

## **ANT 2000 Introduction to Anthropology. Section RVC**

***Javier Mejia, Ph.D.***

- Email: Canvas Inbox
- Office: N/A
- Office Hours: By Appointment through Zoom
- Turn Around: Within 24 hours

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

### **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.

### **Course Objectives**

Upon completing this course, students will be able to:

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

- Identify the centrality of culture to the discipline of anthropology
- Identify the four-field approach of American Anthropology
- Critically reflect on their own biases and worldviews (UCC)
- Willingly better engage in a number of problem-solving activities in a variety of sociocultural contexts around the globe. (GL)
- Consider ethical aspects of Anthropological knowledge and 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)

- Understand the importance of diversity, holism, environmentalism, and cultural relativism to anthropology

## **Policies**

Before starting this course, please review the following pages:

- [Policies](#)
- [Netiquette](#)
- [Technical Requirements and Skills](#)
- [Accessibility and Accommodation](#)
- [Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#)
- [Academic Misconduct Statement](#)
- [Copyright Statement](#)
- [Inclusivity Statement](#)

## **Course Prerequisites**

There are no prerequisites for this course.

## **Proctored Exam Policy**

**Please note that the information contained in this section applies only if your course requires a proctored exam.**

Through a careful examination of this syllabus, it is the student's responsibility to determine whether this online course requires proctored exams. Please visit our [Student Proctored Exam Instructions](#) webpage for important information concerning proctored exams, proctoring centers, and important forms.

## **Textbook and Course Material**

- Introduction to Anthropology - OpenStax  
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/>

[Jennifer Hasty, David G. Lewis, Marjorie M. Snipes\(2022\). Introduction to Anthropology, OpenStax.](#)

## **Expectations of this Course**

This is an online course, which means all the coursework will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same as 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 students.

### **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 5 times a week
- Respond to discussion postings within 2 business days of the deadline
- Respond to emails within 24 hours on business days
- Grade assignments within 7 days of the assignment deadline

## **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**.

### **Discussion Forums**

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

### **Weekly discussion assignments Expectations (20 %)**

There are weekly Discussion Board assignments. To do well on Discussion Board postings, students must write at least the minimum number of words per assignment,

demonstrate that they have understood class materials, be able to accurately cite course materials, and insightfully integrate these materials with their own 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 the 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**

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. 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 (Mon Sep 16- Sun Sep 22)

Quiz 2: Week 7 (Mon Oct 7 Sun Oct 13)

Quiz 3: Week 12 (Mon Nov 11 – Sun Nov 17)

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 %) (Due to October 4)**

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 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.

### **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.

**Grading**

<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>Weekly discussions and responses to peer assignments</b>	10	20	200	20%
<b>Quizzes</b>	3	50	150	15%
<b>Midterm</b>	1	100	100	10%
<b>Project of Participant Observation</b>	1	200	200	20%
<b>Human Nature Interconnections Project</b>	1	150	150	15%
<b>Final</b>	1	200	200	20%

<b>Letter Grade Distribution Table</b>					
<b>Letter</b>	<b>Range%</b>	<b>Letter</b>	<b>Range%</b>	<b>Letter</b>	<b>Range%</b>
A	95 or above	B	83 - 86	C	70 - 76

### Letter Grade Distribution Table

Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%
A-	90 - 94	B-	80 - 82	D	60 - 69
B+	87 - 89	C+	77 - 79	F	59 or less

### Course Calendar

MODULE DATES AND THEMES	OUTLINE	Reading	Activities due
Week 1 (Monday August-Sun 26-Sep 1) <b>Introduction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professor Introduction and Career Highlights</li> <li>• Course Overview</li> <li>• Introduction of Anthropological Theories</li> <li>• Using Canvas Learning Management System</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Practice quiz</b></li> <li>• <b>Self-Introduction</b> in the Discussions section</li> </ul> Weekly discussions will be close by Sunday midnight. No late submission allowed.
Week 2 (Mon Sep 2-Sun 8) <b>What is Anthropology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Study of Humanity, or “Anthropology Is Vast”</li> <li>• The Four-Field Approach: Four Approaches within the Guiding Narrative</li> <li>• Overcoming Ethnocentrism</li> <li>• Western Bias in Our Assumptions about Humanity</li> <li>• Holism, Anthropology’s Distinctive Approach</li> <li>• Cross-Cultural Comparison and Cultural Relativism</li> <li>• Reaching for an Insider’s Point of View</li> </ul>	Required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 1 textbook</li> <li>• The Yuck Factor (PDF)</li> </ul> Suggested reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Female Hunters of the Early Americas.pdf</li> </ul>	<b>Discussion 1</b> “Cultural Relativism” Weekly discussions will be close by Sunday midnight. No late submission allowed.
Week 3. (Mon Sep 9-Sun Sep 15) <b>The concept of Culture, Its Definition and Characteristics,</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Homeyness of Culture</li> <li>• The Winkiness of Culture</li> <li>• The Elements of Culture</li> <li>• The Aggregates of Culture</li> <li>• Modes of Cultural Analysis</li> <li>• The Contradictions of Cultur</li> </ul>	Required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 3 textbook</li> <li>• Eating Christmas in Kalahari.pdf</li> </ul>	<b>Discussion 2</b> “The notion of Culture” Weekly discussions will be close by Sunday midnight. No late submission allowed.

