

INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY (SOCA 105)
SPRING 2007
WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

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(When using email, please indicate that you are in SOCA 105 in the subject line of the email.)

Lectures: Wednesday 5:00-7:50 pm 208 Clark Hall

Office Hours: T-TH 10:00-11:30 am and by appointment

Course Description and Objectives:

Anthropology is the study of human biological and cultural variation across time and place.

Anthropology is considered to be a social science, but the discipline is very broad, so that it includes traditional scientific topics as well as topics usually studied in the humanities. While the core concept within anthropology is “culture,” anthropologists study a large number of concepts, including the place of humans in nature, the origins of the human species, cultural change, cultural diversity, and the nature of language.

This course is designed to broadly survey the discipline of anthropology, emphasizing major subfields, methods, theories, and issues. The course is not designed to make students into experts in anthropology, but rather to provide an introduction to the discipline and to explore the anthropological perspective on the human condition. It is designed to provoke student’s reflection on his or hers’ own culture and his or her own place the world.

The specific goals of the course are

- To survey the broad discipline of anthropology, including its holistic nature and its perspective on humankind’s place in the world;
- To introduce the concepts of culture and cultural diversity and to apply them to the study of humanity;
- To identify the major sub-disciplines of anthropology and discuss their major concepts, data, methods, and theory.

At the conclusion of this course, I expect students to be able to (learning outcomes):

- 1) Identify each of the four traditional subfields of anthropology;
- 2) Summarize each subfield’s core method, data, and theoretical questions;
- 3) Explain how each subfield is interested in our world;
- 4) Apply the anthropological concept of culture, the patterns of culture (both present and past) to contemporary questions of globalization and cultural diversity.

Required Textbooks:

Scupin, Raymond, and Christopher R. DeCorse. 2004. *Anthropology: A Global Perspective*, 5th edition. Pearson/Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle Rive, NJ. ISBN: 0-13-111470-0

Fagan, Brian M., editor. 2005. *Atlas of Anthropology*. Dorling Kindersley/Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ. ISBN: 0-13-191879-6.

These may also be purchased as a bundled package from the bookstore, ISBN: 0131635905

Required Supplies:

- Five (5) new scantron sheets (FORM NO. 882-E or 882-ES): **you must have a new, clean scantron and a pencil for each exam.**
- A number of blank sheets of notebook or plain paper.

Grading:

This is a very broad course encompassing a variety of components. Not every course component will necessarily match each student's interests and strengths. Therefore, there are many different opportunities for students to indicate their engagement and knowledge in this class. Your final grade will be based on a combination of exams, in-class assignments, and attendance, as follows:

Exams	5 x 90 points=	450	(83%)
In-class Assignments	7 x 10 points=	70	(13%)
Attendance	10 points=	10	(2%)
<u>Group Grade</u>	<u>10 points=</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>(2%)</u>
Total		540 points	(100%)

Examinations: Each examination will consist of a combination of multiple-choice and true false questions. The questions for each exam will be based on material from both readings and lectures (including all discussions, films, and exercises). Each exam is worth 90 points (45 questions, each question is worth 2 points). **Each student is required to bring a new, clean scantron to each exam.**

Examination policies: Basic examination policies follow; other policies may be added as necessary.

- Once the first exam has been completed and turned in by a student, no new exams will be passed out to latecomers.
- No student will be allowed to leave the room and return once the exam is passed out and allowed to return. Once you leave the room you are considered to have finished the exam.
- All personal effects must be stowed below or behind your desk.
- Hats must be turned backwards or taken off during exams.

Make-up examination policy: Students absent from regularly scheduled examinations **because of authorized University activities** will have the opportunity to take them at an alternate time.

Documentation for make-up examinations is required. Such make-up exams will be of comparable difficulty to the original examination. These make-up examinations will be held on Fridays from 2:30 to 4:30 pm in the Division of Sociology and Anthropology (see the sign by the elevators on the third floor of Knapp Hall or inquire in 307 Knapp Hall for exact location). In order to have a make-up examination available to a student, **the instructor must be notified of the need for a make-up in advance of the exam or within 48 hours of missing the exam.** You should take your make-up exam within one week of your missed exam (e.g., the following Friday). (In order that final grades may be submitted in a timely fashion, any make-up examinations for the final examination **must be completed within 48 hours of the regularly scheduled exam** at the convenience of the instructor and at a location of the instructor's choosing.) You must show your Student ID and sign in to take the make-up exam. Bring a scantron. Failure to take the make-up examination in accordance with these guidelines will result in a 0 score for that exam.

