

ANTH 100 Syllabus

Introduction To Anthropology

Winter 2007

Bellevue Community College

Instructor : Manouchehr Shiva, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: (by appointment)

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) .

This is a research-oriented, seminar-like, and interactive class.

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

Students are also encouraged to approach all readings, discussions, lectures, and audio-visual materials critically.

Class activities vary depending on the nature of the material with which we are studying, and will include short lectures, presentation of audio-visual materials, as well as discussion of readings, films, student assignment and papers.

Class communication, instruction and participation are carried out in the class as well as on the internet (via the class's homepage).

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

Class attendance and participation is required if you expect to do well for your final grade.

If you find that you are having problems with the course please do make an appointment and come and see me.

Texts:

1) Introducing Anthropology : An Integrated Approach

Michael Alan Park.

McGraw-Hill Higher Education.

ISBN 0-07-321042-0

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

A major part of the information presented in the class is audio-visual in nature. Because of the comparative nature of anthropological method, we rely on films on other peoples--and also on American culture/communities—to discuss various anthropological concepts and ways of thinking, and make sense of cultural differences and similarities and of cultural change.

Grading -- Total of 100 points

Class Attendance and Participation: 10 points

Weekly Feedbacks: 10 points

Weekly Quizzes: 10 points

Mid-Term Take-Home Exams: 20 points

Final Take-Home Exam: 20 points

Final Project: 30 points

The focus of the final project is an outline of a study of a social or cultural phenomenon or process from an anthropological point of view. The topic of the study could be related to any (or any combination) of the four sub-fields of anthropology.

Students choose the focus of their final project by the end of the second week of the quarter. Projects have to do with subjects and information from your books, class discussions, class visual materials, and your own research and interest.

Minimum length – Five typed pages, including bibliography, but should show the progress of the research process and thinking behind it.

Class Content – Weekly

Week 1)

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. Anthropological Methods. Anthropology and ethics.

Anthropological Ways of Explanation, Description and Practice

Anthropological Theories; Nineteenth Century and Twentieth Century Evolutionisms; Functional, Structural, Cultural and Materialist Explanations; Applied Anthropology; Ethnological Fieldwork; Variables Studies by Ethnologists; Cross-Cultural Research;

Week 2)

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

Week 3)

Human Evolution and Variation

Park - Chapters 4 and 5

Evolution, the Record of the Past; the Primates; Hominid Evolution, Trends in Hominid Evolution; Interpreting the Fossil Record of Hominid Evolution; Bipedalism; 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;

Week 4)

Paleolithic Times and Populations

The Sexual Primate. Sex and Human Evolution. Sex and Gender, Sex and Cultural Institutions.

The Cultural Primate. More on the Concept of Culture. How to Study Cultural Systems. Studying One's Own Culture.

Park – Chapters 6 and 7

Week 5)

More on Human Variation and Human Universals; Social Construction of Race and Difference.

Cuisine and Culture; Food Collection and Food Production

Park – Chapters 8 and 9

Human Variation. The Concept of Race. Evolutionary Theory and the Nature of Human Species. Race, Racism and Social Issues.

Food. Food and Human Evolution; Food-Collecting Societies, Food-Producing Societies, the Transition to Food Production, Horticulture, Pastoralism, Agriculture.

Changes in Climate and Culture in the Neolithic period; Origins of Food Production; Reasons for Domestication; Domestication and Settled and Pastoral Nomadic Life in Different Regions of the World;

Week 6)

Families

Things and Complex Societies

Park – Chapters 10 and 11

Primate Societies,

Marriage, Family and Kinship,

Organizing above the Family Level,

Descent and Residence; Kinship and Social Organization; Kinship, Gender and Social Change; Individual and Social Organization

Material Culture, Archaeological Methods, Interpreting the Cultural Past, Locating Sites, Excavations, Tools and Abstract Thought.

The Rise of the State and Complex Society

State and Civilization; Studying Complex Societies; Theories of State Formation; States in Different World Areas; Reasons for the Collapse of Early State Societies; Contemporary Bands, Tribes, Chiefdoms and Agricultural States,

Week 7)

Language, Communication, Ideology and Religion

Park- Chapters 12 and 13.

Language and Evolution, Language and Culture, Making Sense of the Human Condition; Linguistic Relativity; Language and Worldview; Intercultural Communication and Miscommunication; Socialization and Enculturation; Acculturation; Multi-culturalism; Ideology and Communication. Religion and Ideology. Religion and Culture, Ideology and Order, Ideology and Change.

Week 8)

Culture Change and the Evolution of Our Behavior;

Ritual, Art, and Culture

Violence, Non-Violence and Culture

Park – Chapters 14 and 15

The Process of Culture Change; Discovery, Invention, Diffusion, Acculturation and Revolution; Theories of Cultural Evolution and Change; Symbolic Systems and Meanings; Culture and Symbols; Religion and Worldview; Ritual and Worldview; Ritual and Gender; Play and Creativity; Ritual and Power; Ritual and Social Change; Anthropology of Art and Artistic Creativity; Art and Identity; Art and Intercultural communication.

Violence, Non-Violence and Culture

Week 9)

Anthropology in Today's World

Park – Chapter 16

Applying Anthropology

Anthropology and Critical Cultural Study of Contemporary Societies and Processes

Case Studies

Weeks 10)

Culture, Modernity, Globalization, Ecology and Economy

Making a Living: Human Imagination and the Material World; The Dialectic Relation between the Meaningful and the Material; Industrial States; European Colonialism, Globalization and Native Peoples; Culture or Cultures of Capitalism; Globalization in Different World Areas; Contemporary Global Trends; Contemporary Local-Level Communities and Globalization

Week11) Review