



SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY
MADRID

SOC 1200 M01: Introduction to Anthropology Fall 2017

Class Days and Time: TR, 14:30-15:45

Classroom: PRH 2

Prerequisite(s): None

Credit(s): 3

Instructor: Dr. Mary Prendergast

Instructor's Email: mary.prendergast@slu.edu

Instructor's Campus Phone: 91 554 58 58, ext. TBA

Office: San Ignacio Hall 319

Office Hours: TR, 11:15-12:15

Course Description:

What makes us human? How are we different from other primates? How did the bulk of the population shift from gathering wild foods to building towns and temples? Why do some people have multiple wives – or husbands? Should anthropologists be “embedded” in military conflict zones? Should veiling be banned in public spaces? These questions are the stuff of anthropology, the study of the human condition. In this course you will learn the basics of the four main subfields: physical or biological anthropology (the study of our biological diversity and evolution), cultural or social anthropology (the study of our cultural diversity and behavior), linguistic anthropology (the study of how language reflects culture) and archaeology (the study of material culture).

We will select a few topics in each subfield to examine in detail, touching on cultures from around the world. In the first part of the course, you will learn how humans are similar and different to other primates, and how human behavior is biologically and socially conditioned. Next, we will explore the evidence for the evolution of our species, and for three key events in human history: the emergence of anatomically and behaviorally modern humans, the transition to farming & settled life, and the development of cities and so-called “civilization.” We’ll also examine research methods – such as the analysis of bones or the use of ethnographic data – and political controversies in archaeology.

The last part of the course will be spent studying cultural anthropology: namely, how human behavior varies across and within groups, and how aspects of “culture” change over time. By the end of the course you should have a good sense of the similarities and differences in terms of social phenomena – such as marriage, gender roles, taboos and rituals – across a number of cultures from around the world. You will be able to debate the merits of cultural relativism, and apply this logic to some of modern life’s many ethical dilemmas. Finally, you will have an understanding of how globalization and industrialization are affecting cultures around the world in both positive and negative ways.

Course Goals and Student Learning Outcomes: At the end of the course, students will:

Knowledge of and sensitivity to other cultures is essential to living and working in an increasingly globalized world. This course offers an introduction to anthropology, broadly defined as the study of the human condition from sociocultural, biological and historical perspectives. The main objective is to deepen students’ understanding of human diversity and the ways in which culture shapes and is shaped by both individual and collective decisions. Students will gain knowledge of anthropology’s main concepts, methods and problems. This course will enable students to undertake further study in anthropology, and also provides a solid foundation for work in international relations, sociology, history and other social sciences.

Saint Louis University - Madrid Campus is committed to excellent and innovative educational practices. In order to maintain quality academic offerings and to conform to relevant accreditation requirements, the Campus regularly assesses its teaching, services, and programs for evidence of student learning outcomes achievement. For this purpose anonymized representative examples of student work from all courses and programs is kept on file, such as assignments, papers, exams, portfolios, and results from student surveys, focus groups, and reflective exercises. *Thus, copies of student work for this course, including written assignments, in-class exercises, and exams may be kept on file for institutional research, assessment and accreditation purposes.* If students prefer that Saint Louis University - Madrid Campus does not keep their work on file, they need to communicate their decision in writing to the professor.

Required Texts and Materials:

The main textbook is a general introduction to anthropology, here referred to as WOH: Kottak, Conrad. *Window on Humanity*. New York: McGraw-Hill. Available at campus bookstore. Approximately half of the book will be used in this course. If you do not wish to buy it, it will be on reserve at the campus library as well. Other required readings are posted on Blackboard.

Attendance and Late/Missed Work Policies:

Repeated unjustified absences or extreme tardiness will affect your class participation grade.

Students who arrive at class more than 15 minutes late will be marked tardy. Two tardies equals one absence. The participation component of your grade will be decreased by one full letter for every three unjustified absences beyond the add/drop date. A student with 10 or more unjustified absences will automatically fail the course regardless of exam grades.

Examples of absences that will not be excused:

- An email to your prof stating that you are sick and cannot attend class
- Taking off an extra day for a long traveling weekend

Examples of absences that will be excused:

- Signed/stamped justification that you visited a doctor
- A print-out of documents showing that your flight back from Paris was cancelled
- An email from a professor or Student Life indicating you are on a required class field trip

There are three exams in this course. Please note the exam dates (see below) and ensure that you can be present for all of them. The date of the final exam cannot be changed. Makeups will only be scheduled with approval of the Academic Dean. If an exam is missed due to an adequately documented family or medical emergency, a makeup may be given. Otherwise, a grade of F will be given for a missed exam.

