

Anthropology 150 On-Line: Human Origins and Culture

Fall 2004

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Office hours: WF, 9:00-11:00, Sierra Hall 262. Please make an appointment.

Textbook: *Anthropology: The Human Challenge*. by Haviland, Prins, Walrath and McBride. 11th edition.

Class Content and Requirements:

This class is an introduction to the field of Anthropology. Approximately half of the class is devoted to a survey of human prehistory, emphasizing the emergence of culture as a distinctively human adaptation, including advances in technology and social organization, the spread of human populations to diverse environments, the origins and consequences of food production and the rise of civilization. The second half of the class examines the sub-fields of socio-cultural Anthropology, surveying aspects of world-wide cultural variation. Students are expected to master the information presented in the class textbook about these topics. Below is a schedule of the topics to be considered each week, including the sections of the textbook to be consulted. The class instructor will also post a video presentation on the class website at the beginning of each week, offering guidance about the questions, issues and topics to which students should pay particular attention. Instructions for downloading these videos are on the class website.



For purposes of grading, students will be evaluated in two ways:

Three multiple-choice exams, which can be taken on-line, will be posted at the beginning of the weeks indicated below in the schedule of textbook readings. Each of these exams will consist of 50 questions, each worth 2 points. Students can earn a total of 300 points from these exams. Failure to take an exam within 24 hours of its posting will result in the loss of the points assigned to the exam.

Three essay questions will be posted at the beginning of each week. These questions are designed to help students organize their thinking about the topics under consideration each week. Each essay question is worth 25 points, for a possible total of 75 points each week. Answers to the essay questions should not exceed two pages per question. Students are expected to submit answers to the essay questions to the instructor by 5:00 PM, Friday of each week using WebCT. Failure to post answers on time will result in the loss of the points assigned to these questions (exceptions may be provided at the discretion of the instructor only in cases of valid and **verifiable** emergencies). These essays will be graded on the basis of the following criteria:

- Have you included the names, dates and places important to this topic?
- Have you identified important background developments or topics that shaped investigation of the subject under discussion?
- Does the subject under discussion include significant controversies or differing schools of thought; if so, what are they and how do they influence what anthropologists have concluded about this topic?
- What are the major conclusions that have been reached about this topic?

Each student's final score for the class will be based on the total of the points earned from the three multiple-choice exams and the weekly essay questions. Letter grades, including + and - values, will be assigned on the basis of the class curve. This means that there are no absolute scores that translate into letter grades. Letter grades will depend on the performance curve for the class as a whole.

Date	Topic	Textbook Chapters
Aug. 23-27	Nature of Anthropology Methods of Studying the Past	Chapter 1 Chapter 2
Aug. 30-Sept. 3	Biology and Evolution	Chapter 3
Sept. 6-10	The Modern Primates	Chapter 4
Sept. 13-17	Fossil Primates	Chapter 5
Sept. 20-24	Earliest Hominids and Culture	Chapter 6
Sept. 27-Oct. 1	Homo habilis and Cultural Origins Homo erectus	Chapter 7 Chapter 8
Oct. 4-8	Archaic Homo sapiens Homo sapiens	Chapter 9 Chapter 10
Oct. 11-15	FIRST EXAM Neolithic Revolution Cities and Civilization	Chapter 11 Chapter 12
Oct. 18-22	Modern Human Diversity Nature of Culture Language and Communication	Chapter 13 Chapter 14 Chapter 15
Oct. 25-29	Growing Up Human Patterns of Subsistence	Chapter 16 Chapter 17
Nov. 1-5	Economic Systems Sex and Marriage	Chapter 18 Chapter 19
Nov. 8-12	SECOND EXAM Family and Household Kinship and Descent	Chapter 20 Chapter 21
Nov. 15-19	Grouping Political Organization	Chapter 22 Chapter 23
Nov. 22-26	The Supernatural The Arts	Chapter 24 Chapter 25
Nov.29- Dec. 3	Culture Change Anthropology and the Future	Chapter 26 Chapter 27
Finals Week	THIRD EXAM	