

Fall Term 2024

## Syllabus

### **ANT2000: Introduction to Anthropology**

**Professor Dr. John White**

**Oct 21, 2024-  
Dec 7, 2024**



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Virtual Office Hours: Mondays, 10-11am and by appointment

#### **Course Description and Purpose**

This course offers an introduction to the field of anthropology, exploring diverse aspects of human culture, society, and behavior across various regions of the world. Students will gain insight into the methodologies and concepts that anthropologists employ to understand and interpret cultural practices, social structures, and human interactions.

The course aims to foster a global perspective and encourage critical thinking about human diversity, cultural dynamics, and social issues. By examining topics such as kinship, religion, economics, and politics, students will develop an appreciation for the complexities of human societies and the role of cultural context in shaping human experience.

Throughout the course, students will be introduced to anthropological theories, research methods, and key concepts. They will also engage with the ethical considerations involved in studying different societies and cultures, enabling them to develop a deeper understanding of the world's cultural richness and complexity.

## **Course Objectives**

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

Understand the fundamental principles and approaches of anthropology as a discipline. Explain the concept of culture and its role in shaping human behavior and societies. Analyze the significance of cultural relativism in understanding diverse cultural practices and beliefs. Recognize the impact of globalization on local cultures and communities. Demonstrate an understanding of key anthropological concepts, including kinship, ritual, religion, and social organization. Describe the fieldwork methods used by anthropologists to study and document cultural practices and social structures. Identify the ethical considerations and challenges associated with anthropological research. Discuss the interplay between biology and culture in shaping human evolution and adaptation. Engage in critical discussions about social issues, cultural diversity, and the complexities of human societies.

Students will: engage in various assessments that contribute to their global awareness, perspective, and engagement: Participate in class discussions that explore cultural differences, societal challenges, and global connections. Analyze and compare cultural practices from different parts of the world to develop a broader perspective on human diversity. Reflect on the ethical implications of studying and representing diverse cultures and communities. By the end of this course, students will be able to: demonstrate an understanding of the interconnectedness of human societies, cultures, and global issues; analyze and evaluate cultural practices and social phenomena from a cross-cultural and global perspective; engage in meaningful dialogue and collaboration within a diverse and multicultural context; and recognize the importance of cultural awareness and sensitivity in addressing global challenges.

## **Global Learning Assessments**

Students will engage in various assessments that contribute to their global awareness, perspective, and engagement. All students are expected to: (1) participate in class discussions that explore cultural differences, societal challenges, and global connections; (2) analyze and compare cultural practices from different parts of the world to develop a broader perspective on human diversity; and (3) reflect on the ethical implications of studying and representing diverse cultures and communities.

Every student must answer multiple choice questions which will ask them to show the familiarity they have gained about different cultures. (GLOBAL AWARENESS)

Every enrolled student is expected to complete essay exams during the semester. These essays will ask students to demonstrate mastery of the material covered as well as an ability to apply the acquired knowledge to an improved understanding of the global world. (GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE AND GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT)

## Global Learning Student Learning Outcomes

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

- Demonstrate an understanding of the historical and contemporary inter-relatedness of key local, regional and global cultural issues and events (GLOBAL AWARENESS)
- Demonstrate the ability to compose an analysis of various perspectives associated with different culturally-based conceptualizations of the world and their attendant beliefs and practices which can also be linked to different geographic locations on the global stage. (GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE)
- Willingly better engage in a number of problem-solving activities in a variety of sociocultural contexts around the globe. (GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT)

For more information about the Global Learning Student Learning Outcomes, please consult the FIU Global Learning for Global Citizenship.



## Global Learning Graduation Honors

FIU's Excellence in Global Learning Graduation Medallion is awarded to students who complete at least four global learning courses, participate in a variety of global co-curricular activities, and complete a capstone consisting of one of the following: a substantial original research project and presentation on a global topic; extensive foreign language study; long-term study abroad; or, a globally-focused internship. The Peace Corps Prep certification is conferred upon students who complete at least three global learning courses, language study, and a global problem-solving project. For more information, visit [goglobal.fiu.edu](http://goglobal.fiu.edu).

Before starting this course, please review the following pages:

- Policies
- Technical Requirements and Skills
- Accessibility and Accommodation
- Academic Misconduct Statement
- Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

## Expectations of this Course

This is a fully online course. Online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

Students are expected to:

- Take the practice quiz to ensure that your computer is compatible with Canvas
- Interact online with instructor/s and peers
- Review and follow the course calendar, including all quizzes and written assignments
- Provide original answers to the essay questions. If it appears that a student has copied from another person's work without citing it (plagiarism), FIU's policies for Academic Misconduct will be followed.
- Read all powerpoints, chapters, and to complete all assignments

### **Ground Rules**

1. Plagiarism is a serious offense. If you use the work of other authors without giving them credit, you will receive a '0' for the assignment and you will be reported to Academic Affairs. To avoid plagiarism, the essay exams will have to be uploaded on a turnitin.com site associated with this course.
2. Forming a What's App (or similar) group to work together on the quizzes is cheating, and those who share quiz questions or answers will be reported to Academic Affairs.
3. In this course, we will be discussing topics some might consider sensitive, provocative, or taboo such as race, sexuality, and religious beliefs. It is imperative that you express your opinions in a respectful manner.

### **Textbook and Course Materials**

**Jennifer Hasty, David G. Lewis, Marjorie M. Snipes (2022),**

***Introduction to Anthropology, OpenStax.***

You may access this book free of charge at:

<https://openstax.org/details/books/introduction-anthropology>

**Wade Davis, One River (1997)**

**Explorations and Discoveries in the Amazon Rain Forest**



Readings from this course consist of one textbook, one ethnography (One River), and a series of articles. There are also several required films. All readings (at the exception of the textbook and ethnography indicated above) and films will be available on the course's Canvas website or shown in class. Required readings for the course are located within the Canvas module for which they are assigned.

### **Multiple choice and Essay Quizzes**

In order to mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, it is very important that you take the Practice Quiz from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams.

### **Writing Assignments**

At the end of each unit or chapter, every enrolled student will have to write a summary of the ethnography and text readings that week. These short essays will ask students to demonstrate mastery of the material covered as well as an ability to apply the acquired knowledge to an improved understanding of the global world.

### **Grading**

Students have a collection of quizzes and essays, each with different point values. Quizzes make up about 71% of the total points available, while essays contribute to around 29% of the total points. All assignments must be submitted by last day of the semester, other than that students are able to work at their own pace.