SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY
SOC 1200-03 INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY
Fall 2015
0400 Morrissey Hall
MWF 11:00 am – 11:50 am

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to the study of Anthropology! This course will provide a general introduction to the primary theories, concepts, methodologies, and results of Anthropology – the social scientific study of what it means to be human. We will focus on the holistic nature of Anthropology by covering the traditional four main subfields of this discipline: Biological Anthropology, Archaeology, Linguistics, and Cultural Anthropology. We will also investigate how these four different sub-disciplines connect to reflect the complexities of human behavior. To better understand the human condition is, in my view, a worthy goal relevant to the modern world in which we live. And I hope you will find something relevant to your life in all that we cover this semester.

The lectures will be the primary source for information in this course, so please make sure that you are able to attend each class, that you are attentive and able to take notes, and that you complete all of the readings as assigned before each class. The lectures can (and should) be interrupted, so please feel free to ask questions and make comments as appropriate.

PREREQUISITES

The course is open to undergraduate students and has no prerequisites.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The obvious goal of an “Introduction to Anthropology” course is to learn anthropology. In other words, to learn how anthropologists think, what they do, and what they have contributed through their work. More specifically, it is hoped that by the end of this course you will:

1. be able to discuss and understand the methods, theories, and significant findings of the main sub-disciplines of biological anthropology, archaeology, linguistics, and cultural anthropology.
2. better recognize how our historical and pre-historical past has shaped our present and influences our future.
3. apply cross-cultural, comparative, and evolutionary perspectives to contemporary issues to help give a better understanding of the diverse ways of life lived by people in specific cultures around the world, and in our own lives.
4. acknowledge ethnocentrism and be able to function more effectively with people who embrace differing world views.
REQUIRED MATERIALS

The following textbook is required and assigned readings should be completed before each class:


Any additional readings for this course will be announced in class and placed in the online Blackboard shell.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

The grades for this course will be based primarily on two midterm exams (worth 100 points each) and a final exam (worth 200 points). As seen in the Course Schedule below, these exams are scheduled for Sept. 23 and Nov. 2 during our regular class time and our final exam will be on Friday, Dec. 11, from 8am to 9:50am, in our regular classroom. Please make sure you have no conflicts with this exam schedule as there will be no early or late exams given. Make-up exams will be given only to students who have documented evidence of an emergency.

There will also be two short papers based on journal assignments (worth 30 and 60 points respectively) and an introductory forum posting in Blackboard worth 10 points. All of these assignments will be explained further in class. Of these 500 total points possible, the traditional 90% (450pts) and above will be the A range, 80%s the Bs, and so forth, broken down as follows:

- A = 93-100% (463 – 500 pts)
- A- = 90-92% (448 – 462 pts)
- B+ = 87-89% (433-447 pts)
- B = 83-86% (413-432 pts)
- B- = 80-82% (398-412 pts)
- C+ = 77-79% (383-397 pts)
- C = 73-76% (363-382 pts)
- C- = 70-72% (348-362 pts)
- D+ = 67-69% (333-347 pts)
- D = 63-66% (313-332 pts)
- D- = 60-62% (298-312 pts)
- F = < 60% (below 297 pts)

As with most things in life, what you gain from this course will be directly related to the level of effort you put into it. Active attendance is expected of each student at each class meeting. If an absence is absolutely necessary (due to illness or some other cause), you will still be responsible for that day’s content. I have chosen not to share my PowerPoint lectures (to help encourage attendance), and so in case of any absence, I’d recommend borrowing lecture notes from your classmates. (And sharing lecture notes can be a good study habit and exam preparation even if you haven’t missed a class.)

Even though this is primarily a lecture-based course, I want to encourage discussion and participation, so please feel free to make your own contribution. I do, however, expect us to treat each other with respect and civility, especially when discussing the controversial topics anthropology can sometimes encompass. For starters, please make sure that you are not disruptive to other students or myself (and this can include, but is not limited to, talking with your neighbor, arriving late or leaving early, eating, texting, sleeping, snoring, facebook’ing, and so forth.) Courtesy is required in this class, and I’ll thank you in advance for helping to make this a good semester.