<p>Week 4. (Mon Sep 16- Sun Sep 22)</p> <p><b>What do you/we think about Human Nature? Evolution and Genetics</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</li> </ul> <p>Walking With Cavemen - Ep 1 First Ancestors (2003) [576p] - video Dailymotion</p>	<p><b>Quiz 1</b> open from Mon Sep 16 to Sun Sept 22</p> <p><b>Discussion 3</b> "What do you/we think about Human Nature?"</p>
<p>Week 5. (Mon Sep 23- Sun Sep 29)</p> <p><b>Language and communication</b> (28,29 and 30 Thanksgiving break)</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> <li>• Performativity and Ritual</li> <li>• Language and Power</li> </ul>	<p>Required reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 6 Textbook</li> </ul>	<p>28,29 and 30 Thanksgiving break</p> <p><b>Discussion 4.</b> "Language and Communication"</p>
<p>Week 6. Mon Sep 30- Sun Oct 6) Work, Life, and Value:</p> <p><b>Economic Anthropology</b></p>	<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 Industrialism and Postmodernity</li> </ul>	<p>Required readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 7 Textbook</li> <li>• Strike Magazine. Article on how jobs have changed in recent decades</li> </ul> <p>Suggested Economic Anthropology - 2020 - Vertovec - No trabajar pa ellos Entrepreneurship as a form of state resistance in Havana</p>	<p><b>Project Participant Observation due to October 4.</b></p>

<p>Week 7. (Mon Oct 7 Sun Oct 13)          Authority, Decisions, and Power: <b>Political Anthropology</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colonialism and the Categorization of Political Systems</li> <li>• Acephalous Societies: Bands and Tribes</li> <li>• Centralized Societies: Chiefdoms and States</li> <li>• Modern Nation-States</li> <li>• Resistance, Revolution, and Social Movements</li> </ul>	<p>Required readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 8 Textbook</li> <li>• The Limits of Kinship Mobilizations and the (A)politics of Human Rights in Argentina</li> </ul>	<p><b>Quiz 2</b>          (Mon Oct 7 Sun Oct 13)  <b>Discussion 5</b></p>
<p>Week 8. (Mon Oct 14- Sun Oct 20)  <b>Social inequalities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theories of Inequity and Inequality</li> <li>• Systems of Inequality</li> <li>• Intersections of Inequality Addressing Inequities within Anthropology</li> </ul>	<p>Required readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 9 textbook</li> </ul> <p>Suggested:          W.E.B. DuBois and the Concepts of Race and Class</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FILM: Guns, Germs and Steel, episode 1</li> </ul>	
<p>Week 9 (Mond Oct 21- Sun Oct 27)          THE GLOBAL IMPACT OF HUMAN <b>MIGRATION</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peopling of the World</li> <li>• Early Global Movements and Cultural Hybridity</li> <li>• Peasantry and Urbanization Inequality along the Margins</li> </ul>	<p>Required readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 10</li> <li>• The Local and the Global: The Anthropology of Globalization and Transnationalism.</li> </ul>	
<p>Week 10          Mon Oct 28- Sun Nov 3.          GENDER AND SEXUALITY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sex, Gender, and Sexuality in Anthropology</li> <li>• Performing Gender Categories: Male, Female, and Intersex</li> <li>• The Power of Gender: Patriarchy and Matriarchy</li> <li>• Sexuality and Queer Anthropology</li> </ul>	<p>Required readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 12</li> </ul>	<p><b>Due date: Essay nature-human relation November 1<sup>st</sup>.</b></p>
<p>Week 11 Mon Nov 4 – Sun Nov 10.          RELIGION AND CULTURE</p>	<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> </ul> <p>Other Forms of Religious Practice</p>	<p>Required Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 13 textbook</li> <li>• Gmelch (2000) Baseball Magic (pdf)</li> </ul>	

<p>Week 12 Monday Nov 11 – Sun Nov 17 Anthropology of food</p>	<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> <li>• </li> </ul>	<p>Required Readings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 14 Textbook</li> <li>• How steak became manly and salads became feminine</li> </ul>	<p>Quiz 3 Week 12 Monday Nov 11 – Sun Nov 17</p>
<p>Week 13 Mon Nov 18 – Sun Nov 24. <b>Anthropology of media</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Putting the Mass into Media</li> <li>• Putting Culture into Media Studies</li> <li>• Visual Anthropology and Ethnographic Film</li> <li>• Photography, Representation, and Memory</li> <li>• News Media, the Public Sphere, and Nationalism</li> <li>• Community, Development, and Broadcast Media</li> <li>• Broadcasting Modernity and National Identity</li> </ul> <p>Digital Media, New Socialities</p>	<p>Required Readings Chapter 15 textbook Place markers: Tracking spatiality in Brazilian hip-hop and community radio</p>	
<p>Week 14. Mon Nov 25- December 1 <b>Art music and sports</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anthropology of the Arts</li> <li>• Anthropology of Music</li> <li>• An Anthropological View of Sport throughout Time</li> <li>• Anthropology, Representation, and Performance</li> </ul>	<p>Required readings Chapter 16 textbook</p> <p>Podcast Bob Dylan Was A Catalyst, But The Nashville Cats Were The Ones Who Changed Music Row</p>	
<p>Week 15 Mon Dec 2- Sun Dec 8</p>			<p><b>Final exam</b> December 4</p>