

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE  
DEPARTMENT OF ARTS, EDUCATION AND COMMERCE  
INTRODUCTORY ANTHROPOLOGY  
ANTHROPOLOGY 1010

Fall 1995	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. In all cases, standard citation procedures (a bibliography including author and page numbers) are expected. These assignments may be up to two pages, double-spaced (500 words) in length. You must submit at least 9 of these (each worth approximately 3% of the final course grade), each on a different topic, but may submit up to 14. Only the best nine marks will be counted towards your course grade.

Students will also write one or two essays, approximately ten pages (2500 words) in length. The best of the two essay marks will contribute 25% 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	25	Throughout term
Essay #1	25*	November 9
Essay #2	25*	December 7
Mid-term Test	20	October 26
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).

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|----------|---|
| Week 1-2 | INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY AND CULTURE          |
| DA 1.    | Studying people: the work of anthropology         |
| DA 3.    | Cultural meanings                                 |
| CP 1.    | Hunter and Whitten, Finding anthropology          |
| Week 3   | PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY: GENETICS AND RACE          |
| DA 5.    | Evolution and genetics                            |
| DA 8.    | Human variation                                   |
| CP 13.   | Rensberger, Racial odyssey                        |
| CP 14.   | Jacquard, 'Race': myths under the microscope      |
| Week 4   | 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 5   | 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 6   | 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 7   | MIDTERM TEST                                      |

Week 8	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 9-10	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 10	ESSAY DUE
Weeks 11-12	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 13-14	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	ESSAY DUE
	FINAL EXAMINATION - Registrar-scheduled

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ESSAYS

Value and Due Dates:

Essay #1: 20%, November 9.

Essay #3: 20%, December 7.

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. Library research is recommended.
- 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