

Anthropology 1113, Section 002, Fall 2009
MWF 10:30 – 11:20 AM

General Anthropology
131 George Lynn Cross

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Introduction: This course provides an introduction to the basic four fields of anthropology: biological anthropology, archaeology, linguistics, and cultural anthropology. In this course you will learn about anthropological perspectives on human origins, modern and ancient diversity, and the cultural and biological bases of human behavior, language, and thought. Particular emphasis is placed on our evolution, both biological and cultural, and on the explanatory power of evolutionary theory.

Texts:

- *Applying Anthropology: An Introductory Reader* (9th ed.), edited by Aaron Podolefsky, Peter Brown, Scott Lacy (you can use earlier editions, but note that some readings may be missing and you'll have to track them down)
- *In The Shadow of Man*, by Jane Goodall (any edition is acceptable)
- *The Forest People*, by Colin Turnbull (any edition is acceptable)

Course Requirements:

1) 3 exams (100 points each)	300 pts
2) 2 out-of-class writing assignments (40 points each)	80 pts
3) 12 in-class assignments (5 points each)	60 pts
4) 1 online quiz on academic misconduct	10 pts
<hr/> Total	450 pts

1) The exams are closed-note, closed-book, and are not cumulative. They will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. The lectures and material covered by each exam are indicated in the schedule below. The final exam is simply another exam; it is not cumulative.

Please take note of the exam dates, and plan your trips and workload accordingly. Do not expect to be given a make-up exam because you decided to take a trip home in the middle of the semester! Make-up exams will be given only when (a) there are exceptional circumstances preventing you from taking the exam on the scheduled day (e.g., a serious illness, death of a family member), (b) you can provide written proof of the exceptional circumstances (e.g., a note from a physician), and (c) you notify me of the situation prior to the time of the exam. Outside of these circumstances, you will receive a zero for a missed exam. Make-up exams are not granted for dental appointments, etc.

2) The out-of-class writing assignments are to be sole-authored, that is, written by you and you alone. They will be based on your readings of the Goodall and Turnbull books. The first paper is due on October 12, and the second on November 23. They can be handed in early if that is more convenient for you. Further details will be given later, well in advance of the due dates.

3) The in-class assignments are essentially an indirect measure of attendance. Each assignment is worth five points. Often they will consist of a short write-up following a discussion of that week's readings. In-class

assignments cannot be made up if missed, except for officially excused absences. Although 12 in-class assignments will be graded, 13 will be taken up. In other words, one of the in-class assignments will be dropped from your grade. Thus everybody can miss one without penalty.

4) The online quiz on academic misconduct is simply a short quiz, available on Desire2Learn, that verifies that you are informed about academic misconduct, cheating, etc. You can retake the test until you get a perfect score.

Note: There will be no extra credit. There is simply credit. People who come to class regularly, study for the exams, and turn in their papers on time generally do well. People who routinely skip class or do not study for the exams tend to do poorly. The choice is up to you.

Other Requirements and Expectations:

- 1) Log in to Desire2Learn (D2L, <http://learn.ou.edu>) as soon as possible, and familiarize yourself with the site. You can always obtain a copy of this syllabus on D2L. Announcements, class notes, etc., will be posted on the site, and you are expected to check D2L regularly.
- 2) You should read all assigned material **before** class meets. There is a substantial reading load for this course, and if you fall behind it will entail a large amount of work to catch up. The readings will form the basis of the class discussions and in-class assignments; additionally, each exam will contain questions based on material covered only in the readings.
- 3) You are expected to come to class and participate in class discussions. Attendance is graded indirectly, through the in-class assignments. Class participation is not explicitly graded, but it is expected that you will contribute to the discussions to the best of your ability. Lecture materials and videos presented during class time will form an important component of the exams; missing this material will disadvantage you. *Also, if class attendance is low I will stop posting lecture materials on D2L.*
- 4) You are encouraged to take notes in class. Reduced versions of the lecture notes used in class will be made available on Desire2Learn (usually within 24 hours after class). Based on experience from previous semesters, students who rely solely on the overheads rather than taking notes in class receive lower grades on exams.
- 5) Please act respectfully and courteously toward the rest of the class, including the instructor. This means not reading newspapers during class, not talking on your cell phone (cell phones and pagers should be turned off during class), not engaging in conversations with your classmates, and so forth. **PLEASE DO NOT TEXT IN CLASS!** I reserve the option of deducting points for persistent disrespectful behavior. If need be, I will confiscate cell phones and return them at the end of class.
- 6) Academic misconduct—cheating and plagiarism—will be treated as a serious offense. Cheating includes the use of notes or other materials during exams and discussion of exam questions with other students during the exam period. Plagiarism includes the presentation of the work or ideas of others as your own. You are expected to know and understand university policy regarding academic misconduct (see <http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity>). Academic misconduct may result in severe penalties, including a zero on the assignment in question, as well as further sanctions from the provost such as censure, suspension, or expulsion.
- 7) All students in this class are expected to sign the Honor Pledge on exams and the out-of-class writing assignments. The Honor Pledge reads: *“On my honor, I affirm that I have neither given nor received inappropriate aid in the completion of this exercise.”* Please write or type the pledge, and sign it, for every assignment you turn in. Any assignment turned in without the signed pledge will not be accepted or graded. More information on the Honor Pledge is available at <http://www.ou.edu/honorcouncil/FAQ.html>.
- 8) The University of Oklahoma is committed to providing reasonable accommodation for all students with disabilities. Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities. Students with disabilities must be registered with the Office of Disability Services prior to receiving accommodations in this course. The Office of Disability Services is located in Goddard Health Center,

Suite 166, phone 405/325-3852 or TDD only 405/325-4173. Students whose first language is not English should discuss any concerns or needs with me as soon as possible.

