ANT 2000- U02
INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY
FALL 2017

“The purpose of anthropology is to make the world safe for human differences.”
Ruth Benedict

Meeting Location: FIU Arena 119
Meeting Time: W, 1:00-2:50AM

Instructor:
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Anthropology is a social science which means that anthropologists study people—what we say and do all over the world and what is common versus varied to the human experience. Anthropologists study all aspects of the human experience—including our human origins, our languages, our pre-history, our cultural worlds, our genetics, and so on. It is a very, very broad field of knowledge. Therefore, most Introduction to Anthropology courses provide students with a wide-ranging survey of different topics and “cultures,” for example studying what is meant by the ethnicity or gender and how they are practiced culturally by different peoples living today and, in some cases, long ago. By comparing and contrasting cross-culturally what peoples do and say we gain insight into what is typical across our species and what is unique to any group of people. Most Introduction to Anthropology devoting a week per topic and chapter in a textbook. To get you to engage with your own cultural assumptions and ideas, this course will involve little lecture and much more in-class activities. Additionally, you will exchange your experiences and ideas with your diverse teammates as this course utilizes team-based learning. This is a Global Learning Foundations course that counts towards your Global Learning graduation requirement.

This course aims to:
1. introduce students to the basic concepts used by anthropologists;
2. introduce students to the concept of culture and its varied meanings;
3. help students develop analytical, communicative, and critical thinking skills through using anthropological knowledge;
4. enlarge students’ understanding of the temporal, geographic, adaptive, and social diversity of humanity; and make students aware of the ethical issues relevant to anthropology.
5. help students understand the social construction of reality
6. help students to understand enculturation and transmission of culture
7. help students to understand the ways we learn to belong with others and learn to differentiate ourselves from others.

Applied Course Objectives:
1. to understand how we socially construct reality and how this influence the way we see and perceive reality in our everyday life and be able to critically analyze our biases towards others
2. to understand culture as comfort and be able to analyze our cultural comforts and discomforts and be able to move beyond our cultural comfort zone
3. to experience working in teams and appreciate the diversity of the team members
4. to experience different ways to make connection with others, especially with those who are dissimilar from yourself.
5. to be able to discuss and to explain at least three ways that culture affects how people view and solve problems and apply this knowledge to your own career or career plans.

Global Learning Course Outcomes: Upon completion of this course you will be able to

- To gain or sharpen an awareness of the interrelatedness of local, regional, national and global manifestations of cultural practices and ideas (Global awareness)
- To develop the ability to see these practices from multiple perspectives that reflect the interconnectedness of local to global cultural practices (Global Perspective)
- To engage and be able to continue to engage in local to global inter-cultural problem solving including creating new ways to solve those problems using cultural tools gained in the class (Global engagement)

REQUIRED TEXT
* Required Text is available at the bookstore; copies on 2-hour reserve at Green Library

ADDITIONAL READINGS
Non-text required readings as PDFs and other materials such streaming video and audio files will be available through the course website on Blackboard. Look for them under the label “Required Preparatory Work” inside the module for each week. Go through the entire list of readings, videos to watch, etc. before coming to class to be prepared for class. Readings, etc. should always be done in the order presented because I think it will enhance your understanding this way. To ensure you do this work, many classes will begin with quizzes on these materials.

Blackboard: Additional Readings, Course Slides, Project Guidelines, Grading Rubrics, Citation Guidelines will be on Blackboard. You will also use Blackboard to submit your assignments, projects, and take iRAT and tRATs. The plagiarism detection services of Turnitin.com will be used through Blackboard.

Login via fiu.blackboard.com and check that you can access the course website. If you encounter any technical problems, then call UTS at 305.348.2284 or go to Green Library Rm. 150. Make sure your computer works well with Blackboard.

