



INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY ANTH 1301

Anthropology—Fall 2024

Sul Ross State University

Lecture: MWF 9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.

Room: Academic and Computer Resource 204



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Office Hours: Wednesday 3-4:00 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 humanity's wide biological and cultural diversity. This course introduces students to the scientific study of human cultural and biological variation across the globe beginning with our earliest ancestors.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLOS)

- 1) The students will be able to describe and understand the basic objectives and methods of the four fields 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.
- 4) The students will demonstrate an understanding of the trajectory of anthropological thought and how it is linked to contemporary perspectives.
- 3) The students will be able to demonstrate basic knowledge of human evolution and the trajectory of human cultures from the deep past to today.

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.

Recommended Text

Brewis, Alexandra, Kelly Knudson, Christopher Stojanowski, Cini Sturtzsreetharan, and Amber Wutich
2025 *The Human Story: An Introduction to Anthropology*. W. W. Norton & Company, New York.

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

GRADING

Your grade in this class is based strongly on your willingness to attend lectures, be attentive, take notes and study them. Lecture materials are structured using the recommended textbook, but the book does not cover all materials in lecture and is not a good substitute for being in class. I have structured this class with only two exams and papers; fewer assignments reduces workload but also requires higher quality of work, so please be mindful of the grading system. Missing class, arriving late, and not being attentive is the quickest way to damage your grade. If you must miss a class please inform me well ahead of the expected date so I may try to accommodate you, but do not expect me to account for extensive absences.

Papers: You will write two five-page papers on subjects covered in class. Subject matter should match course material and your interests. You must discuss with me ahead of the paper due date about your topic of interest. Papers are required to have at least two peer-reviewed citations and follow formatting expectations. Further instructions about format and citation guidelines will be provided ahead of the paper due date. Papers will be turned in as pdf files on the course blackboard website. You will be graded on your understanding of anthropological subject matter, ability to follow format, and cite appropriately. I strongly encourage you to make use of the writing center on campus. ***Papers must be written by you—use of AI or other plagiarism will result in an automatic F on a paper and must be reported to SRSU administration.***

Exams: You will take two exams during the semester. These will be based on materials covered in class up to the date of the exam; the final exam is not cumulative. Because exams will be heavily based on lectures I strongly encourage you to take good notes. Lecture slides will be provided on Blackboard but are not stand-ins for good note taking; most slides have pictures and only a few words. Review topics will also be provided prior to exams but again these only give a sense of the topics covered. Please feel free to see me if you need assistance with note taking or other study habits leading up to the exams.

Additional assignments/attendance: During the semester you will also have some additional assignments, including worksheets you will fill out on blackboard while watching videos and an experiential archaeology event using preindustrial technology (the atlatl and dart). These assignments will be announced in class and on Blackboard ahead of time and instructions will be provided. Please pay attention to the Blackboard site and your email for updates.

Assignments	Date	% of Grade
Paper 1	September 30 th	20 %
Midterm Exam	October 14 th	20 %
Paper 2	November 15 th	20 %
Final Exam	TBA	20 %
<u>Additional assignments/attendance</u>		20 %
		100.00

CLASS POLICIES AND RESOURCES

TECHNOLOGY

You will be using Blackboard in this class to access materials and turn in assignments. During class you are encouraged to take notes by hand, since studies indicate improved comprehension of materials. However, you may take notes digitally on a laptop or tablet. Surfing the internet is a distraction to yourself and others and is prohibited, please turn off your computer wifi during class to remove this compulsion. Cell phones must be silenced or turned off and put away during class. This is required not only to improve your learning experience but those around you.

ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the 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. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mrs. Mary Schwartze Grisham, LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Director at 432-837-8203 or email mschwartze@sulross.edu or contact Alejandra Valdez, at 830-758-5006 or email alejandra.valdez@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall, room 112, and our mailing address is P.O. Box C122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine. Texas, 79832.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

All full-time and part-time students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the Student Handbook and the Undergraduate & Graduate Catalog and for abiding by the University rules and regulations. Additionally, students are responsible for checking their Sul Ross email as an official form of communication from the university. Every student is expected to obey all federal, state and local laws and is expected to familiarize him/herself with the requirements of such laws.

DISTANCE EDUCATION

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website.

Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires a secure login. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.

SRSU LIBRARY SERVICES

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library and Archives of the Big Bend in Alpine offer 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 by phone (432-837-8123).

No matter where you are based, public libraries and many academic and special libraries welcome the general public into their spaces for study. SRSU TexShare Cardholders can access additional services and

resources at various libraries across Texas. Learn more about the TexShare program by visiting library.sulross.edu/find-and-borrow/texshare/ or ask a librarian by emailing srsulibrary@sulross.edu. Mike Fernandez, SRSU Librarian, is based in Eagle Pass (Building D-129) to offer specialized library services to students, faculty, and staff. Utilize free services such as InterLibrary Loan (ILL), ScanIt, and Direct Mail to get materials delivered to you at home or via email.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. Students should submit work that is their own and avoid the temptation to engage in behaviors that violate academic integrity, such as 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. Students should also avoid using open AI sources unless permission is expressly given for an assignment or course. Violations of academic integrity can result in failing assignments, failing a class, and/or more serious university consequences. These behaviors also erode the value of college degrees and higher education overall.

