

ANT 2000 Introduction to Anthropology

Section: U05

In Person

Fall Term 2025

Course Meeting Information

U05 Monday 5:00 – 7:40 PM

Comp, Arts, Sci & Education 132

Office Hours: Wednesday 1:15 – 3:15 SIPA 318

Professor Information

Hannah Borenstein

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TA: Beverly Muzii

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Course Description and Purpose

This is a global learning course that counts towards your Global Learning Graduation Requirement. In this course, we'll be exploring human beings – from our very beginnings as a species, to our earliest forms of culture – to our modern incarnations in the contemporary world. We'll examine human biological and cultural variation, the history (and pre-history) of our social structures, human language, and all of those features which truly make the human species unique – and yet, show us how intimately connected we are with the rest of the world.

Course Goals

The course will introduce foundational concepts and thinkers in the fields of anthropology and expose students to contemporary adaptations of long-lasting theories and methods. We'll discuss and practice not just what anthropologists think and read, but also their methods – that is, what, in all their variations, they do.

UCC Category Description

This class is a part of the University Core Curriculum (UCC). This course satisfies the following UCC requirement for Social Science Group One: Students will demonstrate the ability to examine behavioral, social, and cultural issues from a variety of points of view. Students will demonstrate an understanding of basic social and behavioral science concepts and principles used in the analysis of behavioral, social, and cultural issues, past and present, local and global.

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

- Define the major fields of Anthropology and their specializations.
- Gain familiarity with some of the major debates in anthropology throughout the decades.
- Understand the methods anthropologists use to analyze how various groups of people organize and make sense of the world around them.
- Critically reflect on their own biases and worldviews (UCC).
- Consider how others bring their own worldviews to their research and understanding of culture (UCC).
- Demonstrate knowledge of the interrelatedness of local, global, international, and intercultural issues, trends, and systems. (GL – Global Awareness)
- Conduct a multi-perspective analysis of local, global, international, and intercultural problems. (GL - Global Perspective)
- Demonstrate willingness to engage in local, global, international, and intercultural problem solving. (GL - Global Engagement)

Assignments

Class Participation (20% of the grade)

Good participation does not have to mean that you have total command of the material for that day's class. Good participation means contributing comments, reflections, and questions that keep our discussion moving and actively working with your classmates during group exercises. There will be frequent small group break out discussions. Your participation grade will reflect your contributions to these discussions that help move the class forward.

Discussion Posts (10% of the grade)

There are 5 Discussion Board assignments, each of which is worth 2% of your grade. These assignments should be thought of as open book essay assignments, not casual posts. There will be a question or prompt to respond to. To do well on Discussion posts, students must write between 250-500 words per assignment, demonstrate that they have understood class materials (including readings, lectures, and sometimes films), ACCURATELY CITE course materials, and insightfully integrate these materials with their own analysis. Care should be taken when determining what to post, as posts will be visible to all students in the course. Unless otherwise noted, discussion posts should be posted before the class day that they are assigned.

Group Assignment (10% of the grade)

You will be broken up into small groups to work on a small research project about a commodity. For the project you will work with your group to do some basic research into an objects' production and consumption and write a set of questions that an anthropologist could pose for future research. As a group you will present your research to the class in brief presentations.

Ethnography Assignment/Presentation (15% of the grade)

Your ethnography assignment will consist of two parts. The first (and larger) part will be a written mini-ethnography (3-4 pages) after conducting participant observation research of your own. You will then share your experience and findings with the class in brief 5-minute presentations.

Assessments

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. Each quiz will consist of 5-10 multiple choice questions and 1-2 open-ended questions that can be answered in 3-4 sentences. A study guide is provided for each quiz to help you know what you should be paying attention to in the readings and films, and the questions on the quiz will be identical or nearly identical to those on the study guides. Quiz questions will also come from class lectures.

Midterm (10% of the grade)

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

Final (20% of the grade)

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

Grading

Course Grading Table				
Course Requirements	Number of Items	Points for Each	Total Points Available	Weight
Quizzes	3	50	150	15%
Midterm	1	100	100	10%
Final	1	200	200	20%
Class Participation	25	4	200	20%
Discussion Board Posts	5	20	100	10%
Group Assignment	1	100	100	10%
Ethnographic Paper	1	150	150	15%

Total				
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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

FIU has implemented the Panther Book Pack rental program, which 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. The Panther Book Pack program applies to all undergraduate credit hours per academic session. I recommend that you review the pricing for all materials across your classes this session compared 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. You may opt back into the Panther Book Pack up to 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 credit hour and the course materials will be reserved for you for the undergraduate courses for which you are registered. For more details, 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. All other readings will be posted on Canvas.

