



INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTH 1301

Anthropology—Fall 2023

Sul Ross State University

Lecture: MWF 9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.

Room: (Lawrence Hall) LH 303



Course Instructor: Dr. Bryon Schroeder

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Office Hours: W 2-3:00 p.m.

Course Description:

Anthropologists study everything from million-year-old fossilized remains of our earliest human ancestors in Africa to 20th-century buildings in present-day New York City. In this broad field of study, cultural anthropology unites the discipline and focuses it on humans' wide biological and cultural diversity. This course introduces students to the scientific study of human cultural and biological variation globally.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

- 1.) The students will be able to describe and understand the fundamental objectives of anthropology.
- 2.) The students will acquire a basic vocabulary for discussing prominent issues within anthropology and neighboring social sciences like race, gender, sexuality, kinship, inequality, material culture, religion, and ritual.
- 3.) The students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of basic methods used by anthropologists.

Goals and Objectives:

This course aims to familiarize students with anthropology's historical development, methods, associated terms, and current objectives. This approach provides a foundation for students pursuing anthropology or its subdisciplines but is taught with the non-specialist in mind. Anthropology is the only discipline that holistically studies humans at every time and place, and understanding the basic concepts is critical for today's multicultural global world.

Required Text:

2021 Laura Pountney and Tomislav Marić. *Introducing Anthropology what makes us human?* Second Edition, Polity Press, Medford.

2016 Kelly, Robert L. *The Fifth Beginning: what six million years of human history can tell us about our future.* University of California Press, Oakland.

Any additional readings will be assigned on the Blackboard webpage for this class, and students will be instructed on how to access this material.

Grades:

Percentage	Points	Letter Grade	GPA Value
100 – 90	625 - 563	A	4.0
89 – 80	562 - 500	B	3.0
79 – 70	499 - 437	C	2.0
69 – 60	436 - 374	D	1.0
59 and below	374 and below	F	0.0

Assignments	Date	Points	% of Grade
Paper 1	October 14 th	100	16 %
Anthropology in the Media (13 discussions)	Every Friday Starting: 9/8	(25 points every Friday) 325	52 %
Attendance and Class Participation	Every Class	100	16 %
Final Paper	Dec 8 th by Midnight	100	16 %
625 total points			100.00

Assignments:

Papers: Your writing will be used to gauge your understanding of anthropological subject matter. Instead of tests, you will write a total of four papers on each of the subjects outlined in the table below.

Paper 1 (due 10/14)	Final Paper (due 12/8)
What Do Anthropologists Do: I want you to find an anthropologist. Outline a career and project they have worked on and discuss the impact of that individual. (5 Pages)	Archaeology Paper: Use what we have learned from Kelly to think about what archaeologist in the future will interpret about your life/culture. (5 Pages)
<i>**Individual rubrics will be handed out/posted to Blackboard a month before each paper is due.</i>	

Discussion: Anthropology in the Media: (Every Friday but the 1st Week): You need to find outside representations of Anthropology in the popular media bring them in and we will discuss their impact to the field, if they are correct and what could be better/is okay about the representation.

CLASS POLICIES

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library: Offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu. Off-campus access requires logging in with your LoboID and password. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or phone (432-837-8123).

Technology Policy: **Cell phones must be silenced and put away during class.** You can take notes using whatever method suits you. If you plan to use a laptop or tablet to take notes or access class material, you must turn off the wi-fi function; you cannot surf the web: please read this article <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/22/business/laptops-not-during-lecture-or-meeting.html>. Please do not let your use of technology become a distraction to other students.

Academic Integrity: Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. A scholar is expected to be punctual, prepared, and focused; meaningful and pertinent participation is appreciated. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to: Turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden. Sul Ross State University academic dishonesty policy is addressed at length in the student conduct and discipline chapter of the student handbook (<http://www.sulross.edu/page/2454/student-handbook>). I will not tolerate academic dishonesty in this class.

Grievances: If a student has a grade dispute or dislikes a topic covered in class, please come to assigned office hours and discuss the issue with me. The procedures for student grievances outside of course content or grades are outlined in the student grievance procedure. (http://www.sulross.edu/sites/default/files/sites/default/files/users/docs/president/chapter_4.07_student_grievance.pdf)

Absences: Three absences will be allowed; absent students will need to obtain lecture and class discussion notes from a fellow student. It is your responsibility to let me know ahead of time when you will be absent. Any absence beyond that will deduct half a letter grade for each absence beyond the allowance. If six or more classes are missed, you will be dropped and receive an F for the course. Regular attendance and punctuality are expected. Absence policies are outlined on page 2. <http://www.sulross.edu/sites/default/files/sites/default/files/users/docs/stulife/academic.pdf>

SRSU Disability Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Alpine students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mary Schwartze Grisham, M.Ed., LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203 (please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can during working hours), or email mschwartze@sulross.edu Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, SUI Ross State University, Alpine. Texas, 79832.

Classroom Climate of Respect: Importantly, this class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and open discussion of ideas. This means that all of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose, and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. No one is entitled to harass, belittle, or discriminate against another based on race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual orientation. Still, we will not be silenced by the difficulty of fruitfully discussing sensitive issues. "I aim to create a learning environment for my students that supports all thoughts, perspectives, and experiences and honors your identities (including race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, socioeconomic class, age, nationality, etc.). I also understand that the crisis of COVID, economic disparity, and health concerns, or even unexpected life events could impact the conditions necessary for you to succeed. My commitment is to be there for you and help you meet the learning objectives of this course. I do this to demonstrate my commitment to you and to the mission of Sul Ross State University to create an inclusive environment and care for the whole student as part of the Sul Ross Familia. If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please do not hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you."

