

Ligotran
B.

1989-90

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
INTRODUCTORY ANTHROPOLOGY 201
FALL COURSE OUTLINE

INSTRUCTOR: Rebecca Murray
PHONE NO: Home: 354-2926 Office: 539-2830
CLASS HOURS: Wednesday evening, 6:30-9:30, unless notified
otherwise
OFFICE HOURS: After regular class or by appointment,
Portable C-5
REQUIRED TEXT: Anthropology, Carol R. Ember and Melvin Ember
5th ed., Prentice-Hall, 1988.

Additional Reserve Reading and Handouts.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The discipline of Anthropology may be succinctly defined as the scientific study of the human species and of its variations through time and space. It focuses on the systematic and distributional (time, space) investigation of human groups in terms of their biological and behavioural characteristics. The purpose of anthropological research is to obtain generalizations and conclusions which may have practical consequences and are valid for all mankind, regardless of differences in physical characteristics, languages, customs or beliefs. Because of this vast scope for research, anthropology is commonly divided into four sub-disciplines:

- (a) biological or physical anthropology - the study of biological variations among present and past human groups, their relationship with other animal species, especially other primates (apes, monkeys, prosimians), and their origin and evolution.
- (b) archaeology and culture history - the reconstruction of past societies and interpretation of socio-cultural development, primarily from material remains of past human activities.
- (c) socio-cultural anthropology or ethnology - the study of social life, customs, beliefs, subsistence within and between human groups as they can be observed at present or in recent times.
- (d) anthropological linguistics - the study of the origins and development of human language and symbolism.

The purpose of this course is to provide a holistic, interdisciplinary approach to Anthropology.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

As an introduction to the vast field of Anthropology this course attempts to broaden students' understanding and appreciation of human cultural diversity. While introducing Anthropology through a broad overview, it is hoped that this course will stimulate students to:

- (a) understand how culture shapes the way humans feel, behave, and perceive the world
- (b) acquire a repertoire of terms, methods, and theories used in Anthropology
- (c) acquire a more objective understanding of their own culture, society, and lives
- (d) appreciate the cultural diversity and range of cultural values that exist in society
- (e) discover practical applications of Anthropology
- (f) read and analyze with a critical perspective
- (g) explore interests further through individual study

<u>DATE</u>	<u>WEEK</u>	<u>ASSIGNED READING</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
Sept. 13	1	Chapter 1	What is Anthropology? Introduction, goals, methods
Sept. 20	2	Chapters 2, 7	Evolutionary theory and human variation
Sept. 27	3	Readings on Reserve in LRC- Fagan, <u>People of the Earth</u> , Chap. 1	Geological chronology, dating, archaeology and field methods
Oct. 4	4	Chapters 1, 2, 7 and readings, Chapters 3, 4	TEST #1 Primates: Extinct and Contemporary
Oct. 11	5	Chapter 5	Hominid evolution, Australopithecus

Oct. 18	6	Chapter 6	<u>Homo sapiens</u>
Oct. 25	7	Chapters 8, 9	Food production, urban and state societies
Nov. 1	8	Chapters 3-6, 8, 9 Chapters 11, 12	TEST #2 Cultural Theory, Methods and field research
Nov. 8	9	Chapters 10, 13	Culture and Language
Nov. 15	10	Chapters 14, 15	Economic organization, production distribution and consumption
Nov. 22	11	Chapters 10-15 Chapters 18, 20	TEST #3 Social Organization, kinship, marriage
Nov. 29	12	Chapters 16, 21	Political organization, social stratification
Dec. 6	13	Chapters 22, 23	Religion, art and symbolism
Dec. 13	14	Chapters 25, 26	Culture change, applied anthropology
Dec. 20	15	Chapters 16, 18, 20-23, 25, 26 and summary of term	TEST #4

Students should do readings prior to class to enable them to contribute and gain more from in-class discussion.

STUDENT EVALUATION:

Test #1	October 4	20%
Test #2	November 1	20%
Test #3	November 22	20%
Test #4	December 20	40%

GRADING SYSTEM:

9	90-100%	Excellent
8	80- 89%	Very Good
7	72- 79%	Good
6	65- 71%	Fairly Good
5	58- 64%	Fair
4	50- 57%	Pass
3	49 and lower	See you next year!

Tests will emphasize material from both class and readings. Consequently, any student who wishes to learn and do well in this course should make every effort to attend all lectures and complete all readings. Each test will include reading and lecture materials covered up until the date of the test. Test #4 will synthesize term work. When marks are borderline, attendance and class participation will be taken into consideration.