

**SYLLABUS**  
**ANT 100 INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY**  
**SPRING 2009**

**Instructor:** Dr. Jim Wanner

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**Office Hours:** 7:00-8:00, 9:00-10:00 MWF; 9:30-12:00 T TH and by appointment

**Course Description:**

A study of the basic principles and content of the four subfields of anthropology; physical, cultural, archaeology and anthropological linguistics. Discussion and demonstration of anthropology as a science with humanistic concerns.

**Course Objectives:**

- To impart fundamental knowledge of the interests, applications, and methods of anthropologists as scientists and humanists.
- To encourage a critical understanding of the concept of culture, how cultural processes work in cultural adaptation and in the production of meaning.
- To recount the course of human cultural and biological evolution, the nature of the evidence for these evolutions, and current interpretations of the evidence.

**Course Requirements:**

- Three exams (multiple choice) (80 %)
- Attendance (20%)
- Thoughtful participation will be considered in evaluating borderline grades.
- A = 100-90%, B = 89-80, C = 79-70, D = 69-60, F = < 59.

**Required Reading:**

Michael Alan Park, Introducing Anthropology. 4<sup>th</sup> ed., McGraw-Hill. 2008.

**Note:**

Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Disability Support Services(970-351-2289) as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

Reading Outline: Exam dates will be announced a week ahead of the exam date. Reading assignments will be assigned in class.

<b>Chapters and Topics</b>	
<b>1. Doing Anthropology: Defining the Discipline</b>	
The Field and Subfields of Anthropology	
Philosophical Assumptions	
<b>2. How Anthropology Works: Methods of Inquiry</b>	
Science, Reason and Belief Systems	
<b>3. Themes of Anthropology: Evolution</b>	
History of Evolutionary Thought	
Darwinian Principles	
Random Forces: Gene Flow, Genetic Drift, Mutation	
Speciation	
<b>5. Our Place in Nature: Humans as Primates</b>	
Taxonomy	
The Primates	
<b>6. Evolution: The Large-Brained Primate</b>	
Primate Evolution	
Hominid Evolution	
<b>EXAM 1</b>	
<b>7. Reproduction: The Sexual Primate</b>	
Sex in Evolution	
Sex and Gender	
Sex and Cultural Institutions	
<b>4. Themes of Anthropology: Culture</b>	
Definitions of Culture	
Brains and Culture	
Past Cultures	
<b>9. Food: Getting It, Growing It, Eating It, &amp; Passing It Around</b>	
Food as a Factor in Human Evolution	
Foraging	
Systems of Food Production	
Economic Systems	

<b>10. Nature of the Group: Arranging Our Families and Organizing Our People</b>	
Primates as Social Creatures	
Family and Kinship	
Voluntary Associations	
<b>11. Communication</b>	
Language	
Language Evolution	
Language and Culture	
<b>EXAM 2</b>	
<b>12. Maintenance of Order: Making the Worldview Real</b>	
Religion	
Religious Systems	
Law	
<b>14. The Evolution of Our Behavior</b>	
Taboo	
War	
Biocultural Interactions.	
<b>15. Anthropology in Today's World: Problems and Contributions</b>	
The Modern World System	
Applied Anthropology	
The Human Species Today and Tomorrow	
<b>EXAM 3</b>	

# Ant 100 INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY

## STUDY GUIDE

### Chapter 1: Doing Anthropology

- 1.1. What distinguishes the various subfields of anthropology from each other? What common concerns do the subfields share?
- 1.2. What does it mean to say that anthropology is "holistic"?
- 1.3. What is culture?
- 1.4. What does it mean to say that the Hutterites are "genetically isolated"?
- 1.5. What is the average reproductive rate for the Hutterites? Is this large or small?
- 1.6. In what ways might the Hutterites be said to be "communistic"?
- 1.7. Which subfield of anthropology is concerned with humans as biological creatures?
- 1.8. Which subfield of anthropology is concerned with explaining variation in beliefs and behavior among human groups?
- 1.9. Which subfield of anthropology is concerned with reconstructing culture through the material remains of past societies?
- 1.10. What is anthropological "fieldwork"?

### Chapter 2 Methods of Inquiry

- 2.1. What is a scientific "hypothesis"?
- 2.2. How does science differ from other belief systems?
- 2.3. In science, what is a "theory"?
- 2.4. How do inductive and deductive reasoning figure into hypothesis testing?
- 2.5. What roles do scientific thinking and other belief systems play in human life?

### Chapter 3 Evolution

- 3.1. Why were Mendel's ideas about inheritance revolutionary?
- 3.2. What was Darwin's greatest contribution to evolutionary thought?
- 3.3. How does the process of natural selection lead to descent with modification? How does adaptation take place in the realm of biology?
- 3.4. How does natural selection differ from artificial selection?
- 3.5. Distinguish between stabilizing selection, directional selection, and diversifying selection?

- 3.6. What are "mutations"? What is their role in evolution?
- 3.7. What is "gene flow"?
- 3.8. Describe two forms of "genetic drift"?
- 3.9. What is a "species"?
- 3.10. Describe one way in which new species may be formed?
- 3.11. What type of evolutionary mechanism does the Hutterite custom of branching out represent?

#### Chapter 4: Our Place in Nature

- 4.1. Why do physical anthropologists study primates?
- 4.2. What useful knowledge may come from primatology?
- 4.3. Who invented the modern system of taxonomy?
- 4.4. What characteristic is used to place animals in the phylum Chordata?
- 4.5. What adaptive characteristics are typical of mammals?
- 4.6. What characteristics of primates are related to their arboreal heritage?
- 4.7. With regard to the primate hand, what does prehensility refer to? