



## INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY ANTH 1301

Anthropology—Fall 2025

Sul Ross State University

**Lecture:** MWF 9:00 a.m. – 9:50 a.m.

**Room:** Ferguson Hall 213



Professor: Dr. Justin Garnett  
Office: Ferguson Hall Room 114D  
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Office Hours: Wednesday 3-4:30 p.m.

\*\*\*This document should be considered tentative, and subject to change as needed \*\*\*

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Anthropology is the most holistic of the social sciences. Anthropologists study everything from the early hominin fossils of Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania to the Punk and Goth subcultures of New York and London. In this broad field of study, cultural anthropology unites the discipline and focuses it on humanity's wide cultural and biological 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.
- 3) The students will demonstrate an understanding of the trajectory of anthropological thought and how it is linked to contemporary perspectives.
- 4) 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.

### **Required textbook (Free to download)**

[Introduction to Anthropology - OpenStax](#) go to this link, on the left side of the screen click "Download a PDF".

**Additional readings (pdf articles) 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 textbook, but the book does not cover all materials in lecture and is not a good substitute for being in class. Missing class, interrupting class, falling asleep in class or playing on your phone are 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.

There are **1,000 points total** in the course, and no extra credit.

**I will NOT take attendance.** But being in class and participating is good idea.

## **EXAMS**

There will be four **exams**. They will be worth **200 points** each. I will reject your lowest exam grade, so you will receive a possible total of **600 points** from exams. If you're happy with the grade you earn on the first three, you can skip the fourth.

## **WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS**

There will be three short **one-page written assignments** over the assigned readings. These will be worth **100 points each**. They will be written in class, so read the assigned readings in advance. You won't have time to skim the articles in class and get a good grade.

## **CHECKS FOR UNDERSTANDING**

Ten times over the semester you will turn in a one paragraph **"check for understanding"** where you will write down something from the course's material which you want clarification about. This helps my teaching improve. Write these down in class, and turn them in to me. These will be worth 10 points each, for a total of 100 points.

This gives us the total of **1,000 points**. There are ***no other sources of points in the course***. Points are NOT transferrable from one category to another.

<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>% of Grade</b>
Exam 1	9/19	20 %
Exam 2	10/17	20 %
Exam 3	11/14	20%
Written Assignment 1	9/26	10 %
Written Assignment 2	10/24	10 %
Written Assignment 3	11/21	10 %
Checks for Understanding	See schedule	10 %
Final Exam	TBA	20 %*
		<b><i>100.00</i></b>

\*Final is optional and if taken, replaces lowest exam score.

**This is the conversion between point percentages and standard letter grades:**

Score	Grade
<59.9%	F
60-62.9%	D-
63-66.9%	D
67-69.9	D+
70-72.9%	C-
73-76.9%	C
77-79.9%	C+
80-82.9%	B-
83-86.9%	B
87-89.9%	B+
90-92.9%	A-
93-100%	A

**CLASS POLICIES AND RESOURCES**

**TECHNOLOGY**

You will be using Blackboard in this class to access materials. 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 Schwartz Grisham, LPC, SRSU's Accessibility Services Director at 432-837-8203 or email [mschwartz@sulross.edu](mailto:mschwartz@sulross.edu) or contact Alejandra Valdez, at 830-758-5006 or email [alejandra.valdez@sulross.edu](mailto: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/](http://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](mailto: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/](http://library.sulross.edu/find-and-borrow/texshare/) or ask a librarian by emailing [srsulibrary@sulross.edu](mailto: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 may not use generative AI sources unless permission is expressly given for an assignment. 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.

## Core Curriculum Statement

The following statement is required for a core curriculum course, and certainly applies to anthropology:

- Personal Responsibility. Students will develop principles of personal responsibility for living in a diverse world; to include intercultural competency, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities.
- Social Responsibility. Students will develop principles of social responsibility for living in a diverse world, to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.

## Counseling

Sul Ross has partnered with TimelyCare where all SR students will have access to nine free counseling sessions. You can learn more about this 24/7/365 support by visiting [Timelycare/SRSU](https://www.timelycare.com/SRSU). The SR Counseling and Accessibility Services office will continue to offer in-person counseling in Ferguson Hall room 112 (Alpine campus), and telehealth Zoom sessions for remote students and RGC students.