Course Requirements and Grading Rationale/System:

The subjects covered in this course require careful thought and debate; although the readings will provide essential background to lectures, I do not teach exclusively from the text. In addition to doing the reading prior to class, your attendance and thoughtful participation in class discussions and activities is necessary in order to do well. Since the course covers a large amount of material, it is broken down into 3 exams, two shorter exams and one larger, cumulative final. Exams include material from readings, films, lectures and discussions.

Active, meaningful participation means: 1) attending class regularly; 2) participating in discussions by offering comments that demonstrate understanding of course content; 3) asking questions (and/or answering classmates'/professor's questions) in a way that demonstrates engagement with the material; and 4) being a kind and considerate classmate, which means: not interrupting others; taking your fair share of discussion time; and reacting to your classmates' comments in a respectful way. As a very general guideline, students that regularly attend and actively and meaningfully participate in class receive a participation grade of A. Excellent attendance, but little participation, merits a B. Students who are frequently absent, rarely or never participate, and/or repeatedly demonstrate inconsiderate behavior, can expect to earn a C, D, or F according to the circumstances. On a regular basis I make notes of students' participation for my own reference – so that after approximately one month into the semester, you can ask me for an estimate of your grade at any point.

Grading:

Active, meaningful class participation and attendance: 15%
Unannounced reading quizzes: 15%
Exam 1: 20%
Exam 2: 20%
Final exam (cumulative): 30%

The grading scale for exams is as follows:

93 and above = A	80-82 = B-	60-69 = D
90-92 = A-	77-80 = C+	0-59 = F
87-89 = B+	73-76 = C	
83-86 = B	70-72 = C-	

Reading quizzes:

Between six and eight unannounced reading quizzes will be given throughout the semester. These consist of 5 multiple-choice questions on the readings and are worth 10 points. The quizzes will take place at the beginning of class and students who arrive late will not be able to take the quiz. If you are absent on the day of a quiz, *for any reason*, you will receive a 0.

At the end of the term, your two lowest quiz grades will be dropped and the remaining scores averaged. The averages correspond to letter grades as follows:

8-10 = A
7-7.9 = B
6-6.9 = C
5-5.9 = D
<5 = F

E-mail: Campus and course announcements will often be handled by e-mail. Students should check their "@slu.edu" e-mail regularly. Students can expect a response to emails within 24h during *non-holiday weekdays*.

University Statement on Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible conduct in all academic endeavors. The mission of Saint Louis University is "the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity." Accordingly, all acts of falsehood demean and compromise the corporate endeavors of teaching, research, health care and community service via which SLU embodies its mission. The University strives to prepare students for lives of personal and professional integrity, and therefore regards all breaches of academic integrity as matters of serious concern.

The governing University-level Academic Integrity Policy can be accessed on the Provost's Office [website](#) at:. Additionally, SLU-Madrid has posted its academic integrity policy online: <http://www.slu.edu/madrid/academics>. As a member of the University community, you are expected to know and abide by these policies, which detail definitions of violations, processes for reporting violations, sanctions and appeals.

The professor will review these matters during the first weeks of the term. Please direct questions about any facet of academic integrity to your faculty, the chair of the department of your academic program or the Academic Dean of the Madrid Campus.

University Title IX Statement: Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual misconduct (e.g. sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, domestic or dating violence), we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, that faculty member must notify SLU's Title IX deputy coordinator, Marta Maruri, whose office is located on the ground floor of Padre Rubio Hall, Avenida del Valle, 28 (mmaruri@slu.edu; 915-54-5858, ext. 213) and share the basic fact of your experience with her. The Title IX deputy coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus.

If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the SLU-Madrid's Counseling Services on the third floor of San Ignacio Hall (counselingcenter-madrid@slu.edu; 915-54-5858, ext. 230) or Sinews Multipletherapy Institute, the off-campus provider of counseling services for SLU-Madrid (www.sinews.es; 917-00-1979). To view SLU-Madrid's sexual misconduct policy and for resources, please visit the following web address: <http://www.slu.edu/Documents/Madrid/campus-life/SLUMadridSexualMisconductPolicy.pdf>.

Students with Special Needs: In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

- Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.
- University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the Academic Dean's Office (San Ignacio Hall) or by going to <http://www.slu.edu/madrid/learning-resources>.

