Course Instructor: Dr. Ryan Clasby  
Email: clasbyr@slu.edu  
Class Meeting Time: MWF 9:00-9:50 am  
Class Location: Xavier Hall Annex 203  
Office Hours: TBA  
Office Location: Morrissey Hall, Room 1917

Course Description
This course provides a broad introduction to themes, concepts, and methodologies related to the field of Anthropology or “the study of humankind”. Through a survey of the four principal sub-fields including cultural anthropology, archaeology, biological anthropology, and linguistics, this course will examine what it means to be human by discussing the evolutionary origins of our species, the development of language and culture, and the variation present in human societies past and present.

Prerequisites
This course is open to undergraduate students and has no prerequisites

Objectives
1. Understand the core concepts, ideas, and methodologies behind each of the different Anthropology sub-fields (Cultural Anthropology, Biological Anthropology, Archaeology, and Linguistics). What questions do each sub-field attempt to answer? How does each sub-field fit together under the broader umbrella of Anthropology?
2. Understand types of evidence gathered for each sub-field and the ways in which they are used to form arguments concerning issues of race, culture, history, and society.
3. Discuss the nature of culture with respect to human evolution or biology.
4. Examine cultures both past and present to form a broader understanding of the cultural variation between different groups or societies. What does this variation mean with respect to our own culture? How does culture change?
5. How has the field of Anthropology changed with respect to modern society over the last 150 years?

Textbooks
Lavenda, Robert and Schultz, Emily. What Does It Mean to Be Human?

Methods of Evaluation:
Class Attendance and Participation 10%  
Written Assignment 1  10%  
Written Assignment 2  15%  
Written Assignment 3  15%  
Midterm  25%  
Final  25%
Letter grades are derived as follows:

- A= > 93-100
- A-= 90-92
- B+= 87-89
- B= 83-86
- C+= 77-79
- C= 73-76
- D= 60-69
- B-= 80-82
- C-= 70-72
- F= <60

READINGS AND CLASS PARTICIPATION

Students should read the assigned articles and chapters prior to the class for which they are assigned. All non-textbook readings will be available as pdfs. Students should be actively engaged in class discussion. The best way to participate is to read the assigned articles prior to class. Participation may also include short problems or responses to confirm that students are reading.

Midterm and Final

There are two exams for this class, a midterm and a non-cumulative final. The midterm will be held during normal class hours on Friday, October 16th. The date of the Final will be announced later in the semester. Review sessions will be held in classes prior to the exams.

Written Assignments

These assignments will consist of three short papers/projects that focus on the different subfields of anthropology (physical anthropology, archaeology, and cultural anthropology). Details will be discussed in class with notice of at least one week for each assignment. Due dates are listed in the syllabus. The dates of the assignments may be moved with advanced notice.

Syllabus

Please note that the dates of lecture topics and assignments are tentative with the instructor reserving the right to change times and dates if need be. All changes will be announced during regularly scheduled class periods.

COURSE POLICIES

Students are encouraged to participate actively in class discussions and are expected to respect the thoughts and opinions shared by others taking this course. Take advantage of your chances to read, to write, to reflect, and to learn in this course and in your other courses.

Attendance is mandatory, students are expected to attend and to participate in every scheduled class meeting, reading and homework assignments should be completed by the date for which they are assigned, and the exams must be taken as scheduled. Each student may be absent from three classes, after which points will be deducted from the class participation component of his or her course grade.

Students are welcome to study with each other and to talk about the material and ideas covered in the course, but exams and writing assignments must reflect individual thought and effort.

Cheating on exams, plagiarism of written material, and other forms of academic misconduct are strictly forbidden, they will lead to disciplinary action, and academic misconduct by a student may result in a failing grade for this course. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the general code of student conduct and university policies available here:
In addition, as a student, if you are having trouble with certain assignments or understanding the material presented in class, please come and see me or send me an email. I am here to help!

**Students with Special Needs**
Students who may need academic accommodations in order to complete the requirements of the course due to disability or special needs should contact the Office of Disabilities Services either through telephone (314-977-8885) or by visit to Room 331 in the Busch Student Center or by going to www.slu.edu/success. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries.

**Nondiscrimination Policy and Human Diversity**
Saint Louis University has a strong and active commitment to promote human diversity and to ensure that education programs are carried forth without discrimination on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or political orientation. A specific goal of Saint Louis University is to foster “respect for diversity, other cultures, and belief systems.”

**Instructor/Course Evaluation**
Students will have the opportunity to evaluate both the instructor and the course at the end of the semester through the use of Blackboard. The evaluation questions will cover the quality and relevance of the course material and the quality of instruction. The evaluation process is intended to assess the relevance of the course material and the quality of instruction in order to improve both aspects. When completing the evaluation, students should keep in mind the extent of which the course objectives have been met.