CLASS STRUCTURE
This is not a lecture course though I will present some content each week; it utilizes Team-Based Learning (TBL). Most likely you have never been in a course using TBL so please read carefully: TBL has you prepare for classes by doing preparation work outside of class and applying it inside of class. Do not expect the professor to lecture much; instead most class time will involve applying and enhancing knowledge through in-class team projects. Don’t confuse teams with groups. You will learn the difference; for now, please do not think this will be a class with group projects. To repeat, you are expected to get exposure to the course content prior to class, will be quizzed on your understanding of this content prior to class (iRAT) and in class (tRAT), and then you’ll spend most class time applying this information via short in-class projects with your team. You will be assessed for both your individual and team work – see grading below.
Learning is not the same as reading, watching etc. Research shows that it takes most people several exposures to learn new content. This is the main reason why in this course you start learning material through the required preparation work, then apply the content in class and then you are assessed in different ways. This approach helps knowledge and critical thinking “stick” but it may seem strange to you at first. That’s intended. Taking you outside your educational comfort zone is why you’re in college in the first place and in my class you’ll be outside your cultural comfort zone much if not most of the time. This may be the only anthropology course you take in your entire life, so my goal is that key understandings about human life and human “nature” stay with you for a lifetime – and are not forgotten within six months as is true of most course content.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
This course will use mixed teaching and learning methods to better accommodate particularities of students. We will have individual, group, and team-based projects and evaluations.

Grading Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation and Team Presentations</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>(In-class)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Assignments</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>(completed/submitted prior to class)</td>
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<tr>
<td>iRATs</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>(completed prior to class on BB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>tRATs</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>(In-class)</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-class Team Activity Reports</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>(In-class)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beyond My Cultural Comforts Assignment</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>(completed outside the class)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>(Online Exam)</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
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1. PARTICIPATION and TEAM PRESENTATIONS (10 % OF GRADE)

1.a Participation: You are expected to come to every class, arrive on time and come to class having done the work assigned to that week. In addition, you must participate in class and in your team, as in-class activities worth 40% of your final grade (Participation, Presentations, tRATs, In-Class Activity Reports). You cannot be a slacker, as your team and group members will evaluate your participation and performance during the midterm and at the end of the semester. Everyone in the class has the responsibility of making the classroom a “safe” environment where everyone feels comfortable expressing their thoughts and in which everyone can feel that their opinions are respected, even when they are not shared by all members of the class. Class discussions and activities will help you to understand the connection between what is being taught in class and how it relates to your everyday life.

1.b Team Presentations: Each week all or some teams will present their work that they complete during class time to other teams. Be ready to present your in-class team activity/report to class. I will ask different teams to present each week. You will earn 10% by presenting your work to others in addition to participating in class in general.

Attendance Policy: You should not miss more than 1 class as it will negatively affect your overall grade. If you need to miss a class due to illness (medical doctor’s note), religious observances or team participation (official paper work) you must notify me prior to the class. I will accommodate legitimate, verifiable cases of illness and emergencies in addition to religious holy days (two-weeks in advance notice).
2. INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENTS (15% OF GRADE)
There will be several short individual assignments throughout the semester. They will worth 15% of your Final Grade. You will submit them online via Blackboard prior to class and you are also required to bring a hard copy with you to the class. You can check the Rubrics on Blackboard to see the assessment criteria for these individual assignments.

My Views on Culture (Week 3): This short assignment asks you to record what YOU think culture is before we study culture in depth. You will be asked to reflect on if your original ideas have shifted during the midterm after seeing so much cross-cultural content (Global Awareness and Global Perspective).

Human Nature Worksheet (Week 4): This short assignment asks you to provide your perspective on what you think “human nature” is and where you get your ideas from. You'll fill this out at the beginning of the class and reflect on it at the end of the course after you've been exposed to many different approaches to human life. (Global Perspective).

Participant Observation (Week 5): This week you will examine how social space is culturally determined by observing people in elevators and by moving while speaking with others.

Comparative Childhoods: (Week 8-individually and in class). You and your team will fill out a worksheet based on this week's preparatory material comparing how children are raised in three different cultural contexts (Global awareness; Global perspective).

Planned Pause: My Cultural Ruts: (Week 9): This assignment has you identify two “habits” you obtained culturally from your group. You'll choose you want to change now that you know more about how “cultural ruts” are acquired, and you'll explain your strategy for changing this rut. (Global Awareness; Global Engagement).

Family Interviews: (Week 11): You will complete some interviews prior to class. Further guidelines will be provided on Blackboard.

Discomforting Foods: (Week 13). This week you and your team will coordinate bringing to class foods that are comforting to you and your people—but may be discomforting to others. (Global Awareness and Global Perspective)

My Career Connections: (Week 14). This individual project has you examine how what you’ve learned in class and anthropology can be applied to your own career path (Global Engagement).

Final Reflection (Week 15). This individual assignment has you reflect on what you have learned in class and how you can apply this knowledge to your everyday life (Global Engagement).

Peer Evaluation (TBA): You will evaluate your team member’s performances. I will provide further guidelines on this assignment and will announce the due date later in the semester.

