

SOAN 191 (01): Anthropological Inquiry

Spring 2014

Barnett Hall, Room 2209

Tu Thurs 9:00 – 10:20 a.m.

Instructor: Robert K. Hitchcock

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office hours: Tues/Thurs 10:20 – 11:30 a.m., 1:20 – 3:00 p.m.

Course Description

“What would I choose to do, if I had my life to live over again? I would be an anthropologist.”
Margaret Mead

Anthropological Inquiry (SOAN 191) provides a broad overview of the field of anthropology defined as the study of human variation and diversity across time and space. Concepts and approaches will be explored that reflect and illustrate the holistic viewpoint characteristic of anthropology and underscore its unique position among the social sciences as an area of inquiry.

Consistent with the position taken by Haviland, Prins, Walrath, and McBride (2013), the subject matter of anthropology can be organized into two broad classifications: biological or physical anthropology and cultural anthropology, the latter divided into three major subfields—archaeology, linguistics, and ethnology (also referred to as cultural anthropology). These four major fields or subdisciplines (i.e., physical, cultural, archaeology, and linguistics) are crosscut by a fifth field—applied or practicing anthropology—focusing on the application of anthropological knowledge and techniques to address contemporary problems and issues across cultures.

This course begins by providing a general overview of the history of anthropological theory and of research methods traditionally employed by anthropologists. We consider scientific and humanistic approaches to the study of humankind and its cultures and explore ethical aspects involved in such research. We then examine topics most often assigned to the subdisciplines of physical anthropology and archaeology including genetics and evolution, human biological variation and adaptation, primatology, human origins, the emergence of food production, and the rise of the first cities and states. Given this backdrop to better understand fundamental components of human behavior, we intensify our focus on the study of topics associated with the subdisciplines of cultural anthropology and linguistics. Cultural relativism, human rights, language and communication, adaptive strategies, economic systems, social stratification, sex and gender, marriage, kinship and descent, social and political organization, magic and religion, and applied or practicing anthropology are discussed and explored.

The organization of *Anthropological Inquiry* (SOAN 191) is intended to not only capture change over time and across cultures, but to continually build upon concepts discussed in earlier

sections. Our ultimate goal is to gradually weave the subdisciplines of anthropology together in a way that further enriches our understanding of the human condition. This course presupposes no background in anthropology but students are expected to have the willingness and inclination to grapple with complex material and think critically and reflectively about it.

Required Readings

Haviland, William A. and Harold Prins, Dana Walrath, and Bunny McBride. (2013) *Anthropology: The Human Challenge*. 14th edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth [ISBN 978-1-133-94132-3]

Class Participation

Classes will be held Tuesday/Thursday from 9:00-10:20 a.m. in Barnett Hall, Room 2209. Students are expected to have completed the assigned readings before class sessions and are encouraged to ask questions and participate in class discussions.

Instructor's Note: The experiences, opinions, and knowledge each of us brings to the classroom are unique and deserving of respect from your peers and from the instructor. This course is designed to encourage open discussions regarding often contentious and conflicting viewpoints as well as the underlying assumptions upon which they are based. These discussions must at all times remain within (hopefully) obvious parameters of respect for others' backgrounds, views, and beliefs. A central goal of this course is to increase our appreciation of the wide range of diversity of individuals representing different cultural backgrounds and experiences.

We will consider fundamental concepts and theories in anthropology as well as the general contributions of the discipline. As we take this broad view of humanity, we will ask ourselves some of the most basic questions about our existence and our nature: Who are we? Where do we come from? Where are we going?

This course can be used in your plan of study the following ways:

- It fulfills a Level 1 requirement for both Sociology/ Anthropology majors and Anthropology minors.
- It fulfills a Folklore Minor requirement.
- It meets the Social Science Mode and Intercultural Perspective requirements for Truman's Liberal Studies Program.

Grading and Evaluation

Your final course grade will be based on:

- quizzes (25%)
- 2 exams (50%)
- 1 essay (25%)

Exams: You will take a midterm (Thurs Feb. 27) and a final exam (May). Each exam is worth 25% of your final grade. Quizzes will make up 25% of your grade. You will be tested on the information covered in the readings (focus on key concepts and terms), discussions,

audiovisual presentations, and the class lectures. The essay, a research paper, will make up 25% of the course grade.

Research Paper: All students must complete a research paper. The research paper should be *six to eight pages* in length (not counting the title page), double-spaced, the pages numbered, with one-inch margins. Please use Times Roman 12 pt. or similar font. This paper should focus on a particular area of investigation, research problem, or any topic discussed in class, videos, or in the text or which a student has identified from the media or the literature.

