

ANTHROPOLOGY 1: INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY

Class meetings: Sinclair auditorium, Tu/Th 9:20-10:35AM

Instructor: Bruce Whitehouse (brw208), Price Hall (2nd fl.), room 16D; 758-4821

Teaching assistants: Lauren Fuhry (lef304), Trent Fenner (whf208)

Themes and Goals

Why do human beings exist in so many different types of societies, cultures, and environments? This is *the* fundamental question of anthropology—how to explain human diversity. This course provides students with the opportunity to explore the discipline of anthropology and to learn some of its insights into the condition of being human. Who are we as a species, where do we come from, and where are we going? As with all scholarly endeavors, in anthropology you'll find that what matters most is asking the right questions.

In the course of this semester, students will strive to:

- Rethink some of their basic conceptions and paradigms about the human condition;
- Find the limits of their existing mental frameworks about humanity; and
- Develop new, better frameworks using scientific reasoning and evidence.

Throughout the semester, the instructor's goals are to:

- Stimulate students' intellect;
- Change how students think, act, and feel about core questions and issues (see below);
- Push students to “unlearn” received (i.e. conventional but inaccurate) wisdom about humanity and its place in the world;
- Highlight the novel, paradoxical, and incongruous aspects of humanity;
- Reveal our own ignorance about the human condition and emphasize its mysteries; and
- Treat students and all their ideas with respect and consideration.

Core questions for the course:

- What does it mean to be human?
- What are the origins of the human species, and how is it different from other primate species?
- What kind of common humanity do human beings all share?
- In what ways do humans differ from each other culturally?
- What IS culture, and how can we account for the fact of cultural difference?
- What methods do anthropologists use to find answers to the questions above, what reasoning do they employ, and what challenges do they encounter?
- How can anthropology serve as a tool for addressing real-world problems?

You could choose to pursue these same goals and questions through alternative channels (other courses, travel, life experience). But to pursue them in the context of this course, the instructor expects you to adhere to certain guidelines, set out in the Policies section below.

ANTH 1 Course Policies

Assignments and Evaluation: For every hour of class time, budget two hours of time to work on the assignments. This means you can expect to devote at least six hours every week to reading the textbook (Kottak's *Window on Humanity*, 3rd edition) and other assigned texts, writing exams and essays. This amount may vary somewhat from week to week.

1. **Readings:** Students should complete all assigned readings on time and be prepared to discuss them or answer questions about them during class meetings. Coming to class is no substitute for doing the readings, and vice-versa: while there will be some overlap between the texts and lectures, there will be minimal repetition.
2. **Exams (40% of course grade):** Two midterms (each worth 10%) and one final (worth 20%) will all be take-home essays, which students must upload to the web. Details will be posted to the site.
3. **Essays (30% of course grade):** Students will compose two short (3-4 pp.) essays in response to assigned ethnographies and upload them to the web; see link and assignment guidelines on CourseSite.
4. **Participation (30% of course grade):** Students must attend class meetings regularly, and the instructor will assess their participation through interactive Clicker exercises in every meeting. Please be courteous to your fellow students and your instructor by not reading, sending text messages, web surfing, checking e-mail or using cell phones in class. Note that:
 - *Students are allowed THREE absences during the semester with no questions asked. More than three absences can affect a student's participation score. Additional absences may be excused only with documentation from Health Services, the Dean of Students or Athletics.*
 - *Clicker participation is the only way the instructor will verify attendance. If a student is in class but doesn't take part in the Clicker exercise for any reason (e.g. dead battery, forgot Clicker), that day counts as an absence.*

Communication with the Instructor: Where important matters are concerned, I invite all students to get in touch electronically or in person. If you drop by unannounced, you may find that I'm away from my desk, so please e-mail me to make an appointment. I try to reply to e-mails within 24 hours, but I cannot promise any replies in the 24 hours preceding exams and essay due dates. Please DO NOT e-mail me about absences from class, book availability, or questions for which answers are available in the syllabus or on the course website.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting accommodations, please contact both me *and* the Office of Academic Support Services, University Center room 212 (or call 610-758-4152) as early as possible in the semester. You must have documentation from the Academic Support Services office before accommodations can be granted. For more information, visit <http://www.lehigh.edu/~inacsup/disabilities/faq.shtml#students>.