In-Class Assignments: A number of the meetings scheduled in this course will involve hands-on activities and/or group activities. Such in-class assignments will be due at the conclusion of the activity or at the end of class. Each assignment will be evaluated as follows:

10 points = Full, complete exercise with correct information;

7 points = Incomplete exercise with poor information;
0 points = Inappropriate product, turned in late or nothing turned in.

Please note that assignments cannot be “made up” and **no late assignments will be accepted for points.** Only students in attendance for the assignment will receive credit for the assignment. The top seven (7) assignments will be used for your final grade (70 point maximum). An additional two assignments may be used as extra credit toward your final grade (20 point maximum). This course will have more than 9 total in-class assignments; in other words, students may safely miss one or two in-class assignments without losing any points.

Attendance and class participation: Students are expected to attend every class and are responsible for all class assignments, lectures, notes, films, and exams whether they are in class or not. Anthropology is a discipline that requires evaluative thinking, not simply rote memorization; therefore the instructor presumes students who attend class are learning more than those students who do not. Attendance will be taken at the start or end of every class. Six or fewer absences from class will result in the addition of 10 points to a student’s score. More absences will result in the loss of all attendance points. Tardiness is disruptive to your classmates and to your own learning process and each tardy will count as ½ of an absence.

Group Grade: In-class assignments and attendance will be done within groups. These groups are assigned and will be constant throughout the semester. At the end of the semester, each group member will be graded by and have the opportunity to grade their fellow group members on a scale of 1 to 10. Each student will receive an average score out of 10 as their “group grade.” Students will evaluate one another on attendance consistency, participation consistency, positive group contributions, and general preparedness.

Extra Credit: Two additional in-class assignments, up to 20 additional points, may be added to your point total. Each exam will also have one extra question, worth two points, for a total of 46 questions per exam (this policy effectively spots every person taking the in-class exam and the authorized University absence make-up exam two points per exam).

Challenging Assigned Grades: All assigned grades on student work may be challenged. The challenge must be written (preferably typed) and made **within** one week of the return of the assignment to the class as a whole. The challenge must include: the question or issue, the graded answer, your answer, and a persuasive argument as to why you believe your answer is correct. (Please note that stating you are two points away from the grade you desire is not a persuasive argument!). Please note that the reexamination of graded materials may result in either a higher or lower grade.

Final Grades: The following scale will be used to determine final grades:

A (90% - 100%) =	486-540 points
B (80% - 89%) =	432-485 points
C (70% - 79%) =	378-431 points
D (60% - 69%) =	324-378 points
F (59% and below) =	323- points and below

Final grades are assigned by earned point total and not by percentages. This scale will not be “curved.” However, the instructor reserves the right to throw out or amend individual exam questions according to both objective knowledge expectations and overall class comprehension.

Withdrawals: The student, not the instructor, is solely responsible to initiate and complete a withdrawal from this course. The instructor will not provide a withdrawal for non-attendance. You will receive the grade earned, which may be an F.

Social Justice Statement:

“West Virginia University is committed to social justice. I concur with that commitment and expect to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and nondiscrimination. Our university does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color or national origin. Any suggestions as to how to further such a positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration.

If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with Disability Services. (293-6700)”

General Expectations:

- **Instructor Responsibilities:** Just as students have dominant learning styles, so too instructors have dominant teaching styles. My dominant style is lecturing. I recognize, however, that not all students learn best in a lecture format. Therefore, I have amended my teaching practice to incorporate other activities into this course, such as group activities, large and small group discussions, videos, games, and brief response papers. It is my intention to create a welcoming learning community within this class.

- **Student Responsibilities:** Good learning is not the sole responsibility of the instructor. Indeed, as the instructor, I can teach you but I cannot “learn you.” You must do your own learning. Students are therefore expected to participate in their own learning as part of their personal educational journey. The following list forms a minimum expectation for students as you actively engage this course. Undoubtedly all of you will surpass this list:
 - Consistent and regular class attendance;
 - Prompt completion of readings and other assignments;
 - Seeking to create a learning environment by respectfully asking questions of the instructor when the student is confused by or disagrees with the course material;
 - Seeking to create a mutual learning environment by knowing one’s fellow classmates and demonstrating respect to one another in and out of the classroom;
 - Setting personal educational goals for this class and adjusting personal learning style to the instructor’s teaching style.

