



ANT 2000

Introduction to Anthropology

Section: RVD

Internet/Fully Online

Fall Term 2025

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

Professor Information

Dr. Javier Mejia

Roles: Primary Instructor

Email: jmejia@fiu.edu

Phone: 305-348-2247

Office Hours: Zoom on Mondays 12:30 pm-1:30 pm or by appt.

Office Location: Virtual Office (Zoom)

Department or Academic Unit: Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies

Course Prerequisites

Course prerequisites, if any, are listed below.

Course Description and Purpose

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

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

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

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

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

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/>

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.

Other Course Materials and Open Educational Resources (OER)

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

Course Communication

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 Wednesdays noon to -1:00 pm.

Schedule of Topics

MODULE DATES AND THEMES	OUTLINE	Reading	Activities due
Week 1 (Monday August-25 to Sunday August 31) Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor's Introduction and Career Highlights • Course Overview • Introduction of Anthropological Theories • Using Canvas Learning Management System 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice quiz • Self-Introduction in the Discussions section <p>Weekly discussions will be closed by Sunday midnight. No late submission allowed.</p>
Week 2 (Mon Sep 1 to Sunday September 7) What is Anthropology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Study of Humanity, or "Anthropology Is Vast" • The Four-Field Approach: Four Approaches within the Guiding Narrative • Overcoming Ethnocentrism • Western Bias in Our Assumptions about Humanity • Holism, Anthropology's Distinctive Approach • Cross-Cultural Comparison and 	<p>Required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 1 textbook • The Yuck Factor (PDF) <p>Suggested reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Female Hunters of the Early Americas.pdf 	<p>Discussion 1 "Cultural Relativism" Weekly discussions will be closed by Sunday midnight. No late submission allowed.</p>

	<p>Cultural Relativism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reaching for an Insider's Point of View 		
<p>Week 3. (Monday Sep 8- Sunday Sep 14) The concept of Culture, Its Definition and Characteristics,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Homeyness of Culture • The Winkiness of Culture • The Elements of Culture • The Aggregates of Culture • Modes of Cultural Analysis • The Contradictions of Cultur 	<p>Required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 3 textbook • Eating Christmas in Kalahari.pdf 	<p>Discussion 2“The notion of Culture” Weekly discussions will be close by Sunday midnight. No late submission allowed.</p>
<p>Week 4. (Mon Sep 15- Sun Sep 21) What do you/we think about Human Nature? Evolution and Genetics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What Is Biological Anthropology? • What's in a Name? The Science of Taxonomy • It's All in the Genes! The Foundation of Evolution • Evolution in Action: Past and Present • What Is a Primate? • Origin of and Classification of Primates • Our Ancient Past: The Earliest Hominins • Defining the Genus <i>Homo</i> 	<p>Required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 4 and 5 textbook • How Africa Became the Cradle of Humankind • FILM Walking With Cavemen - Ep 1 First Ancestors (2003) [576p] - video Dailymotion 	<p>Quiz 1 (Mon Sep 15- Sun Sep 21) Discussion 3 “What do you/we think about Human Nature?”</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tools and Brains: <i>Homo habilis</i>, <i>Homo ergaster</i>, and <i>Homo erectus</i> • The Emergence of Us: The Archaic <i>Homo</i> • Tracking Genomes: Our Human Story Unfolds 		
Week 5. (Mon Sep 22- Sun Sep 28) Language and communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Emergence and Development of Language • Language and the Mind • Language, Community, and Culture • Performativity and Ritual • Language and Power 	Required reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 6 Textbook 	28,29 and 30 Discussion 4. “Language and Communication”
Week 6. Mon Sep 29 - Sun Oct 5) Work, Life, and Value: Economic Anthropology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economies: Two Ways to Study Them • Modes of Subsistence • Gathering and Hunting • Pastoralism • Plant Cultivation: Horticulture and Agriculture • Exchange, Value, and Consumption Industrialism and Postmodernity	Required readings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 7 Textbook • Strike Magazine. Article on how jobs have changed in recent decades Suggested Economic Anthropology - 2020 - Vertovec - No trabajar pa ellos Entrepreneurship as a form of state resistance in Havana	Project Participant Observation due to October 5. You will choose a location/place where social interactions are 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

			<p>patterns pertaining to the use of space, the physical interaction, and the social interaction between people through answering given questions. The project report is to be at least three pages long, typed, double-spaced, 1 inch margins, 12-point font, and in compositional form.</p>
<p>Week 7. (Mon Oct 6 Sun Oct 12) Authority, Decisions, and Power: Political Anthropology</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colonialism and the Categorization of Political Systems Acephalous Societies: Bands and Tribes Centralized Societies: Chiefdoms and States Modern Nation-States Resistance, Revolution, and Social Movements 	<p>Required readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 8 Textbook The Limits of Kinship Mobilizations and the (A)politics of Human Rights in Argentina 	<p>Quiz 2 (Mon Oct 6 Sun Oct 12) Discussion 5</p>
<p>Week 8. (Mon Oct 13- Sun Oct 19) Social inequalities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theories of Inequity and Inequality Systems of Inequality Intersections of Inequality <p>Addressing Inequities within Anthropology</p>	<p>Required readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 9 textbook <p>Suggested: W.E.B. DuBois and the Concepts of Race and Class</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FILM: 	<p>Discussion 6</p>

