

Anthropology 1113, Section 003, Spring 2008
MWF 1:30 – 2:20 PM

General Anthropology
150 Adams Hall

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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. We will examine not only *what* humans are and were like, but *why* they got to be that way, in all their variety. Particular emphasis is placed on our evolution, both biological and cultural, and on the explanatory power of evolutionary theory.

Texts:

- *In The Shadow of Man*, by Jane Goodall
- *Nisa: The Life and Words of a !Kung Woman*, by Marjorie Shostak
- Additional weekly readings will be made available through the class website on Desire2Learn

Course Requirements:

1) 3 exams (100 points each)	300 pts
2) 1 out-of-class writing assignment, based on the books we're reading	80 pts
3) 12 in-class assignments (5 points each)	60 pts
4) 1 online quiz on academic misconduct	10 pts
Total	450 pts

1) The exams are closed-note, closed-book, and are not cumulative. They will consist mostly of short answer questions and essays, with a smattering of fill-in-the-blank/true-false. 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 note that 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, flat tires, etc.

2) The out-of-class writing assignment is to be sole-authored, that is, written by you and you alone. The assignment is due at the beginning of class on April 14, and will be based on your readings of the Goodall and Shostak books. Further details will be given later, well in advance of the due date.

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.

There will be no extra credit. Your total point score, divided by the highest score achieved in the class, will determine your final grade. So for example if the highest score in the class is 444 points, your grade will be (your score)/444.

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 on 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. Lastly, the Faculty Handbook notes that “When absences seriously affect a student’s class work, the instructor will report this fact to the Admissions and Records Office, where the information will be directed to the dean concerned.”
- 4) You are expected to take notes in class. The lecture notes used in class will be made available on Desire2Learn (usually within 24 hours after class). However, the overheads are often sketchy and incomplete, and I always explain material verbally in class that is not written down on the slides. This oral material is important, and will be included on the exams. 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 or text messaging (cell phones and pagers should be turned off during class), not engaging in conversations with your classmates unless told to do so, and so forth. I reserve the option of deducting points for persistent disrespectful behavior.
- 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 all assignments (exams and the out-of-class writing assignment). 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

Jan 16, 18: What is Anthropology?

- Miner, H. 1956. "Body ritual among the Nacirema." *American Anthropologist* 58(3): 503-507.
- Goodall: Ch's 1 – 3
- **Note: no class Jan 21 (Martin Luther King Day)**

Jan 23, 25: Understanding the past

- Snow, C.C., and J.L. Luke. 1970. "The Oklahoma City child disappearances of 1967." *Journal of Forensic Sciences* 15(2): 125-53.
- Goodall: Ch's 4 – 6

Jan 28, 30, Feb 01: Genetics & evolution

- Gould, S.J. 1981. "Evolution as fact and theory." *Discover* 2(5): 34-37.
- Root-Bernstein, R. and D. McEachron. 1982. "The evolution/creation controversy." *American Biology Teacher* 44: 413-420.
- Goodall: Ch's 7 – 10

Feb 04, 06, 08: Primates

- Goodall: Ch's 11, 12

Feb 11, 13, 15: Early hominids

- Feder, K. 1990. "Dawson's dawn man: The Piltdown hoax". From *Frauds, Myths, and Mysteries; Science and Pseudo-Science*.
- Goodall: Ch's 13 – 15

Feb 18: Exam #1

- Covers all material from Jan 16 – Feb 15

Feb 20, 22: The emergence of *Homo*

- Zimmer, C. 2003. "Great mysteries of human evolution." *Discover* 24(9): 34-43.
- Selim, J. 2004. "Useless body parts." *Discover* 25(6): 42-45.
- Goodall: Ch's 16 – 18

Feb 25, 27: *Homo sapiens sapiens*

- Goodall: Ch's 19 – 21

Feb 29, Mar 03: The origins of food production

- Diamond, J. 1987. "The worst mistake in the history of the human race." *Discover* (May): 64-66.
- Shostak: Introduction

Mar 05, 07: The peopling of the New World

- Dillehay, T.D. 1997. "The Battle of Monte Verde." *The Sciences* (Jan/Feb): 28-33.
- Shostak: Ch's 1 – 3

Mar 10, 12: Origins of cities & states

- Shostak: Ch's 4 – 6

Mar 14, 24: Human diversity and adaptability

- Shostak: Ch's 7 – 9
- **Note: no class Mar 17 – 21 (Spring Break)**

Mar 26, 28, 31: Culture, communication, and language

- Shostak: Ch's 10 – 13

Apr 02: Exam #2

- Covers all material from Feb 20 – Mar 31

Apr 04, 07: Making a living

- Gadsby, Patricia. 2004. "The Inuit paradox". *Discover* 25(Oct): 48-55.
- Shostak: Ch's 14 – Epilog

Apr 09, 11, 14: Race & ethnicity

- Diamond, Jared. 1994. "Race Without Color". *Discover* 15(Nov).
- American Anthropological Association. 1988. "Official Statement on 'Race'"
- **Out-of-class writing assignment due on Apr 14!**

Apr 16, 18: Kinship

Apr 21, 23: Marriage

- Goldstein, Melvyn. 1987. "When Brothers Share a Wife". *Natural History* 96(March): 39-49.

Apr 25, 28: Sex & gender

- Shweder, Richard. 2002. "'What about female genital mutilation?' and why understanding culture matters in the first place." From *Engaging cultural differences: The multicultural challenge in liberal democracies*, R. Shweder, M. Minow, & H. Markus (Eds.).

Apr 30, May 02: Religion

- Malinowski, Bronislaw. 1925. "Rational mastery by man of his surroundings"
- Gmelch, George. 1978. "Baseball magic" *Human Nature* 1.

Monday, May 05: FINAL EXAM (1:30 PM - 3:30 PM)

- Covers all material from Apr 04 – May 02

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.