Additional items may be added to this as need arises and as we develop our learning community within this class.

- **Academic Integrity:** Each student is expected to submit work that is original and solely the product of the student or the group of students given the assignment. Plagiarism, cheating, falsification of data, and other forms of academic misconduct will not be tolerated.

- **Seeking Assistance with class:** Often students find unexpected events take precedence over planned priorities, such as school. If you find yourself struggling in the class or struggling to balance your education with other activities, I might be able to help. Please feel free to contact me if you feel I might be able to help you. This is especially true if you find yourself missing class due to extended illness or other prolonged situations.

- **Classroom Decorum:** An enjoyable learning experience is our collective responsibility. Some general guidelines:
 - **Absolutely NO beepers, cell phones, or other similar electronic or mechanical devices are to be heard or used during class.** They are a distraction to the instructor and to the other students in the class. Electronic devices may not be used during exams.
 - Occasionally students need or desire to use tape recorders or touch-typed notes for their own study purposes: therefore **tape recorders and computers will be allowed only on a case-by-case basis. Prior permission is required** and if their use becomes disruptive (or I find you are using your computer for purposes other than note-taking), permission will be revoked.
 - Tardiness and early departures from class are disruptive to the class as a whole and are not expected. Should an unavoidable situation arise, notify the instructor **PRIOR** to the start of class (e.g. call ahead or indicate to the instructor that an early departure is needed before class begins). Chronic tardiness can result in the loss of attendance points.
 - This class is built on lectures, large group discussion, small group discussion, and activities. For everyone to have the opportunity to learn, it is necessary for students to demonstrate appropriate respect when others are making a point by allowing them to complete their thoughts before discussing your ideas. Interruptions and unsanctioned small group discussions (e.g. whispering) are not acceptable in a scholarly context.
 - You may not sell your notes.

Obviously, this is not an exhaustive list. We may decide on additional items as our semester progresses.

Additional Information:

Important information for students regarding West Virginia University's policies and procedures concerning academic discipline, academic integrity, the student code of conduct, and disciplinary measure instructors can take is located in your Student Handbook. I urge you to familiarize yourself with this information.

Instructor's absence or college closure:

In the unforeseen event of the instructor's absence or the cancellation of classes by West Virginia University, the class schedule may be amended to accommodate all necessary course material. This may include the pushing back of assignments to the next class period, such as reading assignments and papers. However, exams and quizzes may still be held in the case of instructor absence. All changes will be announced in class and via email. Do not assume that an assignment has been cancelled or pushed back until a change has actually been announced.

Lecture and Reading Schedule:

This schedule is tentative and may be amended according to our needs in keeping with the goals of this course. You should come to class prepared, having already read the assignment for that day. Please note that “S/D” refers to the *chapter* in the Scupin & DeCorse textbook; “F” refers to the *pages* in the Fagan atlas.

NOTE: CLASS RESUMES EACH WEEK AFTER AN EXAM, EXCEPT FOR THE FINAL!

Date	Topic (1st half/2nd half of period)	Assignment
10-Jan	Introduction Anthropology Overview	S/D 1
17-Jan	Physical Anthropology Physical Anthropology	S/D 3; F 4-5 S/D 4; F 6-9
24-Jan	Physical Anthropology Physical Anthropology	S/D 5; F10-13 S/D 6; F 60-63
31-Jan	Exam #1 Archaeology	S/D1 Review
7-Feb	Archaeology Archaeology	S/D 2 S/D 7; F14-19
14-Feb	Archaeology Archaeology	S/D 8; F 20-23 S/D 9; F 24-31, 46-47, 50-53
21-Feb	Exam #2 Cultural Anthropology	S/D 1 Review
28-Feb	Cultural Anthropology Cultural Anthropology	S/D 10, 14(321-327); F 38-39, 42-43 S/D 13
7-Mar	Cultural Anthropology Cultural Anthropology	S/D 11 S/D 23
14-Mar	Exam #3 Patterns of Culture	S/D 14(327-347); F 32-35, 44-45
21-Mar	Patterns of Culture Patterns of Culture	S/D 15 S/D 16
28-Mar	Spring Break Spring Break	
4-Apr	Patterns of Culture Patterns of Culture	S/D 17 S/D 18
11-Apr	Exam #4 Linguistics	S/D Review 1 & 12
18-Apr	Globalization Globalization	S/D 20 S/D 24 & 25; F 54-59
25-Apr	Exam #5 (Final Exam)	