		Guns, Germs and Steel, episode 1	
Week 9 (Mond Oct 20- Sun Oct 26) THE GLOBAL IMPACT OF HUMAN MIGRATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peopling of the World • Early Global Movements and Cultural Hybridity • Peasantry and Urbanization Inequality along the Margins	Required readings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 10 • The Local and the Global: The Anthropology of Globalization and Transnationalism. 	Discussion 7
Week 10 Mon Oct 27- Sun Nov 2. GENDER AND SEXUALITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sex, Gender, and Sexuality in Anthropology • Performing Gender Categories: Male, Female, and Intersex • The Power of Gender: Patriarchy and Matriarchy • Sexuality and Queer Anthropology 	Required readings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 12 	Due date: Essay nature-human relation November 2st.
Week 11 Mon Nov 3 – Sun Nov 9. RELIGION AND CULTURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What Is Religion? • Symbolic and Sacred Space • Myth and Religious Doctrine • Rituals of Transition and Conformity Other Forms of Religious Practice	Required Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 13 textbook • Gmelch (2000) Baseball Magic (pdf) 	
Week 12 Monday Nov 10 – Sun Nov 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food as a Material Artifact • A Biocultural Approach to Food 	Required Readings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 14 Textbook • How steak became manly 	Quiz 3 Week 12 Monday Nov 10 – Sun Nov 16

Anthropology of food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food and Cultural Identity • The Globalization of Food • 	and salads became feminine	
Week 13 Mon Nov 17– Sun Nov 23. Anthropology of media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Putting the Mass into Media • Putting Culture into Media Studies • Visual Anthropology and Ethnographic Film • Photography, Representation, and Memory • News Media, the Public Sphere, and Nationalism • Community, Development, and Broadcast Media • Broadcasting Modernity and National Identity Digital Media, New Socialities	Required Readings Chapter 15 textbook Place markers: Tracking spatiality in Brazilian hip-hop and community radio	
Week 14. No class Nov 26 to Nov 30. Thanksgiving holiday break Mon Nov 24- Sunday Nov 30			
Week 15 Mon Dec 1- Sun Dec 7 Arts, music and sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anthropology of the Arts • Anthropology of Music 	Required readings Chapter 16 textbook Podcast Bob Dylan Was A Catalyst, But The	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Anthropological View of Sport throughout Time Anthropology, Representation, and Performance	Nashville Cats Were The Ones Who Changed Music Row	
Finals week	Tuesday December 9 Final exam	FINAL EXAM	FINAL EXAM

Policies & Resources

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

Weekly discussion assignments Expectations (20 %)

There are weekly Discussion Board assignments. To do well on the Discussion Board posts, students must write at least 250 words per assignment, demonstrate that they have understood class materials, be able to accurately cite course materials, and insightfully integrate these materials with their analysis. Once students have submitted their initial essay posting, they will be able to see the submissions of other students. They are asked to comment thoughtfully on two of their classmates' posts (**Discussion Board Response to Peer Assignments**). Your comments have to show a clear application of the concepts and understanding of the weekly readings. There are not just personal opinions or agreeing or statements.

Weekly discussions **will close by Sunday midnight of the respective week**. Late submissions are not allowed.

Quizzes

To mitigate any issues with your computer and online assessments, you must take the [Practice Quiz](#) from each computer you will be using to take your graded quizzes and exams. Assessments in this course are not compatible with mobile devices and should not be taken through a mobile phone or a tablet.

Quizzes (3, worth a total of 15% of the grade). There are 3 quizzes that cover the readings, films, and lecture materials, each of which is worth 5% of your grade

Dates and times

Quiz 1: Week 4

Quiz 2: Week 7

Quiz 3: Week 12

Quizzes will become available From Monday 8:00 am – Sunday 11:59 pm

For more information, please review the [important information about quizzes](#) page.

Assignments

Midterm (10% of the grade)

The midterm exam will include multiple-choice questions, matching, true/false questions, and short answer questions.

Project of Participant Observation (20 %)

You will choose a location/place where social interactions are 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: What cultural practices are taking place? How can I represent these interactions from the perspective of cultural relativism? What speech communities can I identify? The project report is to be at least three pages long, typed, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, 12-point font, and in compositional form.

Human Nature Interconnections Project (15%) (Nov 1st)

This short essay (3-4 pages) asks you to provide your perspective on what you think “human nature” is and where you get your ideas from.

Final (20% of the grade)

The final exam will include multiple choice, matching, true/false questions, short answer questions, and one short essay.

Core Principles of this Course

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

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.

State General Education Course Description and Outcomes

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

ANT 2000 - Introduction to Anthropology

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.

Student learning outcomes:

- 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.
- 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.

