

Bridgewater State University Syllabus

Summer 2020, 3 Credits

ANTH 100: INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY

Instructor: Dr. Joshua A. Irizarry

Email: joshua.irizarry@bridgew.edu

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the field of anthropology, the study of human cultural and biological diversity. Anthropologists seek to understand what it means to be human by studying and comparing cultures and societies (cultural anthropology); by tracing human origins and evolution (biological anthropology); by interpreting the things that humans leave behind (archaeology); and by exploring how humans use language to create meaning and think about the world (linguistic anthropology). This course will introduce the core concepts, methods, and approaches of anthropology's four subfields, and will explore how they work together to contribute to a fuller picture of humanity's past, present, and future. Along the way, we will use these perspectives to critically investigate different facets of the human experience, including culture and cultural change, social organization and political systems, kinship systems, religious diversity, ideas about sex, gender, and sexuality, and the history and lasting consequences of colonialism and globalization.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify and articulate human differences and similarities, both cultural and biological, throughout the world and across time.
- Illustrate the interplay of the subfields of anthropology and express the centrality of the holistic approach.
- Demonstrate understanding of the history, principles, and theories of anthropology and the methodologies used by anthropologists.
- Apply the concepts of *ethnocentrism* and *cultural relativism* and to evaluate the impact of stereotyping and discrimination on individuals and groups.
- Describe how anthropology informs regional, national, and international issues and how it can be effectively applied to address social problems and create positive futures.

Required Text:

Kottak, Conrad P.

2017 *Window on Humanity: A Concise Introduction to Anthropology*, 8th ed.
New York: McGraw-Hill. (WoH)

Grading Breakdown:

1. Attendance, Preparation, and Class Participation: 40%

Attendance to this class is **mandatory**.

- If you need to miss class for any reason, you must e-mail the professor before the beginning of the scheduled class period to receive an “excused absence.” Failure to contact the professor in advance of class will result in a penalty being applied to your attendance grade.
- You are responsible for any material you miss due to absence.

Assigned readings (approximately 25 pages/night) are due **on the day listed** in the course schedule. It is important that you are ready and able to discuss the material in class.

This is a discussion-based lecture, and your thoughts and questions are an important part of the class. Insightful and reasoned comments, grounded in the course readings, will allow you and the class to process and engage the course material fully.

Students can earn a maximum of **two** participation points per day:

- 0 points: Student is completely unprepared and/or disengaged from the class.
- 1 point: Student is underprepared, and/or does not actively participate in class.
- 2 points: Student is fully prepared and actively engaged in the class.

At the end of each class meeting, you will be asked to write a short (minimum of one paragraph) reflection paper on the class of that day. These reflection papers will serve as a record of attendance. If you do not hand in a reflection paper, you will not get credit for attending the class.

IMPORTANT: We will be touching on sensitive topics such as race, religion, gender, and sexuality, among others. While I encourage active and vigorous class discussion, you are expected to conduct yourself at all times in a professional, academic manner.

Disrespectful or abusive language and behavior will NOT be tolerated.

2. Field Projects: 30% (3 x 10% each)

Students will complete **three** short field projects related to the course material throughout the semester. Submissions will be graded out of a maximum of **10 points**, and will be graded based on quality, effort, and presentation.

- Written submissions must be **typed and printed**; illustrations and diagrams can be hand-drawn but must be **clean and presentable**.
- Submissions are due at the beginning of class on Monday. Late submissions will lose **3 points** every day they are late.

Final Exam:**30%**

The final exam will be administered in-class on **Friday, July 17**. The exam is **cumulative**, with questions drawn from the readings, lectures, and movies.

Course Schedule:**Week 1**

June 22: Course Introduction

June 23: **WoH 1**, "What is Anthropology"

June 24: **WoH 3**, "Doing Anthropology"

June 25: **WoH 2**, "Culture"

June 26: "Culture" (cont'd)

Week 2

June 29: **WoH 16**, "Ethnicity and Race"

- **Project #1**, "Fieldwork: Mapping a Block" **due**

June 30: **WoH 4**, "Evolution, Genetics, and Human Variation"

- **Field Trip** to Natural Museum of Nature and Science (in Ueno Park)

July 1: **WoH 5**, "The Primates"

July 2: **WoH 6**, "Early Hominins"

July 3: **WoH 7**, "The Genus Homo"

- **In-Class Film**, "Decoding Neanderthals"

Week 3

July 6: **WoH 8**, "The First Farmers"

- **Project #2**, "Exploring Human Origins in the Museum" **due**

July 7: **WoH 9**, "The First Cities and States"

July 8: **WoH 11**, "Making a Living"

- **In-Class Film**, "N!ai: The Story of a !Kung Woman"

July 9: **WoH 12**, "Political Systems"

July 10: **WoH 13**, "Families, Kinship, and Marriage"

Week 4

July 13: **WoH 14**, "Gender"

- **Project #3**, "Mapping Kinship Relationships" **due**

July 14: **WoH 10**, "Language and Communication"

July 15: **WoH 15**, "Religion"

- **In-Class Film**, "Sacred"

July 16: **WoH 18**, "The World System and Colonialism"

July 17: **Final Exam**