



## **ANT 2000**

### **Introduction to Anthropology**

Section: RVAA

Internet/Fully Online

Fall Term 2025

**Course Time Zone | Eastern Time (ET). Course due dates are according to this time zone.**

### **Professor Information**

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Dr. Javier Mejia

**Roles:** Primary Instructor

**Email:** [jmejia@fiu.edu](mailto:jmejia@fiu.edu)

**Phone:** 305-348-2247

**Office Hours:** On Zoom on Wednesdays 11:00am-12:00pm or by appt.

**Office Location:** Virtual Office (Zoom)

**Department or Academic Unit:** Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies

### **Course Prerequisites**

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Course prerequisites, if any, are listed below.

## Course Description and Purpose

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This course offers an introduction to the four subfields of American 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. This course aims to help students develop analytical, communicative, and critical thinking skills through using anthropological knowledge; enlarge students' understanding of the temporal, geographic, adaptive, and social diversity of humanity; make students aware of the ethical issues concerning anthropological work; help students understand the role of culture as a key aspect of the social construction of reality; help students to understand enculturation and transmission of culture; and help students to understand the ways we learn to belong with others and learn to differentiate ourselves from others.

In this course, students will learn the foundations of anthropology as the study of human variation in its biological, social, and cultural dimensions. Students will learn about anthropological concepts, principles, and methodologies to understand and explore past and present human behavior. They will apply the anthropological approach to analyze issues pertaining to past and contemporary cultures, and develop intellectual skills and habits to understand behavioral, social, and cultural issues from multiple disciplinary perspectives.

## UCC Category Description

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This course satisfies the University Core Curriculum **Social Sciences, Group 1** requirement.

According to this category:

Social science courses afford students an understanding of the basic social and behavioral science concepts and principles used in the analysis of behavior and past and present social, political, and economic issues.

## Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

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Student learning outcomes allow faculty to assess the level of proficiency in content knowledge and skills that their students acquire in a course.

If the objective meets a special designation, you will see the code after the objective:

University Core Curriculum: UCC

Gordon Rule Writing: GRW

Global Learning: GL

Civic Literacy: CL

- • Students will explain scientific approaches to the study of human variation and human origins, including primatology, extinct and extant human cultures, language, and ethnicity. Students will explain the origins of anthropology as a foundation discipline in the social sciences that examines the nature and definition of culture. (UCC)
- Students will be able to explain how globally diverse values, beliefs, and behaviors are influenced by social forces. (GL: GLOBAL AWARENESS)
- • Students will apply anthropological concepts, principles, and methods to the scientific study of past and present human behavior. (UCC)
- • Students will explain how anthropology incorporates multidisciplinary knowledge and perspectives. (UCC)
- • Students will describe contemporary anthropological contributions. (UCC)
- Students will be able to examine social processes from diverse perspectives (GL:GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE)).
- Students will be able to propose solutions to a global problem taking into account multiple perspectives. (GL:GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT)

## Expectations of this Course

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This is an online course, which means that all of the coursework will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same as for a traditional course. In fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some student

### **Students are expected to:**

- Review the getting started page located in the course modules
- Introduce themselves to the class during the first week by posting a self-introduction in the appropriate discussion forum
- Take the practice quiz to ensure that their computer is compatible with the learning management system, Canvas
- interact online with instructor and peers; review and follow the course calendar and weekly outlines
- log in to the course 3/4 times per week; respond to discussions by the due date specified.
- No late work will be accepted; respond to emails within 2 days; submit assignments by the corresponding deadline

### **The instructor will:**

- log in to the course 3 times a week
- Respond to discussion postings within 2 business days of the deadline
- respond to emails within 48 hours on business days
- grade assignments within 7 days of the assignment deadline.

### **Academic Integrity Statement, including the Use of Artificial Intelligence**

You are expected to be honest in all academic work, consistent with the academic integrity policy as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct. All work is to be appropriately

cited when it is borrowed, directly or indirectly, from another source. Unauthorized and/or unacknowledged collaboration on any work, or the presentation of someone else's work, is plagiarism. Content generated by an Artificial Intelligence third-party service or site (AI-generated content) without proper attribution or authorization is another form of plagiarism. If you are unsure about whether something may be plagiarism or another form of academic dishonesty, please reach out to me to discuss it as soon as possible.