3. INDIVIDUAL READINESS ASSURANCE TESTS (iRATS) (15%)
Individual & Team Readiness Assurance Tests (RATs) AKA short quizzes: RATs are short multiple choice, True/false, and/or short answer quizzes on the week’s content that you will take individually (iRAT) online before class and then, again, as a team (tRAT) in class. Quiz dates will be
indicated on Syllabus and on Blackboard. You will first take iRAT individually online. Team RATs are taken with your team at the beginning of class when assigned. You get one score for your iRAT and another for your tRAT. Miss an iRAT and you cannot get a make-up. However, I will drop every student's lowest iRAT and tRAT score of the semester.

4. TEAM READINESS ASSURANCE TESTS (tRATs) (10%)

You will take tRATs ONLINE at the beginning of class when assigned. It will be the same test you take online prior to class. This time you will take it as a team via Blackboard and learn other's perspectives and their way of thinking about the questions and answers.

5. IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES (20% OF GRADE): TEAM-BASED

The weekly class sessions are a main source of learning for the course. Please arrive to class on time and plan to stay for the entire session. There will be multiple activities during class sessions throughout the quarter. These may include quizzes, short reflections, film viewing guides, and other activities. No make-up or late assignments will be accepted. Missing more than one activity will have a negative effect on your grade in the class. You will mostly work in teams to complete in-class activities. You will submit final reports through Blackboard. You will be assigned to teams during the first (or second) week of the semester. You will assess your team members' individual performances via using iPeer on Blackboard. (Global awareness; Global Perspectives; Global Engagement).

6. BEYOND MY CULTURAL COMFORTS ASSIGNMENT (15%)

This individual outside class assignment involves more personal challenge, thought and cultural analysis than the short assignments. It is called “Beyond my cultural comforts” and will be assigned at the end of the first month of class. This assignment has you exchange discomforting experiences with a teammate. That teammate will accompany you to something s/he find culturally comfortable but which will be outside your own cultural comforts and you’ll reciprocate with him/her. You will analyze why you felt outside your cultural comforts and what you gained by expanding your cultural horizons. (Global awareness; Global Perspectives; Global Engagement).

7. FINAL EXAM (15% OF GRADE)

Final exam will be cumulative. It will be multiple choice, short answer, and essay. It will cover materials from texts, lectures, discussions and films. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to ask fellow students for notes. You can also go to Blackboard to find lecture notes. Some, but not all of the films are available in the library.

GENERAL CLASS POLICIES

Attendance: Since every student is entitled to full participation in class without interruption, all students are expected to be in class and prepared to begin on time. Students are expected to treat the instructor and other students with dignity and respect, especially in cases where a diversity of opinion arises. Students who engage in disruptive behavior are subject to disciplinary action, including removal from the course. See above statement for further details on attendance and participation.
**Plagiarism/Academic Honesty:** As an FIU student, you are always expected to abide by the university’s policies particularly those governing academic honesty and plagiarism as they appear in the FIU Student Handbook. If you are not familiar with how to avoid plagiarism, you will receive some instruction and additional guidelines in this course. In sum, should anything you/your team produces cite any data, research or information that you have not generated and which is not general knowledge then you must cite it appropriately following one of the disciplinary conventions of the academic disciplines represented by the faculty teaching this course. More information about citation formatting will be given to you via Blackboard. Please become completely familiar with bibliographic styles and citation conventions. If you do not cite others’ work adequately you can be accused of plagiarism and FIU takes these accusations very seriously. Several of your written assignments will be submitted using Turnitin.com to check your work for plagiarism. Finally, I reserve the right to alter the syllabus as needed. You will be notified of any changes.

**Academic Conduct:** 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 to 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 educational mission of the University. 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 Handbook.

**Tardiness:** Assignments received after the deadline will lose 1/2 or 1 grade; one week and over 1 full grade or more.

**Teams:** 5 students. I will show you how to officially enroll in a team during Week 2. For Week 1, you will be working in a temporary team.

**Use of Electronic Devices (Cell Phones, Computers, etc.):**

Electronic device and cell phone policies will be debated and announced in class early in the term.

**Special Needs Students:** Please notify the faculty prior to or immediately upon commencement of this course about your accommodation needs as in accordance with FIU policy. You will be accommodated accordingly.

