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

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:00-11:00 and Thursdays 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), 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 pop quizzes to be held throughout the term.

### REQUIRED TEXTS

Raymond Scupin and Christopher R. DeCorse, ANTHROPOLOGY: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice Hall, Inc., 1995.

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

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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". 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: Scupin and DeCorse (1995) state that "The IQ test ranks people according to their performance of various cognitive tasks, especially those that relate to scholastic or academic problem solving" (125).
- Example: Friendships among non-human primates appear to be common. "Virtually all baboons made friends. . ." (Smuts 1993:55).

If you paraphrase an author or use ideas which are not your own, even without a quote, your source must be acknowledged.

- Example: IQ tests cannot tell us whether a person will be a successful salesman (Scupin and Decorse 1995:125).
- Example: Most of these friendships appear to be among adults of the same gender (Smuts 1993:55).

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: Howard Gardner has determined there are several kinds of intelligence: social, athletic, musical and spatial, for example (Scupin and Decorse 1995:125).

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Scupin, Raymond and Decorse, Christopher R..

1995 ANTHROPOLOGY: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice Hall, Inc., 1995.

Smuts, Barbara

1993 What are friends for? In Phillip Whitten and David E.K. Hunter, Eds., ANTHROPOLOGY: CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVES, 54-58. New York: HarperCollins.

These go in alphabetical order according to the (first) author's surname. Anthology 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.

I hope this helps! Consult a formal style guide, if you have doubts.

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ANTHROPOLOGY 1010: INTRODUCTORY ANTHROPOLOGY  
SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

GP = ANTHROPOLOGY: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

CP = ANTHROPOLOGY: CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVES

**Weeks 1-2 INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY AND CULTURE**

**READINGS**

- GP 1. Introduction to Anthropology
- GP 10. Culture
- CP 1. Hunter and Whitten, Finding anthropology

**Week 3-4 COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE**

**READINGS**

- GP 12. 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 5-6 ECONOMIC SYSTEMS**

**READINGS**

- GP 15. Band societies
- GP 16. Tribes
- GP 17. Chiefdoms
- GP 18. Agricultural Societies
- GP 19. Industrial States
- GP 20. Global Industrialism and the Fourth World
- CP 33. Hunter, Subsistence strategies and the organization of social life
- CP 36. Johnson, In search of the affluent society

**Weeks 6-7 POLITICAL STRUCTURE**

**READINGS**

- GP 15-20
- 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 8-9 MARRIAGE, THE FAMILY AND KINSHIP

READINGS

GP 15-20

CP 30. McFee and Hunter, Marriage

Week 9 GENDER

READINGS

GP 15-20

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 10 PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY: GENETICS AND RACE

READINGS

GP 2. Evolution

GP 6. Human variation

CP 13. Rensberger, Racial odyssey

CP 14. Jacquard, 'Race': myths under the microscope

Week 11 PRIMATOLOGY AND HUMAN NATURE

READINGS

GP 4. The Primates

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 12 HUMAN EVOLUTION

READINGS

GP 5. Hominid evolution

GP 7. Paleolithic cultures

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 13    ARCHAEOLOGY

READINGS

- GP 3.        The record of the past
- GP 8.        The origins of domestication and settled life
- GP 9.        The origins of the state and complex society
- CP 53.      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.      Helser, 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