## Grading

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### GRADING SCALE

Letter Grade Distribution Table					
Letter	Range %	Letter	Range %	Letter	Range
A	93 or above	B	83 - 86.9	C	70-76.9
A-	90 - 92.9	B-	80 - 82.9	D	60- 69.9
B+	87-89.9	C+	77 - 79.9	F	59 or less

## Textbook and Course Materials

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### Introduction to Anthropology - OpenStax

**Required/Recommended:** Required

**Authors:** Jennifer Hasty, David G. Lewis, Marjorie M. Snipes

**Publisher:** OpenStax

**Publication Date:** 2022

**Copyright Date:** 2022

**ISBN 10:** 1711494992

**ISBN 13:** 978-1711494999

**Notes:** Free digital edition available online at <https://openstax.org/>

### EBK INTRO.TO ANTHROPOLOGY (COLOR) (OER)

**Required/Recommended:** Required

**Authors:** OPENSTAX

**Publisher:** VST

**ISBN 13:** 9781951693862

## **INTRO.TO ANTHROPOLOGY (COLOR) (OER)**

**Required/Recommended:** Recommended

**Authors:** OPENSTAX

**Publisher:** K/H

**ISBN 13:** 9781711494999

### **Panther Book Pack**

The Panther Book Pack rental program provides your required print and digital course materials at a flat rate of \$20 per undergraduate credit hour. When you registered for your classes this session, you were notified via email of the required course materials that are included in the Panther Book Pack.

Make sure to review the pricing for all materials across your classes this semester and compare the cost to the Panther Book Pack flat rate. If the Panther Book Pack is not your best option, you may opt out up to three days after the add/drop deadline. The deadline to opt back into the Panther Book Pack is also three days after the add/drop deadline.

If you do not opt out of the Panther Book Pack rental program, you will be charged \$20 per undergraduate credit hour for which you are registered and the course materials will be reserved in your name. For more details and to learn how to access your course materials, visit [onestop.fiu.edu/bookpack](https://onestop.fiu.edu/bookpack).

## **Other Course Materials and Open Educational Resources (OER)**

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Visit <https://openstax.org/> for a free copy of the textbook, Introduction to Anthropology

## **Course Communication**

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Communication in this course will take place via the Canvas Inbox. Check out the [Canvas Conversations Tutorial](#) or [Canvas Guide](#) to learn how to communicate with your instructor and peers using Announcements, Discussions, and the Inbox. I will respond to all correspondences within 24 hours.

### Preferred Communication Channels & Email Etiquette:

There are two ways to contact me: Canvas or my FIU email. I prefer to receive messages directly in the Canvas Inbox. I will not respond to emails sent from personal email accounts.

When emailing me, please be aware that this is an academic interaction that requires a certain grade of formality, such as an adequate greeting, you can address me as Professor Mejia or Dr. Mejia, whichever you prefer. When emailing me please include your full name and the course you are enrolled in. You are expected to read all the written instructions in the syllabus and the modules. I do not receive late assignments unless you have a written valid excuse. Do not submit assignments via email, I will not accept them. All assignments are to be submitted via Canvas.

If you want to meet me through Zoom, please email me to set an appointment to be held during my virtual office hours, which are Wednesdays from 11:00 am-12:00 pm, or by appt.

## Schedule of Topics

MODULE DATES AND THEMES	OUTLINE	Required Reading	Activities due
<b>Week 1:</b> Introduction to the course. What is Anthropology? The Concept of Culture	<b>Introduction to the Course:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using Canvas</li> <li>Practice quiz</li> </ul> <b>What is Anthropology?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Anthropology Is Vast"</li> <li>The Four-Field Approach</li> <li>Our Assumptions about Humanity</li> <li>Holism, Anthropology's Distinctive Approach</li> </ul>	<b>Chapter 1 and 3</b> textbook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Practice quiz</b></li> <li><b>Discussion board Self-Introduction</b></li> <li><b>Discussion board 1 y 2</b></li> </ul> Weekly discussions will close by Sunday midnight. <b>No late submission</b> allowed.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross-Cultural Comparison</li> <li>• Cultural Relativism</li> <li>• Emic and Etic perspectives</li> </ul> <p><b>The concept of Culture</b></p>		
<p><b>Week 2:</b></p> <p><b>Biological Anthropology</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What Is Biological Anthropology?</li> <li>• What's in a Name? The Science of Taxonomy</li> <li>• It's All in the Genes! The Foundation of Evolution</li> <li>• Evolution in Action: Past and Present</li> <li>• What Is a Primate?</li> <li>• Origin of and Classification of Primates</li> <li>• Our Ancient Past: The Earliest Hominins</li> <li>• Defining the Genus <i>Homo</i></li> <li>• Tools and Brains: <i>Homo habilis</i>, <i>Homo ergaster</i>, and <i>Homo erectus</i></li> <li>• The Emergence of Us: The Archaic <i>Homo</i></li> <li>• Tracking Genomes: Our Human Story Unfolds</li> </ul>	<p>Required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 4 and 5 textbook</li> <li>• How Africa Became the Cradle of Humankind</li> <li>• FILM Walking With Cavemen - Ep 1 First Ancestors (2003) [576p] - video Dailymotion</li> </ul>	<p><b>Quiz 1</b></p> <p><b>Discussion 3</b></p> <p><b>Short Essay:</b> This short essay (1-3 pages) asks you to provide your perspective on what you think "human nature" is and where you get your ideas from.</p>
<p><b>Week 3</b></p> <p><b>Language and communication</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Emergence and Development of Language</li> <li>• Language and the Mind</li> <li>• Language, Community, and Culture</li> </ul>	<p>Required reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 6 Textbook</li> <li>• Strike Magazine. Article on how jobs have changed in recent decades</li> </ul>	<p><b>Discussion 4.</b></p> <p>"Language and Communication"</p> <p><b>Project Participant Observation Description:</b></p> <p>You will choose a location/place where social interactions are</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performativity and Ritual</li> <li>• Language and Power</li> </ul>		<p>occurring. Using participant observation, you will describe in detail the physical place, the social interactions, and all other relevant information around you. You will analyze the patterns in the use of space, the physical interaction, and the social interaction between people by answering the following questions:</p> <p><b>What cultural practices are taking place? How can I represent these interactions from the perspective of cultural relativism? What speech communities can I identify?</b></p> <p>The project report must be at least two pages long, typed, with 1-inch margins, 12-point font, and in compositional form.</p>
<b>Week 4: Economic and Political Anthropology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economies: Two Ways to Study Them</li> <li>• Modes of Subsistence</li> <li>• Gathering and Hunting</li> <li>• Pastoralism</li> <li>• Plant Cultivation: Horticulture and Agriculture</li> <li>• Exchange, Value, and Consumption</li> </ul>	Required readings. Chapter 7 y 8 textbook	<b>Quiz 2 Discussion 5</b>