**COURSE OUTLINE:**

**PART I: Getting (Dis)Oriented**

**WEEK 1**  
August 23, Wednesday  
Course Introduction, Team-Based Learning, Brief Intro to Anthropology  
***Take iRAT-1 on Syllabus, NO tRAT THIS WEEK!***

**WEEK 2**
August 30, Wednesday
What is Anthropology? Subfields of Anthropology, Ethnocentrism, Cultural Relativism, Holistic Approach
***Take iRAT-2 prior to class
***You will tRAT-2 in class with your Team

WEEK 3
Sept 6, Wednesday
The concept of Culture, Its Definition and Characteristics,
***Take iRAT prior to class, tRAT in class
*** Complete "My Views on Culture Assignment" prior to class and bring a hard copy with you

WEEK 4
Sept 13, Wednesday
What do you/we think about Human Nature? Evolution and Genetics
*** No RAT this week!
*** Complete “Human Nature Assignment” prior to class and bring a hard copy with you

WEEK 5
Sept 20, Wednesday
Cultural Differences in Everyday Life, (Mis)Communication
***No RAT this week!
***Complete “Participant Observation Assignment” prior to class and bring a hard copy with you

WEEK 6
Sept 27, Wednesday
Linguistic Anthropology, Social Interaction in Everyday Life
Language and Thought, Language and Identity
***No RAT this week!
***Complete “Language Assignment” prior to class

PART II: How we learn/become Culture, Become US

WEEK 7
Oct 4, Wednesday
How we learn Culture? Learning Culture as Comfort
***Take iRAT prior to Class
***tRAT in class

WEEK 8
Oct 11, Wednesday
How we learn Culture? Learning to Belong Culturally, Comparative Childhoods
***No RAT this week
*** Fill out the “Comparative Childhoods” Worksheet prior to class and bring it to class with you

WEEK 9
Oct 18, Wednesday
Culturally Integrating into Groups; Learning to Belong
***Complete Required Work and Take iRAT prior to class, tRAT will be taken in Class
***Complete “My Cultural Ruts” Assignment prior to class and bring it to class with you

WEEK 10
Oct 25, Wednesday
Ties that Bind Us Culturally – Rituals
***No iRAT or tRAT
*** “Beyond My Cultural Comforts” Assignment due prior to class.
PART III: Creating “US” Creating “OTHERS”

WEEK 11  
Nov 1, Wednesday  
Lines That Divide All People: Gender, Sex and Sexuality,  
Family, Kinship, Marriage  
***No RATs  
*** Complete “Interviews about Families” prior to class and  
bring the completed worksheet to class with you

WEEK 12  
Nov 8, Wednesday  
Lines That Divide All People: Race and Ethnicity  
***Take iRAT prior to class  
***tRAT will be taken in class  
***Complete “Implicit Bias” worksheet prior to class and  
bring the completed worksheet to class with you

WEEK 13  
Nov 15, Wednesday  
The Anthropology of Food  
***No iRAT this week!  
*** Complete “Discomforting Foods” assignment prior to  
class and bring a hard copy with you  
***Bring culturally comforting foods to class

WEEK 14  
Nov 22, Wednesday  
NO IN-CLASS SESSION THIS WEEK,  
WE WILL HAVE AN ONLINE CLASS  
What do I do with Anthropology and Anthropological  
knowledge?  
***No iRAT, tRAT this week!  
***You will complete “My Career Connection” assignment  
and submit it through Blackboard  
***You have to participate in Blackboard discussion to be  
counted as present for this week-Further guidelines will be  
provided on BB

WEEK 15  
Nov 29, Wednesday  
FINAL WORKSHOP  
***No iRAT and tRAT this week  
***You will complete and bring your “Final Reflections”  
Assignment to class with you

FINAL EXAM- ONLINE EXAM  
December 4, Monday  
YOU WILL TAKE IT ON BLACKBOARD
This course syllabus is subject to change if the instructor deems it necessary in order to accomplish the course objectives. Students will be advised about any change made to the syllabus.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

In-class activities.....................................................Wednesdays-will be completed in class
Individual RATS .....................................................prior to class when assigned
Individual Assignments .............................................prior to class when assigned
Team RATS....................................................................at the beginning of Wed class when assigned
My Cultural Comfort Assignment.........................Oct 25, Wednesday (Blackboard)
ONLINE FINAL EXAM....................................................Dec 4, Monday (Blackboard)

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**First read the Syllabus carefully. Then go to Blackboard and take your first iRAT online
During WEEK 1. IT should be taken prior to our Week 2 class!**