Tentative Class Schedule Fall 2023

Week 1	8/28	Class 1: <u>Introduction to Class</u> <i>Introduction and review of the syllabus</i>	
	8/30	Class 2: <u>The Study of Humanity</u> <i>Introduction to Anthropology</i>	
	9/1	Class 3: <u>What Makes us Human?</u> <i>The Foundation of Anthropology</i>	
Week 2	9/4	NO CLASS: Labor Day	
	9/6	Class 4: <u>The Old Ones.</u> <i>LCA – Last Common Ancestor and Early Ancestors.</i>	Reading Chapter 1 – <i>What Makes us Human.</i>
	9/8	Class 5: <u>Discussion: Anthropology in the Media</u>	
Week 3	9/11	Class 6: <u>The Broadening Tree</u> <i>Our Ancestors and Dead Ends.</i>	
	9/13	Class 7: <u>Political Organization and Social Inequality</u> <i>Bands → States and Egalitarian → Stratified Society</i>	Reading Chapter 5 - <i>What Makes us Human.</i>
	9/15	Class 8: <u>Discussion: Anthropology in the Media</u>	
Week 4	9/12	Class 9: <u>What is Material Culture</u> <i>Behavior and cultural differences</i>	
	9/14	Class 10: <u>Symbolic Expression</u> <i>Behavior and cultural differences</i>	Reading Chapter 12 - <i>What Makes us Human.</i>
	9/16	Class 11: <u>Discussion: Anthropology in the Media</u>	
Week 5	9/18	Class 12: <u>History of Anthropological Research</u> <i>19th century thought</i>	
	9/20	Class 13: <u>Participant Observation</u> <i>Examples</i>	Reading Chapter 13 - <i>What Makes us Human.</i>
	9/22	Class 14: <u>Discussion: Anthropology in the Media</u>	
Week 6	9/25	Class 15: <u>Religion and Ritual Overview</u>	
	9/27	Class 16: <u>Ethnographic methods</u> <i>Fieldwork</i>	Reading Chapter 8 - <i>What Makes us Human.</i>
	9/29	Class 17: <u>Discussion: Anthropology in the Media</u>	
Week 7	10/2	Class 18: <u>The Construction of Identity/</u> <u>Gender Perspectives</u>	
	10/4	Class 19: <u>Marriage and Families</u> <i>Postmarital residence patterns</i>	Reading Chapter 7 and 9 - <i>What Makes us Human.</i>
	10/6	Class 20: <u>Discussion: Anthropology in the Media</u>	
Week 8	10/9	Class 21: <u>Globalization</u> <i>Key Issues</i>	
	10/11	Class 22: <u>Effects of European Expansion</u>	Reading Chapter 11 - <i>What Makes us Human</i>
	10/13	Class 23: <u>Discussion: Anthropology in the Media</u>	
Week 9	10/16	Class 24: <u>Language as a Reflection of Culture</u> <i>Postmarital Residence Patterns</i>	
	10/18	Class 25: <u>Speech Patterns</u>	Reading Chapter 3 – <i>What Makes us Human.</i>
	10/20	Class 26: <u>Discussion: Anthropology in the Media</u>	

Week 10	10/23	Class 27: <u>Origin of Language</u>	Reading Chapter 3 – What Makes us Human.
	10/25	Class 28: <u>Language Exclusivity</u>	
	10/27	Class 29: Discussion: Anthropology in the Media	
Week 11	10/30	Class 30: <u>How do Archaeologists Think</u> <i>Basics of Archaeology</i>	Reading Kelly: <i>The Fifth Beginning</i> Chapters 1 and 2
	11/1	Class 31: <u>Basics of Archaeology</u> <i>Where does Inequality come from?</i>	
	11/3	Class 32: Discussion: Anthropology in the Media	
Week 12	11/6	Class 33: <u>Sticks and Stones</u> <i>Intro to Old World Archaeology</i>	Reading Kelly: <i>The Fifth Beginning</i> Chapters 3
	11/8	Class 34: <u>Overview of Old-World Archaeology</u>	
	11/10	Class 35: Discussion: Anthropology in the Media	
Week 13	11/13	Class 36: The Spread of Humans	Reading Kelly: <i>The Fifth Beginning</i> Chapters 4
	11/15	Class 37: <u>New World Archaeology.</u>	
	11/17	Class 38: Discussion: Anthropology in the Media	
Week 14	11/20	Class 39: In-Class Discussion <i>Chapter 5</i>	Reading Kelly: <i>The Fifth Beginning</i> Chapters 5
	11/22	NO Class: Thanksgiving Break	
	11/24	NO Class: Thanksgiving Break	
Week 15	11/27	Class 40: <u>Nothing Lasts Forever</u> <i>Where is the future of Anthropology</i>	Reading Kelly: <i>The Fifth Beginning</i> Chapters 6 and 7
	11/29	Class 42: Discussion: Anthropology in the Media	
	12/1	Class 42: Office Hours for Final Paper	
Week 16	12/8	FINAL EXAM: Final Paper Due	