- 9) Students who need to miss a class because of a religious holiday, a university-sponsored activity (e.g., a scholarly competition, fine arts performances, an academic field trip) or a legally required activity (e.g., emergency military service, jury duty), should contact me in advance regarding their absence from class.
- 10) If you prefer to use a non-OU address for your e-mail: please either check your OU address regularly, or set your OU address to autoforward mail to your preferred address, so that you can receive important announcements and last-minute information.

Schedule and Readings

Note: *PBL* refers to chapters from the Podolefsky, Brown and Lacy reader (9th edition)

Aug 24, 26, 28: What is Anthropology?

- Miner, H. 1956. "Body ritual among the Nacirema." *PBL 25*
- Goodall: Ch's 1 – 3

Aug 31, Sep 02: Understanding the past

- Gould, D. 2005. "Identifying victims after a disaster." *PBL 11*
- Goodall: Ch's 4 – 6

Sep 04, 09, 11: Genetics & evolution

- Root-Bernstein, R. and D. McEachron. 1982. "The evolution/creation controversy." *PBL 1*
- Freed, BZ. "Re-reading Root-Bernstein and McEachron in Cobb County, Georgia." *PBL 2*
- Goodall: Ch's 7 – 9
- **No class on Sep 07 (Labor Day)**

Sep 14, 16, 18: Primates

- Smuts, B. 1987. "What are friends for?" *PBL 4*
- Goodall: Ch's 10 – 12

Sep 21, 23, 25: Hominid evolution

- Wilford, JN. "The human family tree has become a bush with many branches." *PBL 3*
- Goodall: Ch's 13 – 16

Sep 28: Exam #1

- Covers all material from Aug 24 – Sep 25

Sep 30, Oct 02, 05: Neanderthals and *Homo*

- Zimmer, C. 2003. "Great mysteries of human evolution." *PBL 6*
- Goodall: Ch's 17 – 21

Oct 07: The origins of food production

- Diamond, J. 1987. "The worst mistake in the history of the human race." *PBL 13*
- Turnbull: Ch 1

Oct 09: The peopling of the New World

- Bonnicksen, R. and AL Schneider. 2000. "Battle of the bones." *PBL 12*
- Turnbull: Ch 2

Oct 12, 14: Human adaptability

- Bogin, B. 1998. "The tall and short of it." *PBL 10*
- Turnbull: Ch's 3 – 4
- **Goodall paper due Oct 12**
- **No class Oct 16 (Fall Break)**

Oct 19, 21, 23: Communication and language

- Bhattacharjee, Y. 2004. "From Heofonum to Heaven." *PBL 21*
- Turnbull: Ch's 5 – 7

Oct 26, 28: Making a living

- Eaton, SB and M. Konner. "Ancient genes and modern health." *PBL 9*
- Turnbull: Ch's 8 – 9

Oct 30: Halloween lecture - Corpses, Mummies, Cannibals, and Other Things That Go Bump in the Night

Nov 02: Exam #2

- Covers all material from Sept 30 – Oct 30

Nov 04, 06, 09: Race & ethnicity

- Diamond, J. 1994. "Race Without Color." *PBL 26*
- Turnbull: Ch's 10 – 12

Nov 11, 13, 16, 18: Marriage and the family

- Goldstein, M. 1987. "When Brothers Share a Wife." *PBL 30*
- Turnbull: Ch's 13 – 15

Nov 20, 23: Kinship

- Podolefsky, A. 1984. "Contemporary warfare in the New Guinea highlands." *PBL 43*
- **Turnbull paper due Nov 23**
- **Note: no class Nov 25, 27 (Thanksgiving)**

Nov 30, Dec 02, 04: Gender

- Kratz, CA. "Circumcision, pluralism, and the dilemmas of cultural relativism." *PBL 38*

Dec 07, 09: Religion

- Pringle, H. 1998. "New women of the Ice Age." *PBL 15*

Dec 11: Sex and reproduction

- Small, M. 2003. "How many fathers are best for a child?" *PBL 29*

Monday, December 14: FINAL EXAM (8:00 – 10:00 AM)

- Covers all material from Nov 04 – Dec 11

A note on the timing of the final exam: this schedule is set by the University, and is beyond my power to change. Please do not ask me if you can take the final exam early so you can leave town. The final exam schedule for Fall 2009 has been posted since Spring 2009, and you have known the date of the final since the first day of class.