

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
~~ARTS, EDUCATION & COMMERCE~~
DEPARTMENT OF ~~HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES~~

INTRODUCTORY ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTHROPOLOGY 1010

Fall 1994
Time: TR 1100-1220
Office: C215

Instructor: Laurie Nock

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Office Hours: Mondays 10:00-11:00 and Tuesdays 10:00-11:00 or by appointment. Drop-ins welcome.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Anthropology seeks to understand all aspects of what it means to be a human being. In the attempt to define and comprehend the human experience, anthropologists constantly seek differences and similarities: through time, between species, between social groups. This course will look into various branches of anthropology that approach the study of humanity from different perspectives. We will study physical anthropology (including human evolution and primatology), anthropological linguistics, archeology, and socio-cultural anthropology. Our immediate goal is to learn of the theoretical questions posed by anthropologists, the methods by which they seek answers, the insights they can provide and the practical implications of their findings. Our ultimate aim is to learn new ways of examining and analyzing our own experience.

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

There will be a mid-term test and a final examination. Each will consist of essay questions, and will be based on all course materials: lectures, class discussions, readings and/or films. One week before each test/exam, students will be given a list of study questions from which test questions will be chosen by the instructor. There will be two questions on the mid-term test, and three on the final, each worth 10% of the final course mark.

In order to help students focus their reading, "Reading reflections" will be due on THURSDAY of each week. For each set of readings (see "Schedule of topics. . ."), select one concept or idea that you have experienced or in which you are interested. Demonstrate your understanding of the concept with good examples and with proper use of anthropological terminology. These assignments may be up to two pages, double-spaced (500 words) in length. You must submit at least 9 of these (each worth 3% of the final course grade), each on a different topic, but may submit up to 14. Only the best ~~ten~~ ⁹ marks will be counted towards your course grade.

Students will also write one or two essays, up to ten pages in

length. (The best of the two essay marks will contribute 20% to the final course grade.) On the basis of class lectures, readings and their own thinking, they will discuss topics they consider worthy of further investigation. (For further detail, see description of assignments.) The mid-term test, final examination and essays will be marked on the stanine system only (i.e. out of 9). Reading Reflections will be marked out of 3, to be averaged as a stanine mark.

Assignments must be handed in to the instructor in class on the day they are due. Excessive grammatical or spelling errors may result in the loss of points. Decisions regarding make-up tests will be at the instructor's discretion.

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Reading Reflections	30	Throughout term
Essay #1	20*	November 3
Essay #2	20*	December 8
Mid-term Test	20	October 20
Final Examination	30	Registrar-Scheduled

* The best of these two marks will be used to calculate the final grade.

Grading System

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Interpretation</u>
9	
8	Excellent
7	
6	Good
5	
4	Pass
3	
2	
1	Fail

REQUIRED TEXTS

Daniel R. Gross, DISCOVERING ANTHROPOLOGY. Mayfield Publishing Company, 1992.

Phillip Whitten and David E.K. Hunter, eds. ANTHROPOLOGY: CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVES. HarperCollins College Publishers, 1993.

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SCHEDULE
of Topics, Readings, Assignments and Tests

Readings are in Daniel R. Gross, DISCOVERING ANTHROPOLOGY (DA) or in Phillip Whitten and David E.K. Hunter, eds., ANTHROPOLOGY: CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVES (CP).

Week 1 INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY AND CULTURE

- DA 1. Studying people: the work of anthropology
- DA 3. Cultural meanings
- CP 1. Hunter and Whitten, Finding anthropology
- CP 2. Sass, Anthropology's native problems

Week 2 PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY: GENETICS AND RACE

- DA 5. Evolution and genetics
- DA 8. Human variation
- CP 3. Gould, Darwinism defined: the difference between fact and theory
- CP 13. Rensberger, Racial odyssey
- CP 14. Jacquard, 'Race': myths under the microscope

Week 3 PRIMATOLOGY AND HUMAN NATURE

- DA 6. Primates and early hominids
- DA 9. The elements of social life
- CP 9. Smuts, What are friends for?
- CP 10. Rensberger, On becoming human
- CP 11. Mulder, Progress in human sociobiology
- CP 12. Lancaster and Whitten, Sharing in human evolution

Week 4 HUMAN EVOLUTION

- DA 7. The rise of the Genus Homo
- CP 4. Whitten and Nickels, Our forebears' forebears
- CP 5. Diamond, The great leap forward
- CP 7. Foley, The search for early man
- CP 8. Cronk, Designed for another time...