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations must contact Disability Services to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Once successfully registered, the student also must notify the course instructor that they wish to access accommodations in the course. Please contact Disability Services at disabilityservices-madrid@slu.edu or +915 54 58 58, ext. 230 for an appointment. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Once approved, information about the student's eligibility for academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors via email from Disability Services. For more information about academic accommodations, see "Student Resources" on the SLU-Madrid webpage.

Note: Students who do not have a documented disability but who think they may have one are encouraged to contact Disability Services.

Fall 2017 Course Schedule:

*****Readings are subject to change; changes will be announced in class and via email*****

Italics signify important Registrar dates

Date	Topic and reading assignment due that day
Tuesday, September 5	Introduction to course
Thursday, September 7	Making a living in anthropology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “This is anthropology in Florida”
Tuesday, September 12	What is culture & how do we study it? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WOH Ch. 2
Thursday, September 14	Nature/nurture: a case study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buss, “What Women Want” & “Men Want Something Else” (2 PDFs)
<i>Sunday, September 17</i>	<i>Last Day to Drop a Class Without a Grade of W and /or Add a Class, choose Audit (AU) or Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) Options</i>
Tuesday, September 19	<i>Film: Chimpanzees</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WOH: Review Ch 2 section “Culture’s Evolutionary Basis”; read Ch 5 from beginning up to (not including) the “Primate Evolution” section • Read film handout
Thursday, September 21	Humans as primates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goodall, “Mind of the Chimpanzee” • Stanford, “Got Culture?”
Tuesday, September 26	Where did we come from? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WOH Ch. 6

Thursday, September 28	Origins of modern humans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WOH Ch. 7
Tuesday, October 3	<i>Film: The Incredible Human Journey</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read film handout • View Nature video (will email link) • NYTimes, “DNA turning human story into a tell-all”
Thursday, October 5	Are we still evolving? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McAuliffe, “Are we still evolving?” • Be prepared to discuss film + DNA article
Tuesday, October 10	EXAM 1
Thursday, October 12	NO CLASS (public holiday)
Tuesday, October 17	Are we what we throw away? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Macaulay, <i>Motel of the Mysteries</i> • BRING 10 PIECES OF GARBAGE
Thursday, October 19	Disease, death and bones <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diamond, “The Worst Mistake...” • Warinner TED talk (link to be sent)
Tuesday, October 24	<i>Film: Guns, Germs & Steel</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read film handout
Thursday, October 26	Settle down: village origins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WOH Ch. 8
<i>Monday, October 30</i>	<i>Last Day to Drop a Class and Receive the Grade of W.</i>
Tuesday, October 31	Birth & collapse of civilization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WOH Ch. 9
Thursday, November 2	Ethnoarchaeology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellen, “Bushmen”
Tuesday, November 7	Politics of the past <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arnold, “Past as Propaganda” • NYT, “Hussein’s Babylon” • Current events article TBA <p><i>Spring Registration Opens</i></p>
Thursday, November 9	NO CLASS (public holiday)
Tuesday, November 14	EXAM 2
Thursday, November 16	Ethnography & ethics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WOH Ch. 3, starting from “Research Methods in Cultural Anthropology” through the end of chapter • Sterk, “Tricking and Tripping”

Tuesday, November 21	<p><i>Film: Secrets of the Tribe</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Johnston, "Secrets of the Tribe" • Mann, "Anthropological Warfare" • "AAA Code of Ethics" • Read film handout
Thursday, November 23	<p>Kinship & families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WOH Ch. 13
Tuesday, November 28	<p>Gender</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WOH Ch. 14
Thursday, November 30	<p>Kinship, families, & gender: ethnographic examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheper-Hughes, "Death w/o weeping" • Fong, "China's One-Child Policy..."
Tuesday, December 5	<p>Linguistic anthropology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WOH Ch. 10, <i>skip sections entitled "nonhuman primate communication" and "the structure of language"</i> • Rickford, Suite for Ebony & Phonics
Thursday, December 7	<p>Beliefs & Religion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WOH Ch. 15 • Gmelch, "Baseball Magic"
Tuesday, December 12	<p>Applying anthropology and the HTS controversy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McFate, "Anthropology and Counterinsurgency" • USA Today article on BB • 2007 AAA statement
Monday, December 18	<p>12:00-13:00: Q&A session for Final Exam (optional to attend) 13:00-15:00: Final Exam (note that this is a two-hour exam, not three) If you do not wish to attend the Q&A session, simply show up by 13:00, which is when the exam will begin.</p>