



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE - FALL 2019

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

INSTRUCTOR: Shawn Morton, PhD **PHONE:** 780-539-2847
OFFICE: C-402 **E-MAIL:** smorton@gprc.ab.ca
OFFICE HOURS: Mondays and Tuesdays, 1-2:15 p.m.

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.

Available on Amazon.ca in either paperback or Kindle versions.

DELIVERY MODE(S): Lecture and Discussion

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
5 reading quizzes for 25 points total	12.5%
2 media summaries for 40 points total	20%
2 video viewing assignments for 40 points total	20%
1 midterm exams for 35 points total	17.5%
Final Exam for 60 points	30%
Total	100%
Note: All points are weighted equally for 200 points total.	
Extra credit for up to 20 points	10%

RQ – Reading quizzes (5 reading quizzes at 5 points each for 25 points total)

You will be given 5 reading quizzes covering chapters in our textbook throughout the semester. Each quiz will consist of 5 multiple-choice questions. **Reading Quizzes are to be completed on our Moodle page, and will open Mondays at 8 am and close Sundays at 11:59 pm.**

MA – Media Assignments (2 media summaries at 20 points each for 40 points total)

Our understanding of the human world around us is continually improving. Every day, all over the world, anthropologists of all different stripes are exploring what it means to be us. Over the course of the semester you will be expected to write up two brief summaries on “tales of anthropological discovery” covered by the media. Further, I want you to tell me what **you think** about the discoveries. Are they well covered? What do you find interesting? What new questions does the story raise? What more do you want to know? Each assignment should be approximately 500 words; about 1 page single-spaced. **Ensure that you choose a story with sufficient detail to meet these guidelines.** You must cite your article in a format that allows me to locate it (i.e. author, title, webpage, link, etc.). You may use either traditional print or web pages. **Media Assignments are to be completed on our Moodle page, and will open Mondays at 8 am and close Sundays at 11:59 pm.**

VV – Video Viewings (2 video viewing assignments at 20 points each for 40 points total)

This semester you will complete two video viewings concerning important topics in our class. For these assignments, after reviewing the film, you will reflect on several associated

questions (provided). You are expected to write at minimum between 300-500 words (one page, single-spaced). These entries are meant for you to express your thoughts and ideas about topics we have covered in class. **I expect them to be thoughtful**. Be sure you use proper grammar and sentence structure. No point form. Do not simply “vomit words” onto the page, instead, invest energy in thinking about the question(s) asked, then thoroughly discuss how you understood the concept(s). **Video Viewings are to be completed on our Moodle page, and will open Mondays at 8 am and close Sundays at 11:59 pm.**

Midterm Exam (35 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 35 points and consist of an essay question and response that will be provided in advance. **Your Midterm is to be completed on our Moodle page, and will open as scheduled on Monday at 8 am and close Sunday at 11:59 pm unless otherwise indicated by the instructor. Make-up exams may be given at the instructor’s discretion.**

Final Exam (60 points total)

You will have a scheduled final exam in this class. This Exam is NOT cumulative and will only directly cover the material covered since your midterm. However, 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 30 points and consist of an essay question and response that will be provided in advance. **Your Final Exam is to be completed in advance and a hard copy turned in with your name clearly indicated on the day of our scheduled final. Make-up exams may be given at the instructor’s discretion.**

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 come by my office hours for guidance.