Week 5 ARCHAEOLOGY

- CP 50. Huyghe, No bone unturned
- CP 15. Renfrew, What's new in archaeology?
- CP 16. Monastersky, Fingerprints in the sand
- CP 17. Patrusky, The first Americans
- CP 18. Heiser, The origin of agriculture
- CP 19. Katz and Maytag, Brewing an ancient beer
- CP 20. Pfeiffer, How were cities invented?
- CP 21. Wright, Rise of civilizations

Week 6 LINGUISTIC ANTHROPOLOGY

- DA 4. Language
- CP 22. Cavalli-Sforza, Genes, peoples and languages
- CP 23. Rudolph, Women's talk
- CP 24. Thayer, Close encounters
- CP 25. Frisbie, Koko: 'Fine animal gorilla'

Week 7 MIDTERM TEST

Week 7-8 ECONOMIC SYSTEMS

- DA 10. The foraging life
- DA 11. Ecology and exchange
- DA 12. Intensification and technology
- CP 33. Hunter, Subsistence strategies and the organization of social life
- CP 36. Johnson, In search of the affluent society

Week 9 ESSAY DUE

Weeks 9-10 POLITICAL SYSTEMS

- DA 15. Following the leader
- DA 16. Warfare, violence, and law
- DA 17. The rise of the state
- DA 18. Social inequality
- DA 19. Development and underdevelopment
- CP 35. Harris, Life without chiefs
- CP 46. Howells, Requiem for a lost people
- CP 47. Maybury-Lewis, Societies on the brink
- CP 48. Cowley, The great disease migration
- CP 50. Chagnon, The beginning of Western acculturation

Week 11-12 KINSHIP AND GENDER

- DA 13. Sex, gender and sexuality
- DA 14. Marriage, family and kinship
- CP 30. McFee and Hunter, Marriage
- CP 31. Chagnon, Fission in an Amazonian tribe
- CP 32. Kendall, The marriage of Yongsu's mother
- CP 39. Friedl, Society and sex roles
- CP 40. Estioki-Griffin, Daughters of the forest
- CP 41. Lindholm and Lindholm, Life behind the veil

Week 13 IDEOLOGICAL SYSTEMS

- DA 22. Religion
- CP 42. Worsley, Cargo cults
- CP 43. Nash, Devils, witches and sudden death
- CP 44. Gerrard, The serpent-handling religions of West Virginia
- CP 45. Del Guercio, The secrets of Haiti's living dead

WEEK 14 ESSAY DUE

December FINAL EXAMINATION - Registrar-scheduled

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ESSAYS

Value and Due Dates:

Essay #1: 20%, November 3.

Essay #3: 20%, December 8.

The best of the two marks obtained on these essays will be used to calculate the final course grade. At least one paper must be submitted.

The purpose of these short essays (not more than ten, not less than five pages, double-spaced; i.e. less than 2500 words) is to relate and apply concepts presented in the course to yourself: your life, your community, your experience, your understanding.

Select an idea or issue mentioned in our readings, class discussions, or films. State it in your own words, and explain its significance to you, as well as its significance to anthropology. Using examples to support your argument, you may then pursue your discussion in one (or more) of a variety of ways, such as:

- a) explain why you are disturbed by or why you disagree with a certain point of view; criticize it, if appropriate;
- b) explain why you agree with a point of view, and how you can apply it;
- c) pose a question, describe the kind of research you might carry out to answer it, and the results you might expect to find;
- d) analyze an issue of concern to you, or an experience you or others have undergone;
- e) etc.

Some pointers:

- Be sure to make the connection between your own experience or interest and anthropology. Make sure you use (and spell) anthropological concepts and terms correctly. You may well wish to do some library research.
- Citations do not only accompany verbatim quotes; also use them when summarizing the ideas or descriptions of others.
- Include a bibliography! This is often the only way to ensure you are actually connecting your topic to anthropology; the text will almost certainly form part of it.
- Organization is important! Outline your paper (whether before or after writing it) to ensure ideas follow logically and that you do not have serious contradictions.

- Pay attention to grammar and spelling! (Ask what my pet peeve is.)
- It is quite permissible (even encouraged!) to use your own experience as evidence, and to use "I" and "my".
- Your opinion is not at issue here; your conclusions are. Avoid using "I think" and especially "I believe". Your statements (conclusions) should follow logically from the evidence you provide.
- Number your pages!

Above all, if in doubt, talk to me!

Examples of topics students have used in the past:

Anti-Semitism	Culture and the Black athlete
Prejudice against Natives	Leaving a religious community
What will be left of us in 200 years?	
Adolescents - our culture's view	Rural women
Women's work and cultural change	Secretary subculture
Marriage in different societies	Rites of passage
Ethnomusicology	Dance
Ethnomedicine	Inuit survival practices Aztecs
Ancient Greece	Medicine men