*No one knows what anthropologists do. These images were generated by Bing AI from the prompt “a photograph of a group of anthropologists which clearly shows what anthropologists do”. When you finish this class you will be able to do better.*

## Tentative Class Schedule Fall 2025

<b>Week 1</b>	8/25	<b>Class 1: Introduction to Class</b> <i>Introduction and review of the syllabus</i>	
	8/27	<b>Class 2:</b> Lecture: the study of humanity	
	8/29	<b>Class 3:</b> Lecture: Foundations of anthropology. <b>CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING 1</b>	
<b>Week 2</b>	9/1	<b>NO CLASS: Labor Day</b>	
	9/3	<b>Class 4:</b> lecture: what is anthropology?	<b>Reading</b> Chapter 1: What is Anthropology?
	9/5	<b>Class 5:</b> Lecture: what is anthropology? <b>CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING 2</b>	
<b>Week 3</b>	9/8	<b>Class 6:</b> lecture: anth methods	
	9/10	<b>Class 7:</b> lecture: anth methods	<b>Reading</b> Chapter 2: Methods, cultural and archaeological Chapter 3: Theories of change
	9/12	<b>Class 8:</b> lecture: anth methods, theories of change <b>CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING 3</b>	
<b>Week 4</b>	9/15	<b>Class 9:</b> lecture: biological anth and primates	
	9/17	<b>Class 10:</b> lecture: the genus Homo	<b>Reading</b> Chapter 4: Biological, primates, evolution Chapter 5: Genus Homo
	9/19	<b>Class 11: EXAM 1</b>	
<b>Week 5</b>	9/22	<b>Class 12:</b> lecture: language	
	9/24	<b>Class 13:</b> lecture: language <b>CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING 4</b>	<b>Reading</b> Chapter 6: Language + an article, TBA
	9/26	<b>Class 14: WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT 1</b>	
<b>Week 6</b>	9/29	<b>Class 15:</b> lecture: economics	
	10/1	<b>Class 16:</b> lecture: economics	<b>Reading</b> Chapter 7: Economic anth
	10/3	<b>Class 17:</b> lecture: economics <b>CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING 5</b>	
<b>Week 7</b>	10/6	<b>Class 18:</b> lecture: authority and power	
	10/8	<b>Class 19:</b> lecture: authority and power	<b>Reading</b> Chapter 8: Authority and power Chapter 9: Social inequality
	10/10	<b>Class 20:</b> lecture: social inequality <b>CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING 6</b>	
<b>Week 8</b>	10/13	<b>Class 21:</b> lecture: family and kinship	<b>Reading</b> Chapter 11: Family and kinship Chapter 12: Gender and sex
	10/15	<b>Class 22:</b> lecture: gender and sex	

	10/17	<b>Class 23: EXAM 2</b>	
<b>Week 9</b>	10/20	<b>Class 24:</b> lecture: religion and culture	<b>Reading</b> Chapter 13: Religion and culture + an article, TBA
	10/22	<b>Class 25:</b> lecture: religion and culture <b>CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING 7</b>	
	10/24	<b>Class 26: WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT 2</b>	
<b>Week 10</b>	10/27	<b>Class 27:</b> lecture: anth of food	<b>Reading</b> Chapter 14: Anth of food Chapter 15: Anth of media
	10/29	<b>Class 28:</b> lecture: anth of food/media	
	10/31	<b>Class 29:</b> lecture: Anth of media <b>CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING 8</b>	
<b>Week 11</b>	11/3	<b>Class 30:</b> lecture: anth of art, music, sport	<b>Reading</b> Chapter 16: Anth of art, music, sport Chapter 17: Medical anth
	11/5	<b>Class 31:</b> lecture: anth of art, music, sport	
	11/7	<b>Class 32:</b> lecture: medical anth <b>CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING 9</b>	
<b>Week 12</b>	11/10	<b>Class 33:</b> lecture: humans and animals	<b>Reading</b> Chapter 18: Human and animal relationships Chapter 19: Indigenous anth
	11/12	<b>Class 34:</b> lecture: indigenous anth	
	11/14	<b>Class 35: EXAM 3</b>	
<b>Week 13</b>	11/17	<b>Class 36:</b> lecture: anth on the ground	<b>Reading</b> Chapter 20: Anth on the ground + an article, TBA
	11/19	<b>Class 37:</b> lecture: anth on the ground <b>CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING 10</b>	
	11/21	<b>Class 38: WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT 3</b>	
<b>Week 14</b>	11/24	<b>Class 39: TBA</b>	<b>Reading</b> n/a
	11/26	<b>NO Class: Thanksgiving Break</b>	
	11/28	<b>NO Class: Thanksgiving Break</b>	
<b>Week 15</b>	12/1	<b>Class 40:</b> lecture: case study TBA	<b>Reading</b> TBA; special case study in anth
	12/3	<b>Class 42:</b> lecture: case study TBA	
	12/5	<b>Class 42: Final exam review</b>	
<b>Week 16</b>	12/?	<b>FINAL EXAM DATE AND LOCATION TBA</b>	