

SOCI 1205 (J) INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY

Lectures

- Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00-10:15 AM, LX 405

Office Hours

- 6th floor of 215 Lexington Ave
- Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays
- Drop-in or by appointment through Academic Advising portal
www.yu2.mywconline.com

What is Anthropology

- Anthropology is the study of people—past and present—with a focus on understanding the human condition both culturally (socially) and biologically (physically). This joint emphasis sets anthropology apart from other humanities and natural sciences. In a general sense, anthropology is concerned with determining what humans are, how they evolved, and how they differ from one another. The study of anthropology is often divided into four sub-disciplines: archaeology, biological anthropology, cultural anthropology, and linguistic anthropology.

Course Objectives

- Introduce students to anthropology as a discipline and its methodologies
- Help students develop analytical, communicative, and critical thinking skills through using anthropological knowledge
- Think critically about social issues and articulate diverse perspectives
- Recognize, appreciate, value, and respect cultural difference and diversity

Course Requirements

- Students are expected to attend lectures regularly and participate in classroom discussion. They will have several opportunities to lead class discussion (10 points)
 - Zoo Assignment (20 points)
 - Tibet Assignment (10 points)
 - Midterm Exam (25 points)
 - Documentary Film Project (15 points)
 - Book Project (20 points)

Required Texts

- *Anthropology: What Does it Mean to be Human*, 5th edition, by Robert Lavenda and Emily Schultz, Oxford University Press, 2020. [ISBN 978-0197534434; \$71 -- available through Canvas]
- *Catching Fire: How Cooking Made Us Human* by Richard Wrangham, Basic Books, 2010. [ISBN 9780465020416; \$15.25]
- *How to Tame a Fox (and Build a Dog)* by Lee A. Dugatkin and Lyudmila Trut, University of Chicago Press, 2017. [ISBN 9780226599717; \$18]

Students with disabilities who are enrolled in this course and who will be requesting documented disability-related accommodations should make an appointment with the Office of Disability Services(rkohn1@yu.edu) during the first week of class. The office is located in 215 Lexington Ave, Suite 505. Once you have been approved for accommodations, please submit your accommodation letter and discuss any specifics with me to ensure the successful implementation of your accommodations.

Week 1

August 25: Introduction

- Chapter 1 in *Anthropology*

August 30: Anthropology, Science, and Story Telling

- Module 1 in *Anthropology*
- The Mismeasure of Science by Jason Lewis et al.

Week 2

Biological Anthropology

September 1: Evolutionary Fact and Theory

- Chapter 2 in *Anthropology*

September 6: Primate Behavior

- Chapter 3 in *Anthropology*

Week 3

September 8: Primate Behavior and Zoo Assignment

- Birth of Fatherhood by Sang-Hee Lee
- Film: Miss Goodall and the Wild Chimpanzees
- Ted Talk: Surprising Science of Alpha Males by Frans de Waal

September 13: Fossil Record: Early Australopithecines and Early Homo

- Finding Lucy by Donald Johanson and Maitland Edey
- Great Transitions
- The Tool-Making Animal

Week 4

September 15: Fossil Record: Homo Erectus

- Chapter 4 in *Anthropology*
- Evolution of Human Birth by Sang-Hee Lee
- Big Brains Give Mom's Big Grief by Sang-Hee Lee

September 20: Seminar: How Cooking Made Us Human

- *How Cooking Made Us Human* by Richard Wrangham

Week 5

September 22: The Rise of Modern Humans

Rosh Hashana-Yom Kippur

October 6: (Remote Instruction) Humans vs. Neanderthals; Biological Basis for Behavior

- Chapter 5 in Anthropology

Week 6

October 20: **Zoo Assignment Due**; Human Variation Seminar; Tibet Assignment

- Perspectives on Human Variation through the Lens of Diversity and Race by Aravinda Chakravarti
- Skin Deep by Nina Jablonski and George Chaplin
- The Biology of Skin Color by Nina Jablonski
- The Y Chromosome Pool of Jews as Part of the Genetic Landscape of the Middle East by Almut Nebel et al.

Archaeology

October 25: Methods and Theory; Origins of Agriculture

- Chapter 6 in *Anthropology*

Week 7

October 27: Origins of Agriculture

- The Original Affluent Society by Marshall Sahlins
- The Worst Mistake in the History of the Human Race by Jared Diamond
- The Making of the Fittest: Got Lactase? The Co-Evolution of Genes and Culture

November 1: Seminar: How to Tame a Fox

- *How to Tame a Fox (& Build a Dog)*

Week 8

November 3: Rise of Civilization

- Chapter 7 in *Anthropology*

November 8: **Tibet Assignment Due**; Mesopotamia

Week 9

Cultural Anthropology

November 10: Concept of Culture: Franz Boas

- Chapter 8 in *Anthropology*
- *The Lessons of Franz Boas* by Alan McGowan

November 15: Midterm Review

Week 10

November 17: **Midterm Exam**

November 22: Seminar: Three Identical Strangers; Documentary Film Assignment

- Film: *Three Identical Strangers* (Amazon Prime or Hulu)

November 24: Thanksgiving

Week 11

November 19: Ethnographic Methods

- Module 3 in *Anthropology*
- *Writing His Life Through the Other: The Anthropology of Malinowski* by Michael Young
- *Tricking and Tripping* by Claire Sterk

December 1: Language

- Chapter 9 in *Anthropology*

Week 12

December 6: Language Seminar

- Ted Talk: How Language Transformed Humanity by Mark Pagel
- Module 4 in *Anthropology*
- *Shakespeare in the Bush* by Laura Bohannon
- *Ethnic Theory of Plane Crashes* by Malcolm Gladwell

December 8: How We Make Meaning; Book Project

- Chapter 10 in *Anthropology*

Week 13

December 13: **Documentary Film Assignment Due**; Ritual and Religion

- Two Case Studies from Chapter 10: Azande and Evangelicals
- *The Adaptive Value of Religious Ritual* by Richard Sosis
- *Baseball Magic* by George Gmelch

December 15: Economy

- Chapter 11 in *Anthropology*
- Too Many Bananas by David Counts

Week 14

December 20: Kinship

- Chapter 14 in *Anthropology*
- When Brothers Share a Wife by Melvyn Goldstein
- Why do Grandmother's Exist? by Judith Shulevitz
- Arranging a Marriage in India by Serena Nanda

December 22: Social Inequality

- Chapter 15
- Inequality of Capital Ownership by Thomas Piketty

Week 15

January 6 at 12:00 PM: **Book Project Due** -- Late Assignments will be docked one full grade/day