & 20
Homework: Reading Quiz 7 - Due Sunday, Nov. 29, 11:59 PM			
14.1	Nov. 30	Arts and religion	Chapters 21 & 22
Module 7: Why do we Care?			
14.2	Dec. 2	A troubled history	Chapter 23
Homework: Reading Quiz 8 - Due Sunday, Dec. 6, 11:59 PM			
15.1	Dec. 7	Anthropology in a globalizing world	Chapter 24
15.2	Dec. 9	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. 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 me know in advance.

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.

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

1. Verbal warning;
2. Meeting after class/in office hours, or;

Pursuing a report of non-academic misconduct under the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI): While you should develop a sense of how social scientists construct an argument, this is not a writing course. Using tools, including AI, to improve your prose is both allowed and appreciated. There is nothing wrong with using such tools to convey YOUR IDEAS more clearly. However, the use of Generative AI is strictly prohibited. If detected, it will result in an F grade on your assignment and an official note on your permanent record in accordance with NWP's Academic Misconduct policies.

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/administration/policies/index.html>

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Note that you should not take your performance in this course as an indication of how much I like or respect you. No, that will depend on whether you laugh at my jokes (that was a joke). It goes without saying that post-secondary education is a process. You'll figure out what works for you. I'm here to help. Also, looking for a little extra credit? Just send me an email with "AN1010 – Extra Credit" in the subject line and the phrase "Purple People Eater" as the body.