CLASSROOM RESPECT

Importantly, this class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and the 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 on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. Still, we will not be silenced by the difficulty of fruitfully discussing politically sensitive issues.

Tentative Class Schedule Fall 2024

Week 1	8/26	Class 1: Introduction to Class <i>Introduction and review of the syllabus</i>	
	8/28	Class 2: The Study of Humanity <i>Introduction to Anthropology</i>	
	8/30	Class 3: Doing Anthropology <i>The Foundations of Anthropology</i>	
Week 2	9/2	NO CLASS: Labor Day	
	9/4	Class 4: Human Variation <i>What makes us human?</i>	Reading Chapter 3 – <i>The Human Story</i>
	9/6	Class 5: Human Variation <i>Culture, genetics, and evolution.</i>	
Week 3	9/9	Class 6: A Brief History of Anthropological Thought <i>Anthropology's origins</i>	
	9/11	Class 7: Our Closest Living Ancestors <i>Primateology and anthropology</i>	Reading Chapter 4 - <i>The Human Story</i>
	9/13	Class 8: Video—Human Evolution <i>With accompanying assignment in Blackboard</i>	
Week 4	9/16	Class 9: Interpreting Fossil Remains <i>From modern bones to ancient fossils</i>	
	9/18	Class 10: Human Origins—Early Hominins <i>Interpreting the earliest remains</i>	Reading Chapters 5 - <i>The Human Story</i>
	9/20	Class 11: Human Origins—Early Hominins <i>Out of the trees, bipedalism and early tool use</i>	
Week 5	9/23	Class 12: Human Dispersals <i>Out of Africa adaptations</i>	
	9/25	Class 13: Human Dispersals <i>The other humans and us.</i>	Reading Chapter 6 - <i>The Human Story</i>
	9/27	Class 14: Human Dispersals <i>What does it mean to be “modern?”</i>	
Week 6	9/30	Class 15: Linguistic Anthropology <i>1st paper due by midnight</i>	
	10/2	Class 16: Linguistic Anthropology <i>Language, identity, and social organization</i>	Reading Chapter 7 - <i>The Human Story</i>
	10/4	Class 17: Hunter-gatherers <i>Hunter-gatherers, contemporary analogs</i>	
Week 7	10/7	Class 18: Food production and sedentism <i>The development of sedentary societies</i>	
	10/9	Class 19: Complex societies <i>The rise of cities and state</i>	Reading Chapter 8 - <i>The Human Story</i>
	10/11	Class 20: Complex societies <i>The rise of cities and state</i>	
Week 8	10/14	Class 21: MIDTERM EXAM	
	10/16	Class 22: Experiential Archaeology <i>Atlatls on the lawn</i>	Reading Chapter 9 - <i>The Human Story</i>
	10/18	Class 23: Reciprocity and exchange	

Week 9	10/21	Class 24: Market economies	Reading Chapter 10 – <i>The Human Story</i>
	10/23	Class 25: The anthropology of conflict <i>The origins of warfare</i>	
	10/25	Class 26: The anthropology of conflict <i>Structural violence and resistance</i>	
Week 10	10/28	Class 27: Gender <i>Roles and labor divisions</i>	Reading Chapter 11-12 – <i>The Human Story</i>
	10/30	Class 28: Gender <i>Embodiment, identity, inequality</i>	
	11/1	Class 29: Sex, Love, and Marriage <i>Marriage systems around the globe</i>	
Week 11	11/4	Class 30: The Anthropology of Death <i>Earliest comprehensions and treatments of the dead</i>	Reading Chapter 13-14 – <i>The Human Story</i>
	11/6	Class 31: The Anthropology of Death <i>Dealing with death in contemporary societies</i>	
	11/8	Class 32: Race <i>The origins of typological thinking</i>	
Week 12	11/11	Class 33: Race <i>How racism persists</i>	Reading Chapter 15 – <i>The Human Story</i>
	11/13	Class 34: Disease, Health, and Healing	
	11/15	Class 35: Disease, Health, and Healing <i>2nd Paper due by midnight</i>	
Week 13	11/18	Class 36: human Systems of justice	Reading Chapter 16 – <i>The Human Story</i>
	11/20	Class 37: Human Ecology	
	11/22	Class 38: Human Ecology	
Week 14	11/25	Class 39: Video—The Fast Runner <i>With accompanying assignment in Blackboard</i>	Reading
	11/27	NO Class: Thanksgiving Break	
	11/29	NO Class: Thanksgiving Break	
Week 15	12/2	Class 40: Nothing lasts forever <i>Where is the future of Anthropology</i>	Reading
	12/4	Class 42: Anthropology and our future? <i>Using Anthropology to our advantage</i>	
	12/6	Class 42: Final exam review	
Week 16	12/?	FINAL EXAM	