



Introduction to Anthropology

ANTH 1301

Anthropology—Spring 2025

Sul Ross State University

Lecture: MWF 9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.

Room: (Morelock Academic) MAB 206



Course Instructor: Dr. Bryon Schroeder

Office: Ferguson Hall Room 114D

Phone: (432) 837-8339 (o)

Email: bryon.schroeder@sulross.edu

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 across the globe.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

- 1.) The students will be able to describe and understand the basic 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 will 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.

Texts:

2025 Brewis, Alexandra et al., *The Human Story: An Introduction to Anthropology?* W.W. Norton & Company Inc.

(Openstax) 2022 Hasty, Jennifer, David G. Lewis, and Majorie M. Snipes, *Introduction to Anthropology:* <https://openstax.org/details/books/introduction-anthropology>

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

Assignments & Grades

Assignments	Date	Points	% of Grade
Tests	(See below)	400	60.6%
Empirical and Quantitative Reasoning	February 5 th and April 23 rd	25 Points (x2) (50 points EC total)	Earn back (7.6%)
In-Class Participation	Show up and participate to get points	(10 weekly points) 160 total	24.3%
Final Project	In Class	100	15.1%
		660 total points (50 pts EC)	100.00

Assignment Description:

Tests: It is essential to convey your understanding of the material. I want to gauge what you know, so we will have hand-written tests in class. Come prepared!

Final Project: Show me that you understand what anthropologists study and how they study it. Bring a representation of anthropological work to class (rubric will be handed out).

Empirical and Quantitative Reasoning (EC): A pre and post-reflection on themes in Anthropology.

Tests (Handwritten)	Final Project Due by May 5th
Test 1: February 12 th Biological Anthropology	Anthropology in the Wild: In our last few classes, you will present short reports on finding representations of anthropology in popular media.
Test 2: March 7 th Cultural Anthropology	
Test 3: April 4 th Linguistic Anthropology	
Test 4: May Finals Week TBA Archaeology	

***Individual rubrics will be handed out/posted to Blackboard before the final project.*

Grades:

Percentage	Points	Letter Grade	GPA Value
100 – 90	660 - 593	A	4.0
89 – 80	592 - 528	B	3.0
79 – 70	527 - 462	C	2.0
69 – 60	461 - 395	D	1.0
59 and below	395 and below	F	0.0

Library Information:

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library and Archives of the Big Bend in Alpine 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). 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/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. Use free services such as InterLibrary Loan, ScanIt, and Direct Mail to get materials delivered at home or via email.

Academic Dishonesty:

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. **Use the AI to think with you, not for you!** 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 Climate of 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 discussing politically sensitive issues.

Student Responsibilities Statement

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 themselves with the requirements of such laws.

ADA Compliance:

SRSU 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 Schwartz Grisham, LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Director or Ronnie Harris, LPC, Counselor, at 432-837-8203 or email mschwartz@sulross.edu or ronnie.harris@sulross.edu. RGC students can also 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.

Tentative Class Schedule Spring 2025

Week 1 1/15 – 1/17	Class 1: Introduction Class 2: Syllabus/Introduction to Anthropology	<u>Reading</u> None
Week 2 1/20 – 1/24	No Class Class 3: Key Concepts in Anthropology Class 4: What is a Primate? & Evolution Basics	<u>Reading</u> Chapter 1 OpenStax Book
Week 3 1/27 – 1/31	Class 5: The Old Ones (LCA and earliest Bipeds) Class 6: The Broadening Tree (Genus Homo) Class 7: The Broadening Tree (Genus Homo cont.)	<u>Reading</u> Chapter 4 OpenStax Book
Week 4 2/3 – 2/7	Class 8: The Expansion of <i>Homo sapiens</i> Class 9: Human Variation (Empirical EC) Class 10: Origin of Race and Racialized Societies	<u>Reading</u> Chapter 5 OpenStax Book
Week 5 2/10 – 2/14	Class 11: Review Class 12: Test 1 Class 13: The History of Anthropological Inquiry	<u>Reading</u> Chapter 3 OpenStax Book
Week 6 2/17 – 2/21	Class 14: What is Culture? Class 15: Participant Observation/Ethnographic Methods Class 16: Human Settlement and Societies	<u>Reading</u> Chapters 2 and 8 of OpenStax Book
Week 7 2/24 – 2/28	Class 17: Food and Economic Systems Class 18: Marriage and Family Construction Class 19: Death, Dying, and the Dead	<u>Reading</u> Chapters 7 and 12 of OpenStax Book
Week 8 Midterm 3/3 – 3/7	Class 20: Gender/Kinship Systems Class 21: Review Class 22: Test 2	<u>Reading</u> Chapter 11 OpenStax Book
Week 9 3/10 – 3/14	Class 23: Origin of Language Class 24: Language as a Reflection of Culture (Berlin and Kay) Class 25: Speech Patterns	<u>Reading</u> Chapter 6 OpenStax
Week 10 3/17 – 3/21	Spring Break No Class	
Week 11 3/24 – 3/28	Class 26: Non-Verbal Communications Class 27: Language Exclusivity Class 28: Language and Power	<u>Reading</u> <i>Language and Power – Norman Fairclough</i>
Week 12 3/31 – 4/4	Class 29: Religion and Myth Class 30: Review Class 31: Test 3	<u>Reading</u> Chapter 13 OpenStax Book
Week 13 4/7 – 4/11	Class 32: How do Archaeologists Think? Class 33: Ordering Time Class 34: Site Formation Processes	<u>Reading</u> The Fifth Beginning Excerpt.
Week 14 4/14 – 4/18	Class 35: New World Archaeology Class 36: Old World Archaeology Class 37: Archaeological Methods.	<u>Reading</u> TBA
Week 15 4/21 – 4/25	Class 38: Cultural Resource Management Class 39: Nothing Lasts Forever (Empirical EC) Class 40: Final Project	<u>Reading</u> TBA
Week 16 4/28 – 4/30	Class 41: Final Project Class 42: Review	<u>Reading</u> None
Final	TBA	
*Grades are due Thursday, May 8th @ noon		