**Course Schedule and Readings**

**Week 1: Introduction to the Course and Anthropology**
Mon, Aug 24: Introduction to the Course, outline of syllabus and course expectations
Wed, Aug 26: What is Anthropology? An Introduction to the four sub-fields of anthropology and the culture concept, history of the field
Fri, Aug 28: Careers in Anthropology and Introduction to Physical Anthropology

*Week 1 Readings:* Lavenda and Schultz: Ch. 1 and 8
“Body Ritual Among the Nacirema

**Week 2: Introduction to Physical Anthropology**
Mon, Aug 31: *No Class (Instructor out of town)*
Wed, Sept 2: Evolutionary Theory and Genetics
Fri, Sept 4: Micro and Macroevolution, Human Variation, and Race

*Week 2 Readings:* Lavenda and Schultz: Ch. 2 and 3

**Week 3: Primate Evolution and Man**
Mon, Sept 7: *No Class, Labor Day*
Wed, Sept 9: Primates and Primate Evolution
Fri, Sept 11: Primates cont.

*Week 3 Readings:* Lavenda and Schultz: Ch. 4
Week 4: Advent of Man: Human Origins, Culture, and Tool Use
Mon, Sept 14: Hominid Evolution and Bipedalism
Wed, Sept 16: The Middle Paleolithic: Neanderthals and First Humans, introduction of stone tools and culture
Fri, Sept 18: The Upper Paleolithic to the Ice Age: human dispersal and migration
Readings: Lavenda and Schultz: Ch. 5

Week 5: Introduction to Archaeology
Mon, Sept 21: History of Archaeological Thought
Fri, Sept 25: Arch Methodologies (cont.): Video: Amazonian Archaeology
Written Assignment 1 due (Monday, Sept. 21)
Readings: Lavenda and Schultz: Ch. 6

Week 6: Archaeology (cont.): Settling Down
Mon, Sept 28: Sedentism, Domestication of Plants and Animals
Wed, Sept 30: Bands, Tribes, Chiefdoms, States vs. Alternative Forms of Complexity:
Fri, Oct 2: Bands, Tribes, Chiefdoms, States vs. Alternative Forms of Complexity (cont.): What makes a state?
Readings: Lavenda and Schultz: Ch. 6

Week 7: Archaeology (cont.): Case Study Comparison of Two Civilizations (Old and New World)
Mon, Oct 5: The Indus Valley Civilization
Wed, Oct 7: The origins of civilization in the Andes
Fri, Oct 9: Archaeology and the Public; Who Owns the Past?
Readings: TBD
Written Assignment 2 due (Monday, Oct. 5)

Week 8: Archaeology (cont.); Midterm Week
Mon, Oct 12: The Anthropology Museum
Wed, Oct 14: Review
Fri, Oct 16: Midterm Exam

Week 9 (Oct 21, 23): Introduction to Cultural Anthropology and Linguistics
Mon, Oct 19: Fall Break, No Class
Wed, Oct 21: Culture in Cultural Anthropology, History of Cultural Anthropology
Fri, Oct 23: History of Cultural Anthropology (cont.); Theoretical Trends in Current Anthropology
Readings: Lavenda and Schultz Ch. 8 and 9

Week 10: Cultural Anthropology and Linguistics (cont.)
Mon, Oct 26: Ethnographic Field methods (cont.)
Wed, Oct 28: Language and Communication
Fri, Oct 30: Language and Communication (cont.), Standard English, video

Week 11: Art, Myth, and Religion
Mon, Nov 2: Myth and Communal Charters and the Importance of Ritual
Wed, Nov 4: Shamanism and Religion
Fri, Nov 6: Worldviews and change
Readings: Lavenda and Schultz Ch. 10
Week 12: Subsistence. Exchange/Economic Systems, and Political Systems
Mon, Nov 9: Why do Anthropologists Study Economic Relations? Types of Political Systems
Wed, Nov 11: Economic Systems (cont.)
Fri, Nov 13: Political Systems
Readings: Lavenda and Schultz Ch. 11 and 12

Week 13: Kinship
Mon, Nov 16: Kinship: Descent and Lineage, Nuclear and Extended Families
Wed, Nov 18: Sex and Marriage
Fri, Nov 20: Migration
Written Assignment 3 due (Friday, Nov. 13)
Readings: Lavenda and Schultz Ch. 13

Week 14: Social Inequality
Mon, Nov 23: Social Inequality: Gender, Sexual Orientation, and Race
Wed, Nov 25: No Class: Thanksgiving Break
Fri, Nov 27: No Class: Thanksgiving Break
Readings: Lavenda and Schultz Ch. 14

Week 15: Social Inequality (cont.) and Global Anthropology
Mon, Nov 30: Social Inequality: Gender, Sexual Orientation, and Race (cont.), video: Paris is Burning
Wed, Dec 2: Globalization and the Nation State
Fri, Dec 4: New Directions in Anthropology

Week 16: Final Review
Mon, Dec 7: Review of Course and Finals Preparation

Week 17: No Class
(Final exam): date/time TBD (Week of Dec. 9-15)