	Industrialism and Postmodernity		
<b>Week 5: Religion and Culture</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What Is Religion?</li> <li>• Symbolic and Sacred Space</li> <li>• Myth and Religious Doctrine</li> <li>• Rituals of Transition and Conformity</li> <li>• Other Forms of Religious Practice</li> </ul>	Required Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 13 textbook</li> </ul> Gmelch (2000) Baseball Magic (pdf)	<b>Discussion 6 Short paper</b>
<b>Week 6: Anthropology of food</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food as a Material Artifact</li> <li>• A Biocultural Approach to Food</li> <li>• Food and Cultural Identity</li> <li>• The Globalization of Food</li> </ul>	Required Readings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 14 Textbook</li> </ul> How steak became manly and salads became feminine	<b>Quiz 3 Discussion 7</b>
<b>FINAL EXAM</b>			<b>Final exam</b>

## Policies & Resources

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Please review the [FIU's Policies webpage](#). The policies webpage contains essential information regarding guidelines relevant to all courses at FIU, as well as additional information about acceptable netiquette for online courses. For additional information, please visit [FIU's Policy and Procedure Library](#).

As a member of the FIU community, you are expected to be knowledgeable about the behavioral expectations set forth in the [FIU Student Conduct and Honor Code](#).

## Assignments & Assessments

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<b>Course Grades Distribution Table</b>				
<b>Course Requirements</b>	<b>Number of Items</b>	<b>Points for Each</b>	<b>Total Points Available</b>	<b>Weight</b>
<b>Getting to know each other. Sharing stories and pictures</b>	1	10	10	10 %
<b>Weekly discussions and responses to peer assignments</b>	7	20	140	140%
<b>Quizzes</b>	3	50	150	15%
<b>Short paper</b>	1	150	150	15%
<b>Project of Participant Observation</b>	1	200	200	20%
<b>Short essay Human Nature Interconnections</b>	1	150	150	15%
<b>Final</b>	1	200	200	20%

## Core Principles of this Course

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This course will serve all students, encouraging collaboration by preparing students to value the differences in others. We appreciate the multiplicity of the lived experiences and perspectives of all students. We are committed to the ongoing education of our students and their open participation within the course.

## Nondiscrimination Statement

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The **Office of Civil Rights Compliance and Accessibility (CRCA)** is responsible for ensuring that FIU maintains a workplace and learning environment free from discrimination, where current and prospective faculty, staff, and students are treated equitably. If any student, employee, or applicant has a sincere and reasonable belief that

they have been discriminated against or harassed based on age, color, disability, gender, marital status, ethnic or national origin, race, religion, retaliation, sex, or any other protected category, they can report their concerns to the CRCA team through [report.fiu.edu](https://report.fiu.edu).

## State General Education Course Description and Outcomes

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This course aligns with the state-mandated course description and student learning outcomes specified below.

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Student learning outcomes:

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- Students will apply anthropological concepts, principles, and methods to the scientific study of past and present human behavior.
- Students will explain how anthropology incorporates multidisciplinary knowledge and perspectives.
- Students will describe contemporary anthropological contributions.

