

ANTH 100 Survey of Anthropology Online Syllabus

Bellevue College

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Course Description

This course provides an introduction to anthropology. Anthropology is a comparative discipline of infinite curiosity about human beings. Anthropologists seek answers to an enormous variety of questions about modern humans and their past. We travel far and wide and generations back in time in order to understand where we came from and what makes us bio-cultural beings. We compare life-ways of various non-Western and Western communities. Throughout the course we emphasize understanding the cultural Other(s), in relation to reflecting on the cultural Self(Selves).

Learning is approached as a collaborative and hands-on process.

Students are also encouraged to approach all readings and discussions critically.

This is an inter-active or a seminar-like class, based on class participation, questioning, and critical thinking.

If you find that you are having problems with the course please contact me.

Texts:

1) Introducing Anthropology: An Integrated Approach

Michael Alan Park.

McGraw-Hill Higher Education.

2) A series of short articles and internet material are also provided to complement the assigned book and the audio-visual materials.

Grading -- Total of 1000 points

Class Discussion Participation and Feedbacks: 25 points for each unit - total of 250 points.

Quizzes: -- 5 quizzes (one quiz per two units) - 50 points each - Total of 250 points.

Final Exam: 250 points.

Research Project: 250 points.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND MEANS OF ASSESSMENT

Class Discussion Participation and Feedbacks include:

1. Posting a detailed, comprehensive and well cited answers to discussion questions on the discussion board for each unit, and at least two (2) additional well-thought messages (or feedbacks) in reply to other students' answers.
2. Clearly contributing information to further understanding of the concepts involved in the readings.
3. Derive information only from the course texts or other assigned or academic sources and properly cite source (author and title) and page.
4. Exhibit a correct and comprehensive understanding of the issues (given that later messages can revise earlier ones).
5. Be courteous and "scientific" in attitude and communication.

The purpose of discussions and feedbacks is to develop a deeper and more complete understanding of specific key concepts and problems in subjects studied. By fully participating in the week's discussion, you will be prepared for the questions in the exams.

Research Project

The focus of the research project is an anthropological study of any subject chosen by the students. The topic of the study could be related to any (or any combination) of the four sub-fields of anthropology. The research project is an exercise in anthropological thinking, it is a learning tool.

Students choose the focus of their research project by the start of the second unit of the quarter.

Project topics have to do with subjects and information from our readings, class discussions, and your own research and interest.

Length of Research Report– Minimum of four pages, excluding bibliography. The report should show the progress of the research process during the quarter and your thinking behind it.

For Each unit YOU WILL NEED TO DO THE FOLLOWING:

1. Critically Read and Study the assigned Textual material.
2. Be involved in discussions.
3. Get ready to the exams to demonstrate what you have learned.
4. Show progress in working on your research project.

Class Content

Unit One

Anthropology and Culture

Park – Chapters 1 and 2

Anthropology and its sub-fields; applied anthropology; holistic approach; comparative approach; anthropology and science; anthropology and humanities; fieldwork methods; culture; anthropology and ethics; anthropological ways of explanation, description and practice.

Unit Two

Evolution, Human Evolution and Variation

Park – Chapter 3

Evolution, the Record of the Past; the Primates; Hominid Evolution; Trends in Hominid Evolution; Interpreting the Fossil Record of Hominid Evolution; From Homo erectus to Homo sapiens; The Evolution of Homo sapiens; Sources of Human Variation; The Concept of Race; Adaptive Aspects of Human Variation; Cultural Diversity in Human Populations

Unit Three

Human Evolution and Culture

Park - Chapters 4 and 5

More on the concept of culture; culture in nonhuman primates; brains and culture; material culture and the study of cultural past; humans as primates; the primate traits; the human primate.

Unit Four

Evolution and Reproduction

Park – Chapters 6 and 7

The large brain primate; primate evolution; early hominins; Homo erectus; archaic Homo sapiens; modern Homo sapiens; the sexual Primate; sex and human evolution; sex and gender; sex and cultural institutions.

Unit Five

Human Variation, Biological Diversity and Race

Park Chapter 8

The concept of race within biology; human biological variation; evolutionary theory and the nature of the human species; race, racism and human issues.

Unit Six

Food and Families

Park – Chapters 9 and 10

Food and human evolution; food-collecting societies; the transition to food production; horticulture; pastoralism; agriculture.

Arranging our families; primate societies; marriage and family; kinship; kinship terminology; organizations above the family level.

Unit Seven

Language and Communication

Park- Chapter 11

Language and evolution; language and culture; apes and language; language and worldview; Intercultural Communication and Miscommunication; Socialization and Enculturation; Acculturation; Multi-culturalism; Ideology and Communication.

Unit Eight

Ideology and Religion

Park - Chapter 12

Religion and ideology; religion and culture; ideology and social order; ideology and social change; ritual, art and culture

Unit Nine

Culture Change

Park – Chapters 13 and 14

The processes of culture change; discovery, invention, and diffusion; acculturation and revolution; theories of cultural evolution and change; violence, non-violence and culture

Unit Ten

Anthropology in Today's World

Park – Chapter 15

Applying anthropology; anthropology and critical cultural study of contemporary societies and processes; European colonialism, globalization and native peoples; culture or cultures of

capitalism; contemporary global trends; contemporary local-level communities and globalization; careers in anthropology.