



INTRODUCTION TO
ANTHROPOLOGY
ANTH 1301



SUMMER 2026

Sul Ross State University

Lecture: Asynchronous

Room: Blackboard course website

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Office Hours: (ONLINE) Thursday 11-12 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Anthropologists study everything from million-year-old fossilized remains of our earliest human ancestors to 20th-century buildings in present-day New York City. Anthropology (the study of our species) contains four subdisciplines: Biological Anthropology, Archaeology, Linguistics, and Cultural Anthropology. Because of the complexity of human lives, there are many overlaps in method and theory between these subdisciplines. This course introduces students to the scientific study of our species across the globe beginning with our earliest ancestors and ending with more recent large-scale civilizations. Throughout we will discuss the four subdisciplines and how they contribute to current theories and evidence about the lives of past and current people.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (SLOS)

- 1) The students will acquire a basic understanding of archaeological methods and objectives, and how these relate to the ever-evolving trajectory of the discipline.
- 2) The students will demonstrate an understanding of the trajectory of anthropological theory 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.
- 3) 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.

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 a subdiscipline of anthropology, 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 whatever a student's learning and career trajectory.

Textbook: <https://viva.pressbooks.pub/introtoanthropology4field/>

Please pay close attention to the Blackboard site and your email for communications related to this course.

GRADING

Your grade in this class is based strongly on your personal commitment to watch lectures, be attentive, take notes, and complete discussions and assignments. For this summer course you will be required to listen to three weekly lectures recorded on Blackboard and participate in a discussion for each lecture. You will be asked to complete weekly readings, assignments, and quizzes, and a final cumulative exam. Weekly discussions, assignments and quizzes will be due by Sunday 11:59pm after each week. Extra credit opportunities will also be available to raise your grade as much as 10%. All materials for the class will be made available on Blackboard.

Discussions: Following each lecture please complete at least one post and reply to one other student post in the discussions section on Blackboard. Your post should be legible and follow the discussion prompt. Please post your discussions by Sunday at 11:59pm each week.

Weekly assignments and quizzes: Weekly assignments and quizzes will be posted on Blackboard that relate to assigned readings for this course. Keep an eye on announcements posted on Blackboard regarding these weekly assignments. They will be posted into weekly modules on the Blackboard course main page.

Exams: The majority of your grade will come from one final exam taken on Blackboard. You will need to use the Respondus Lockdown software for this exam. The exam will be based on materials covered in class and in assigned readings. Because the exam will be heavily based on lectures, I strongly encourage you to take good notes during lectures and study them regularly. Data suggests the best studying is done in short increments (20-40 minutes) over multiple days before the exam, and that taking notes by hand is better for your memory than typing on a computer. Review topics will be provided prior to the exam but will only give a sense of the topics covered. Please feel free to meet with me if you need assistance with note taking or other study habits leading up to the exams.

Extra Credit: During the semester you will have four extra credit opportunities worth 25 pts each (10% of your grade). These opportunities will be announced in class and on Blackboard ahead of time and instructions will be provided.

Late submissions will be docked 10% for each day late.

Assignments	Points	% of Grade
Discussions	250	25 %
Assignments / Quizzes	350	35 %
Exam	400	40 %
	1000	100 %

CLASS POLICIES AND RESOURCES

TECHNOLOGY

All coursework will be completed on the Blackboard site for this course. This is an online course, meaning that use of technology is necessary. However, it is up to the student to avoid the temptation of surfing the internet or other distractions while completing course work. Paying attention to lectures and taking notes is essential to doing well on assignments and the final exam and achieving a passing grade. Notes should be taken using non-electronic methods. Studies indicate improved comprehension of materials when hand-writing over typing notes. The final exam will need to be taken on a computer with Respondus Lockdown Browser enabled.

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. To help protect confidentiality, students seeking accessibility/accommodation(s) services must submit the [Accommodation Request Form](#) located on our [website](#). Students are welcome to call the Office of Accessibility Services at 432-837-8203 or stop by Ferguson Hall Room 112 if they have any additional questions regarding the process. Our mailing address is PO Box C-122; Alpine, TX; 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 themselves 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, or copying text generated by AI. Students should avoid using AI sources unless permission is expressly given for an assignment or course—AI information is frequently misguided or incorrect. **Using AI generated text on papers and assignments is a form of plagiarism and will result in a zero on the assignment and report to university administration.** 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 your college degree 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.

REQUIRED STATEMENT REGARDING GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

The University does not recommend or endorse any specific AI tools or resources. Students should be aware that many generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Google Gemini, Microsoft Copilot) store user input and may use this data to train future models. For this reason, students should never upload or share personal, confidential, or identifiable information—such as names, ID numbers, health data, or assignment submissions containing such details—into any generative AI platform. When using AI tools, students should verify whether the tool complies with student privacy standards as indicated by the University. Faculty may recommend specific tools that better align with institutional data privacy policies, but ultimate responsibility for data protection rests with users. Students are encouraged to use faculty-recommended platforms when engaging in coursework involving generative AI. The University is not liable for any adverse experience or impact when students interact with these tools.

Tentative Class Schedule Summer 2026

Date	Topic	Reading
Week 1 5/27 – 5/29	Class 1: Introduction to the course Class 2: Basics of Anthropology	Body Ritual among the Nacirema
Week 2 Anth Thought 6/1 – 6/5	Class 3: A history of Anthropological thought Class 4: What is Culture? Class 5: Applied Anthropology	Textbook, Section 1
Week 3 Bio Anth 6/8 – 6/12	Class 6: Intro to Biological Anthropology Class 7: Human evolution in a nutshell Class 8: Applied Biological Anthropology	Textbook, Section 2
Week 4 Archaeology 6/15 – 6/19	Class 9: Intro to Archaeology Class 10: Site survey and analytical methods Class 11: The Middle – Upper Paleolithic	Textbook, Section 3
Week 5 Linguistics 6/22 – 6/26	Class 12: Migrations Class 13: Birth of farming and cities Class 14: Reconstructing ancient languages	Textbook, Section 3 cont. Textbook, Section 4
Week 6 Cultural Anth 6/22 – 6/26	Class 12: Intro to Cultural Anthropology Class 13: Politics, ritual, and religion Class 14: Globalism and world systems	Textbook, Section 5
Week 7 TBA	Final Exam	N/A