On Academic Integrity: **Plagiarism** is copying the work of others, and that includes cutting and pasting from Web sources without properly citing them. For all assignments and exams you must write in your own words or use quotation marks and citations. **Cheating** is using means other than your own efforts on tests and papers. Both are forbidden by University policy (see your student Handbook). Confirmed instances of plagiarism or cheating will result in an F for the assignment at least and possibly for the entire course. So don't risk it. Effective time management and willingness to ask questions when you are unsure about an assignment or the material reduce the temptation to take the easy way out. Visit <http://www.lehigh.edu/academicintegrity> to learn more. *THIS IS NO JOKE –I have busted students for plagiarizing assignments in the past and will not hesitate to do so again if the situation arises.*

ANTH 1 Readings & Assignment Schedule

Required texts (not including occasional *short* readings posted to CourseSite):

- Knauft, Bruce. 2010. *The Gebusi* (2nd edition). ISBN 978-0-07-340537-7
- Kottak, Conrad P. 2008. *Window on Humanity* (3rd edition). ISBN 978-0-07-340527-8
- Lee, Richard B. 2003. *The Dobe Ju/'hoansi* (3rd edition). ISBN 978-0-15-506333-4
- Xiang, Biao. 2005. *Global 'Body Shopping'*. ISBN 0-691-11852-3

DATE	THEME	ASSIGNMENT
Tues. 1/19	Introduction: Why anthropology?	n/a
Th. 1/21	What do anthropologists do & how?	Kottak chapters 1 & 2
Tues. 1/26	Evolution & early primates	Kottak chapters 3 & 4
Th. 1/28	Hominins	Kottak chapter 5; *Johanson & Wong 2009
Tues. 2/2	Early humans	Kottak chapter 6; *Marks 2002
Th. 2/4	The Neolithic Revolution	Kottak chapter 7; *Diamond 1987
Tues. 2/9	The rise (and fall) of civilizations	Kottak chapter 8; Lee chapters 1 & 2
Th. 2/11	Subsistence & ecology 1st midterm (take-home) due	Kottak chapter 11; Lee chapters 3 & 4
Tues. 2/16	Culture and language	Kottak chapters 9 & 10, *NYT 2010
Th. 2/18	Kinship	Kottak chapter 13; Lee chapter 5
Tues. 2/23	Gender, marriage & sexuality	Kottak chapter 14; Lee chapter 6
Th. 2/25	Political systems	Kottak chapter 12; Lee chapters 7 & 8
Tues. 3/2	Religion & ritual	Kottak chapter 15; Lee chapter 9
Th. 3/4	The world system 2nd midterm (take-home) due	Kottak chapter 16; Lee chapter 10
~ SPRING BREAK ~		
Tues. 3/16	Cultural survival: The Ju/'hoansi	Lee chapters 11, 12 & 13
Th. 3/18	Ethnicity and race	Kottak chapter 17
Tues. 3/23	Social change & cultural survival 1st essay due	Kottak chapter 19, Knauft Intro & chapter 1
Th. 3/25	Case study: The Gebusi	Knauft chapters 2-3
Tues. 3/30	The Gebusi, continued	Knauft chapters 4-7
Th. 4/1	The Gebusi, continued	Knauft chapters 8-9
Tues. 4/6	The Gebusi, conclusion	Knauft rest of book
Th. 4/8	What is globalization? 2nd essay due	*Inda & Rosaldo 2008
Tues. 4/13	Global commodities	Xiang Intro & chapters 1-2
Th. 4/15	Global commodities, continued	Xiang chapter 3
Tues. 4/20	Nations & nationalism	Xiang chapters 4 & 5
Th. 4/22	Transnationalism	Xiang chapter 6; *Lister 2003
Tues. 4/27	Global ruptures & connections	Xiang chapter 7 & Appendix Essay
Th. 4/29	The end(s) of anthropology	*Richardson 1975

* Readings following an asterisk are available in PDF format on CourseSite

Final exams (take-home) must be uploaded by Thursday, May 6 at 10:00AM