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.

Discussion Forums

Keep in mind that your discussion forum postings will likely be seen by other members of the course. Care should be taken when determining what to post.

Zoom Video Conference

Zoom is a video conference tool that you can use to interact with your professor and fellow students by sharing screens, chatting, broadcasting live video/audio, and taking part in other interactive online activities. We will be utilizing this tool if you would like to meet with me and you are unavailable to meet in person during my posted office hours.

If you encounter any technical difficulties, please contact the [FIU Canvas Help Team](#). Please ensure you contact support immediately upon the issue occurring.

Policies

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](#).

In addition, the [FIU Policies and Procedures Library website](#) serves as the official repository for university-wide policies and procedures.

Technical Requirements and Skills

One of the greatest barriers to student success is a lack of basic computer literacy. By computer literacy, we mean being able to manage and organize computer files efficiently and learning to use your computer's operating system and software quickly and easily.

Privacy Policy Statements for some of our Partners and Vendors

- [Canvas](#)
- [Microsoft](#)
- [Adobe](#)
- [YouTube](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [ProctorU](#)
- [HonorLock](#)
- [Turnitin](#)
- [OpenStax](#)
- [Zoom](#)
- [Respondus LockDown Browser](#)

Accessibility and Accommodation

The Disability Resource Center collaborates with students, faculty, staff, and community members to create diverse learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive, and sustainable. The DRC provides FIU students with disabilities the necessary support to successfully complete their education and participate in activities available to all students. If you have a diagnosed disability and plan to utilize academic accommodations, please contact the Center at 305-348-3532 or visit them at the Graham Center GC 190.

For additional assistance please contact [FIU's Disability Resource Center](#).

Web Accessibility Statements for Partners and Vendors

- [Canvas](#)

- [Microsoft](#)
- [Adobe](#)
- [YouTube](#)
- [LinkedIn](#)
- [ProctorU](#)
- [HonorLock](#)
- [Turnitin](#)
- [OpenStax](#)
- [Zoom](#)
- [Respondus LockDown Browser](#)

Please visit accessibility.fiu.edu for additional information about accessibility at FIU.

Academic Integrity

Florida International University is a community dedicated to generating and imparting knowledge through excellent teaching and research, the rigorous and respectful exchange of ideas, and community service. All students should respect the right of others to have an equitable opportunity to learn and honestly demonstrate the quality of their learning. Therefore, all students are expected to adhere to a standard of academic conduct, which demonstrates respect for themselves, their fellow students, and the University's educational mission. All students are deemed by the University to understand that if they are found responsible for academic misconduct, they will be subject to the Academic Misconduct procedures and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Conduct and Honor Code.

Academic Misconduct includes:

Cheating

- The unauthorized use of any materials, information, study aids, or assistance from another person on any academic assignment or exercise unless explicitly authorized by the course Instructor;
- Assisting another student in the unauthorized use of any materials, information, or study aids, unless explicitly authorized by the Instructor; and
- Having a substitute complete any academic assignment or completing an academic assignment for someone else, either paid or unpaid

Plagiarism

- The deliberate use and appropriation of another work without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the Student's own.
- Assisting another student in the deliberate use and appropriation of another's work without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the student's own.

Learn more about [Student Conduct and Academic Integrity](#).

Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

If you are looking for help for yourself or a fellow classmate, Panthers Care encourages you to express any concerns you may come across as it relates to any personal behavior concerns or worries you have, for the classmate's well-being or yours; you are encouraged to share your concerns with [FIU's Panthers Care website](#).

[Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#) offers free and confidential help for anxiety, depression, stress, and other concerns that life brings. Professional counselors are available for same-day appointments. Don't wait to call (305) 348-2277 to set up a time to talk or visit the online self-help portal.

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.

Copyright

The following conduct is prohibited by the Student Conduct and Honor Code. A lack of familiarity with University policy is not a defense to a violation of this Code. Unless specifically noted, the intent is not a required element to establish a policy violation. The following conduct violation or any attempt to violate the Code will be used in charging all Students or Student Organizations;

Section 5 | Conduct Violations - g. Computer Misuse

- vii. Unauthorized distribution or downloading of copyrighted materials, including but not limited to, unauthorized peer-to-peer file sharing. This is a violation whether the user is using their own personal computer or the University's information technology system for unauthorized distributions.

Copyright Statement: The materials and content in this course are provided solely for student use during the course. Course materials may not be shared outside of the course or with any third party without the explicit permission of the instructor or content publisher. Visit FIU [Library's Copyright Lib Guide](#) to learn more about copyright law and restrictions.

