

Introduction to Anthropology - ANTH101

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Course introduction and goals: This course is an introduction to anthropology, the study of how humans shape and give meaning to the world in which we live. It is an exploration of the variety with which we build, alter, and adapt to our lived environment. The goal is to give students an introduction to cultural anthropology's major concepts, prominent figures, and theoretical perspectives. Students will develop "intellectual ownership" of the introduced concepts, upon which an anthropologically nuanced worldview can develop.

Student expectations, policies, and grading:

1) **Academic honesty/integrity** is a crucial component of the scholarly process. All students will practice these tenets as outlined by RHIT in all class related activities. Notably, **plagiarism** will not be tolerated in any form and punished to the severest extent possible. See the RHIT rules and procedures for more information <http://www.rose-hulman.edu/offices-and-services/registrar/rules-procedures.aspx>

2) **Attendance** - I do not take attendance, you are all adults and responsible for your education. We are, however, a small group. So absences will be noticed and adversely impact your grade. **If you are going to be absent contact me in advance via email.**

3) **Civil, critical discussion** - I strongly advocate for discussion as a tool for





fostering engaged thinking and intellectually stimulating exchange. Disagreement is a potential component of such exchanges. Such disagreements are healthy, but must be treated appropriately. No student will be targeted or maligned, either in class or out by any member of our group, for expressing an opinion different from your own. Additionally, constructive criticism is encouraged as a tool for fostering intellectual exchange.

Grading:

Reading discussions - we will have multiple reading discussions during the term. These may also include small assignments outside class to better prepare for the discussions. This portion of the class is worth 15 points. Students will be put into groups a given a specific discussion task relevant to the readings, at the end of class each group will be asked to give a summary of their discussion.

Two papers - written on topics we generate in class and from an interview. Papers must be double-spaced, at least 1,200 words in length, and follow the American Anthropology Association's style guide for citations (see www.aaanet.org for style guidelines). Students must draw upon the lectures and readings to support their arguments and position. The papers are worth 50 points total (each paper is worth 25 points).

Quizzes - four short quizzes drawn from the readings, films, and class lectures. Quizzes are designed to bolster discussions by ensuring a high overall level of comprehension and engagement with the course material (4 x 10 = 40 points).

Film connection - we will watch six films - many of them outside of class as they run longer than 50 minutes. You will each pick two films and write a short (about 800 word) essay analyzing the selected film and connecting it to other aspects of our class. IMPORTANTLY - these are not film reviews but you using anthropology of analyze and evaluate a piece of content dealing with disciplinarily relevant topics, limit yourself to ONE paragraph of summary and background information. There is no set due date on these assignments, you need to complete them before the Friday of Week 10 (2 x 10 = 20 points).

Three exams - given at the conclusion of each topical section. Exams are closed book and note, blue book in-class essays. You will be given a set of questions to prepare and then one question in class to write on. Each exam is worth 25 points.

Total		200 possible points	
Grade	Points	Grade	Points
A	200-185	C	130-149
B+	184-180	D+	120-129
B	179-160	D	100-119
C+	150-159	F	below 99

Required texts:

Students are required to read the following three books and circulated articles:

1. James Suzman's *Affluence Without Abundance: What We Can Learn from the World's Most Successful Civilisation* (2017)
2. James Scott's *Against the Grain: A Deep History of the Earliest States* (2017)
3. Marie-Eve Carrier-Moisán and Debora Santos' *Gringo Love: Stories of Sex and Tourism in Brazil* (2020)
4. Articles as linked below or circulated on Moodle

Week zero: Course introduction (September 5 and 6)

TH. Overview of syllabus and course introduction

F. What is anthropology?

Readings for the week: King's *God's of the Upper Air* - chapter 1

Listening assignment: From Savage to Self: Anthropology is born <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b06ybg7y>

Week one: Human evolution (September 9, 10, 12, and 13)

M. Origins of anthropology

T. Who are we?

TH. Evolutionary thought, natural selection, and anthropology

F. Reading discussion #1 - quiz #1

Readings for the week: Suzman *Part One*

Week two: Human evolution (September 16, 17, 19, and 20)

M. Are humans (still) evolving?

T. Human variation and race

TH. Watch *Cave of Forgotten Dreams* - first possible film connection paper option

F. Reading discussion #2

Readings for the week: Suzman *Part Two*, *How to Change the Course of Human History*

Week three: Exam #1 and archaeology (September 23, 24, 26, and 27)

M. Exam #1

T. Artifact interrogation / paper #1 discussion

TH. What is archaeology?

F. The peopling of the Americas

Readings for the week: Suzman *Part Three*, Scott *Introduction*

Week four: Archaeology (September 30, October 1, 3, and 4)

M. The Stuff of Archaeology

T. Watch *Archeology 2.0 – exploring the past with modern technology* - possible film connection paper option

TH. Digging in the dirt - garbage investigation exercise - **paper #1 due**

F. Reading discussion #3 - quiz #2

Readings for the week: 1491, Scott *ch 1-3*

Week five: Archaeology (October 7 and 8)

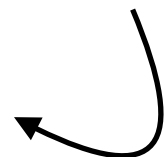
M. Community, society, commodity, reciprocity

T. Community, society, commodity, reciprocity II

Fall Break!

Readings for the week: Scott *remaining chapters*

NOTE! I will be in Japan this week - no in class meeting - online video lectures and READING!



Week six: Cultural - introduction (October 14, 15, 17, and 18)

M. Exam #2

T. Cultural anthropology

TH. Doing anthropology

F. Reading discussion #4

Readings for the week: Wengrow's *Farewell to the "Childhood of Man": ritual, seasonality, and the origins of inequality*, Goodfriend's *Algorithmic State Violence*

Listening assignment: From Savage to Self: Participating and Observing <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b06zdkb7>

Week seven: Cultural - organization (October 21, 22, 24, and 25)

M. Social organization

T. Social organization

TH. Watch *The Woman's Kingdom* (optional film - *Thiaroye By The Sea*) - possible film connection paper option

F. Reading discussion #5 - quiz #3

Readings for the week: *Gringo Love* Part I and Appendix 2

Week eight: Cultural - religion and meaning (October 28, 29, 31, and November 1)

M. Religion, magic, and meaning

T. Religion, magic, and meaning

TH. Watch *The Devil's Playground* (optional film - *The Holy Ghost People*) - possible film connection paper options

F. Reading discussion #6

Readings for the week: Gmelch's *Baseball Magic*, *Gringo Love* Part II and Appendix 3

Week nine: Cultural - gender and self (November 4, 5, 7, and 8)

M. Gender and gendering - paper #2 due

T. Gender and gendering

TH. Watch *Middle Sexes* - possible film connection paper option

F. Reading discussion #7 - quiz #4

Readings for the week: Machado-Borges' *Middle-Class Compassion and Man Boobs*, *Gringo Love* Part III and Appendix 1

Week ten: Cultural - globalization and contemporary (November 11, 12, 14, and 15)

M. Anthropology and globalization

T. Watch *Anthropocene: The Human Epoch* - possible film connection paper option

TH. Anthropocene / exam review

F. Exam #3

Readings for the week: Howe and Pandian's *Introduction: Lexicon for an Anthropocene Yet Unseen*

