

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF ARTS, EDUCATION AND COMMERCE
INTRODUCTORY ANTHROPOLOGY
ANTHROPOLOGY 1010, FALL 1999

Instructor: Dr. Laurie Nock

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-2:00 p.m., Wednesdays 10:30-11:30 a.m. 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), archeology, anthropological linguistics, 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 two principal kinds of assignments which will determine course grades: Reading Reflections and responses to Take-Home questions posed by the instructor. (For a description of Reading Reflections, see below.) Students will submit at least four of each, at a rate of not more than one a week, by 3 p.m. on Fridays. An extra one of either may be submitted one week after last class. Each will be marked out of 9 and will be worth 10% of the final course grade. If more than the required number of assignments is submitted, the lowest marks will be dropped from calculation of the course mark. Excessive grammatical or spelling errors may result in the loss of points. The Writing Centre is there to help you!

Twenty percent of the course grade will be based on in-class assignments throughout the term.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Harris, Marvin (1997). Culture, People, Nature: An Introduction to General Anthropology. New York: Longman.

Chodkiewicz, Jean-Luc (Ed) (1995). Peoples of the Past and Present. Toronto: Harcourt Brace & Co.

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READING REFLECTIONS

Reading Reflections are to assist students to focus their reading on topics to be covered in class. From the set of readings listed with each topic outline, select concepts or ideas that you have experienced or in which you are interested. Relate and apply these to your life, your community, your experience, your concerns, and/or your understanding. Demonstrate your understanding of the concepts with good examples and with proper use of anthropological terminology. Standard citation procedures are expected. Reading Reflections should be double-spaced and approximately five pages (1250 words) in length.

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.
- Your opinion is not at issue here; your conclusions are. Avoid using "I think" and especially "I believe". Beware of "should"! Your statements (conclusions) should follow logically from the evidence you provide. Seek to understand rather than to judge.
- Citations do not only accompany verbatim quotes; also use them when summarizing the ideas or descriptions of others.
- Include a list of references! 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".
- Number your pages!
- Pay attention to notes and comments on your work. Their purpose is to help you improve your writing in form, expression and content--and also allow the instructor to communicate with you! If you need clarification, or can't read my writing--

Above all, if in doubt, see me!

REFERENCES

It's not as difficult as it seems!

If you use a direct quote from an author, your source must be acknowledged. The quotation must be exact!

- Example: "English, which has terms for many special vehicles--cart, stretcher, auto, sled, snowmobile--lacks a general term for wheeled vehicles. Yet this does not prevent communication about wheeled vehicles as distinguished from sleds and helicopters when the need arises" (Harris, 1997, p. 110).

If you paraphrase an author or use ideas which are not your own, your source must still be acknowledged.

- Example: To maintain support for their actions, politicians commonly conceal the horror of war by manipulating language (Macdonald, 1995, p.185).

In referring to an author whose work is cited in a text you are using, refer to the latter, not to the original source.

- Example: When the speech of some social groups is labeled substandard, it is usually for political reasons (Gal, Woolard and Schieffelin as paraphrased in Harris, 1997, p.111).

List of References

Macdonald, Sally (1995). Armed situation impacts severely, linguistics-wise: war is hell on plain speaking. In Jean-Luc Chodkiewicz (Ed.), Peoples of the Past and Present: Readings in Anthropology (pp. 185-186). Toronto: Harcourt Brace.

Harris, Marvin (1997). Culture, People, Nature: An Introduction to General Anthropology. New York: Longman.

Saletan, W. (1996, June). The dark side: What you need to know about Bob Dole. Mother Jones [Online].
<http://www.mojones.com/MOTHERJONES/JF96/dole/dole.html>

These go in alphabetical order according to the (first) author's surname. Anthology articles (and journal articles) are attributed to the author/s of the article, not the editors of the volume. The year of publication is the year of the anthology, not the original year of publication of the article. Underline titles of books or journals. Consult an APA formal style guide, if you have doubts.