Research papers must use a minimum of *five literature sources in addition to textbooks and internet citations* included on a separate page titled "References Cited." Only references used in the paper should be cited in the bibliography. References cited should follow a format as seen in the journal *American Anthropologist*. The research paper should also include an unnumbered cover sheet with course title, course number, student's name, date, and the title of the paper. Research papers are due on Thursday, May 1st. If students have a question about the appropriateness of the topic, they should contact the instructor.

The bibliography at the end of the paper should include only references cited in the body of the paper. It should be presented using the following style. This is as follows:

Article in Journal:

Barbier, Edward B. (2012) The Green Economy Post Rio+20. *Science* 338:887-888.

Book

Nolan, Riall (2002) *Development Anthropology: Encounters in the Real World*. Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press.

Article in Edited Volume:

Crawhall, Nigel (2011) Africa and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. *The International Journal of Human Rights* 15(1): 11-36.

Website citation:

Full website address, date of website creation (if available), full title, name of author, creator, or owner of website

Research Projects: If a student does not wish to do a paper but instead wishes to participate in a project involving development activities or applied anthropology or sociology, that is an option that can be pursued in this course. A project could include working on development issues as an intern (e.g. with the United Nations Association), work on domestic development issues (e.g. with the Women's Commission), or creating a website or poster on development issues. The project assessment should be done along similar lines to the research paper requirements. If there are questions as to the kinds of things one might do or how to go about finding applied and development activities on which one might work, please see the instructor.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Dates	Topic(s)	Readings
1	Jan 13-17	Introduction: The Essence of Anthropology	Haviland, Ch. 1, 2-23
2	Jan 20-24	Biology, Genetics, Evolution Primates	Haviland, Ch. 2, 24-51 Ch. 3, 52-79, Ch. 3, 80-101
Monday, January 20 th , 2014, Martin Luther King Day			
3	Jan 27-Jan 31	Paleoanthropology, Archaeology Hominims	Haviland, Ch. 5, 102-129 Ch. 6, 130-163
4	Feb 3-7	The Genus Homo, Expansion And Technological Change	Haviland, Ch. 7, 164-195 Ch. 8, 196-223
5	Feb 10-14	The Neolithic Revolution and The Origins of Cities and States	Haviland, Ch. 9, 224-247 Ch. 10, 248-273
6	Feb 17-21	Modern Human Diversity	Haviland, Ch. 11, 274-297
7.	Feb 24-28	Human Adaptation to a Changing World	Haviland, Ch. 12, 298-325
Thursday, Feb 27 th		MID-TERM EXAMINATION	
8	March 3-7	Culture, Ethnography, Ethnology	Haviland, Ch. 13, 326-345 Ch. 14, 346-373
9	March 10-14	SPRING BREAK	
10	Mar 17-21	Language, Communication	Haviland, Ch. 15, 374-397
March 18 th – 22 nd 2014, 74 th annual meetings of the Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA), Albuquerque, New Mexico			
11	Mar 24-28	Social Identity, Personality, Gender	Haviland, Ch. 16, 398-4

April 1st-4th, Symposium on “Drought in the Life, Cultures, and Landscapes of the Great Plains”
Center for Great Plains Studies, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, Nebraska

12	Mar 31- April 4 th	Subsistence Patterns Economic Systems, Exchange	Haviland, Ch. 17, 422-445, Ch. 18, 446-469
13	Apr 7-11	Sex, Marriage, Family Kinship, Descent	Haviland, Ch. 19, 470-495 Ch. 20, 496-517
14	Apr 14-18	Social Status, Power, Politics, Conflict, Peace-making	Haviland, Ch. 21, 518-537 Ch. 22, 538-567
15	Apr 21-25	Spirituality, Religion Belief Systems, Art	Haviland, Ch. 23, 538-567, Ch. 24, 598-619
16	April 28- May 2	Cultural Change, Global Issues and Challenges, Anthropological Careers	Haviland, Ch. 25, 620-643 Ch. 26, 644-671

Thursday, May 1st **RESEARCH PAPERS/PROJECT PAPERS DUE**

17 May 5-9 **FINAL EXAMINATION WEEK**

FINAL EXAM

Required Textbook: Haviland, William A. and Harold Prins, Dana Walrath, and Bunny McBride. (2013) *Anthropology: The Human Challenge*. 14th edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth [ISBN 978-1-133-94132-3]