Please use this syllabus and schedule to stay on track throughout the semester, as keeping up with the assigned readings and coming prepared to class each day will help you better understand the lecture material. Anthropology, as indicated by the chapter titles below, is an incredibly broad academic discipline that can pull topics together in some unique ways. I think the topics we will be studying in this class are both interesting and important, but you now have a full semester in front of you to figure out if you agree or disagree with that assessment. Enjoy!
COURSE SCHEDULE

Week of August 24  Chapter 1: Anthropology

Week of Aug. 31  Chapters 2 & 3: Culture and Methods

Introduction posts due in Blackboard Sept. 4

Sept. 7, Labor Day, no class
Sept. 9, Sept. 11  Chapters 3 & 4: Archaeological Methods and Biological Anthropology

First journal assignment due 9/11

Week of Sept. 14  Chapters 5 & 6: Primatology and Early Hominins

Sept. 21  Finish lectures and review

Sept. 23, Exam 1 over everything to date

Sept. 25  Chapter 7: Homo

Week of Sept. 28  Chapter 8: Neolithic Revolution

Week of Oct. 5  Chapters 8 & 9: Neolithic to Urban Revolution

Week of Oct. 12  Chapter 9: Mesopotamia and Mesoamerica

Oct. 19, Fall Break, no class, midterm grades submitted
Oct. 21, Oct. 23  Anthro. in Madagascar; Chs. 10 & 11: Linguistics; Subsistence and Economics

Week of Oct. 26  Chapter 12: Political Systems

Nov. 2, Exam 2 over everything since the first exam

Nov. 4, Nov. 6  Chapter 13: Marriage and Kinship

Week of Nov. 9  finish Marriage, Chapter 14: Gender

Week of Nov. 16  Chapters 15: Religion, Famadihana ceremony in Madagascar

Nov. 23  Chapters 16 & 17: Ethnicity & Race; Applied Anthro. & Development Work
Nov. 25, Nov. 27, Thanksgiving Break, no class

Week of Nov. 30  Chapters 18 & 19: World Systems, Colonialism, and our Globalizing World

Dec. 7  Last day of class, second journal assignment due

Friday, Dec. 11, comprehensive Final Exam, 8am to 9:50am in our regular classroom
Academic Integrity and Honesty:
Academic integrity is violated by any dishonesty in submitting assignments, tests, research reports, etc., required to validate the student's learning. Examples of academic dishonesty would be copying from another student, copying from a book or class notes during a closed book exam, submitting materials authored by another person but represented as the student's own work, copying a passage or text directly from a published source without appropriately citing/recognizing that source, taking a test or doing an assignment or other academic work for another student, or securing or supplying in advance a copy of an examination without the knowledge or consent or the instructor, and colluding with another student or students to engage in academic dishonesty.
Any clear violation of academic integrity will be met with sanctions. In a case of dishonesty within a course, the instructor may assign an appropriate grade and will refer the matter to the Department Chair, who will determine whether additional sanctions are warranted. If the Department Chair determines that additional sanctions are warranted, the Chair will refer the matter to the College Committee on Academic Honesty, which will deal with the matter under the provisions of the Policy of Academic Honesty. Students are referred to the Arts and Sciences Policy Binder for a complete presentation of the Academic Integrity and Honesty policy of the College.

Nondiscrimination Policy and Human Diversity:
Saint Louis University has a strong and active commitment to promote human diversity and to ensure that all aspects of educational 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 University goal is to foster “respect for diversity, other cultures, and belief systems.”

Students with Special Needs:
If any member of the class has a disability and needs special accommodations of any nature, please let the instructor know immediately after the first scheduled class period. The student will need to work with Disability Services (314-977-8885) who will provide a letter outlining the academic accommodations requested.

Instructor/Course Evaluation
The instructor and course will be evaluated at the end of the term by students through the use of an online survey. Each evaluation will cover the quality and relevance of course material and the quality of instruction. The intent is to seek information which will help to improve both the quality of the course and instructional competence. In completing these evaluations, each student should be mindful of the extent to which the course objectives have been met.

A&S Core Curriculum:
This course, SOC 1200 Introduction to Anthropology, satisfies the Cultural Diversity requirement in the Arts & Sciences Core. It includes the following three of the five Saint Louis University “dimensions of learning”: a) Scholarship and Knowledge, b) Intellectual Inquiry and Communication, and c) Community Building.

Major or Minor in Anthropology:
SOC 1200 Introduction to Anthropology is also the foundation course for those students wishing to fulfill a degree in the field of Anthropology. Any student considering majoring or minoring in anthropology should contact Dr. Katherine MacKinnon for more information.

Syllabus Changes:
This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor to accommodate instructional and/or student needs. Students will be given reasonable notice of these changes in class and through our Blackboard shell.