Extra Credit (up to 20 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. One sure fire way to receive extra credit is by **coming to my office hours for a chat** (worth 5 points; one time only). Other opportunities 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/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Week	Date	Topic(s)	Reading(s)
Unit 1: What is Anthropology?			
1	Sep. 5	Introduction to the Course	Course Syllabus
2	Sep. 10	What is Anthropology? What is a Social Science?	Chapter 1
2	Sep. 12	Culture	Chapter 2
Homework, due Sunday 11:59 pm: RQ1			
3	Sep. 17	Applying Anthropology	Chapter 3
Unit 2: Biological Anthropology and Archaeology			
3	Sep. 19	Doing Archaeology and Biological Anthropology	Chapter 4
4	Sep. 24	Evolution and Genetics	Chapter 5
4	Sep. 26	Human Variation and Adaptation	Chapter 6
Homework, due Sunday 11:59 pm: VV1			
5	Oct. 1	The Primates	Chapter 7
5	Oct. 3	Early Hominins	Chapter 8
Homework, due Sunday 11:59 pm: RQ2			
6	Oct. 8	The Genus Homo	Chapter 9
6	Oct. 10	The Origin and Spread of Modern Humans	Chapter 10
Homework, due Sunday 11:59 pm: MA1			
7	Oct. 15	Midterm	
7	Oct. 17	The First Farmers	Chapter 11
Homework, due Sunday 11:59 pm: Midterm			
8	Oct. 22	The First Cities and States	Chapter 12
Unit 3: Linguistic Anthropology			
8	Oct. 24	Method and Theory in Socio-Cultural Anthropology and Linguistics	Chapter 13
Homework, due Sunday 11:59 pm: RQ3			
9	Oct. 29	Language and Communication	Chapter 14
Unit 4: Socio-Cultural Anthropology			
9	Oct. 31	Ethnicity and Race	Chapter 15
Homework, due Sunday 11:59 pm: RQ4			
10	Nov. 5	Making a Living	Chapter 16
10	Nov. 7	Political Systems	Chapter 17
Homework, due Sunday 11:59 pm: VV2			
11	Nov. 12	Fall Break - No Classes	
11	Nov. 14	Gender	Chapter 18
12	Nov. 19	Families, Kinship, and Descent	Chapter 19
12	Nov. 21	Marriage	Chapter 20
Homework, due Sunday 11:59 pm: MA2			
13	Nov. 26	Religion	Chapter 21
13	Nov. 28	Arts, Media, and Sports	Chapter 22
Homework, due Sunday 11:59 pm: RQ5			
Unit 5: Anthropology in a Changing World			
14	Dec. 3	The World System, Colonialism, Inequality, and Anthropology's Role	Chapters 23 and 24
14	Dec. 5	Wrap-up	
Check Online for Final Exam Schedule			

RQ = Reading Quiz; MA = Media Assignment; VV = Video Viewing

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Late Assignment/Make-up Policy: **Late assignments will not be accepted**, except under very unusual circumstances or because of institutional excuses.

Make-up exams will be given only in very unusual circumstances or because of institutional excuses. If you know that you will miss an exam because of illness you should contact me before the exam; if this is not possible, you must do so within 24 hours. If you miss an exam because of a medical reason, you will need to provide an institutional excuse.

Attendance and Participation: **Attendance is highly 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** (see note below for more information on technology in the classroom)
5. Exit and re-enter class **quietly** if you need to take an important call or use the restroom
6. **Notify** the instructor if you need to leave class early or may arrive late

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

1. Verbal warning
2. Loss of participation points and documentation via NAU GPS, or
3. Mandatory meeting after class/in office hours, or
4. Request to leave class immediately for that day, or
5. Dropping from the class roster (i.e. mandatory withdrawal from the class), or
6. Mandatory meeting at the Office of Student Life if in violation of University Code of Conduct (only if repeated warnings and interventions and unsuccessful)

Note on technology use in the classroom: While I am aware of the usefulness of typing notes on a computer during lecture, **I will not tolerate students checking email, chatting, watching videos, or surfing the internet if this activity distracts your fellow students.** If I discover that you are distracting your fellows **you will first be warned of the behavior, second you will be asked to close your computer, and third you will be asked to leave class for the day.** In addition to the computer policy, if you are texting or if you answer your phone in class **you will first be warned of the behavior, and second you will be asked to leave.** If you need to take a call, please leave class quietly to do so. It should go without saying, but if you have headphones on/in or near your ears during class you will be asked to remove them and be held accountable to the above consequences. Anyone expecting an emergency or life-altering phone call should let me know at the beginning of class.

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. **Instructors also reserve the right to ban the use of any form of electronics (cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, tablets, scanning pens, electronic dictionaries, etc.) during class and during exams.**

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/>