Additional Resources:

- [Student Conduct and Honor Code](#)
- [Digital Millennium Copyright Act Policy](#)
- [FIU - Copyright Guidance for Students](#)
- [FIU Library's Copyright Lib Guide](#)

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.

Introduction to Anthropology

I. Foundational Concepts

Week 1: August 25

Monday: Introduction

- Horace Miner, *Body Ritual Among The Nacirema*.

Week 2: Sept 1 (No Class Labor Day)

Week 3: Sept 8 The Culture Concept, Evolution, Archaeology

***Discussion Post #1 Due September 8 before class**

- Ruth Benedict, *Patterns of Culture*, (1-19).
- Clifford Geertz, "Thick Description," excerpts.
- Elizabeth Chin, *My Life With Things: The Consumer Diaries*, (3-10), (58-66).
- George Gmelch, "Native Anthropology: Studying the Culture of Baseball," (105-119)
- Orin Starn, *Isbis's Brain*, "One: A Compromise Between Science and Sentiment," (23-31), and "Two: The Wild Man of Deer Creek," (32-48)
- Jeremy Desilva, *First Steps* "How We Walk" (3-16).
- Lee Baker, *From Savage to Negro*, Introduction (1-9), Chapter 1 (11-25), Chapter 5 "Rethinking Race at the Turn of the Century: W.E.B. Du Bois and Franz Boas," (99-126).
- Zora Neale Hurston, *Mules and Men*, "Introduction" and "Chapter One."

Week 4: Sept 15 Culture, Race, Ethnicity

Open Stax, 1.1, "The Study of Humanity," 1.2 "The Four-Field Approach," 2.1 "Archaeological Research Methods, 2.2 "Conservation and Naturalism."

***Quiz #1**

Week 5: Sept 22 Library Visit

Meet in GL 280 for special session with librarian, Sarah Hammill

***Discussion Post #2 Due September 26**

II. Exchange, Circulation, Mobility

Week 6: Sept 29 Kinship, Marriage, Family

- Linda Stone and Diane King, "Gender, Reproduction, and Kinship," (1-25).
- Andrew Wright, "Making Kin from Gold." (435-461).
- Indira Arumugam, "Kin But Not Kind: An Anthropologist Among 'Her People.'"

***Quiz #2**

Week 7: Oct 6 Gift/Economic Exchange

- Marcel Mauss, *The Gift: Forms and Functions of Exchange in Archaic Societies*, selections.
- Karl Marx *Das Kapital*, excerpts.
- Emily Guendelsberger, *On the Clock: What Low-Wage Work Did to Me and How It Drives America Insane*, "Part One."

***Discussion Post #3 Due October 10**

Week 8: Oct 13 Globalization/Migration

- Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*, "Introduction," (1-9).
- Arjun Appadurai, *Modernity at Large*, "Chapter 2: Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy" (27-47).
- Jason De Leon *Land of Open Graves*, "Introduction" and "Prevention Through Deterrence," (1-37).

Week 9: Oct 20 Midterm

***Discussion Post #4 October 24**

Week 10: Oct 27 Food Systems

- Sydney Mintz, *Sweetness and Power*, selections.
- Hanna Garth, *Food in Cuba*, "Introduction: In Pursuit of Adequacy" (1-27).

III. Specialized Directions

Week 11: Nov 3 Gender

- Jordan, "Report from the Bahamas," (120-126).
- Guest Speaker, Joseph Hiller.

Week 12: Nov 10 Sports

- John Kelly *The Sports World of the Hanshin Tigers*, "Introduction" (1-29).
- Eduardo Galeano, *Soccer in Sun and Shadow*, excerpts

Week 13: Nov 17 Ethnography

***Quiz #3**

***Group Presentations**

Week 14: Nov 24: Technology / Design Anthropology

- Michel Foucault, "Panopticism," (195-218).
- Darren Byler, *In the Camps: China's High-Tech Penal Colony*, (10-37).

- Safiya Umoja Noble, *Algorithms of Oppression*, (110-118).
- Wendy Gunn, Ton Otto, and Rachel Charlotte Smith, *Design Anthropology*, Selections.
Graeme Wood, "Anthropology Inc." *The Atlantic*.
Guest Speaker, Chris Daley, (Ph.D., Cultural Anthropology) UX Researcher for Google

***Discussion Post #5 Due November 28**

Week 15: Dec 1: Presentations

Final Presentations

Week 16: Final Exam

Final Exam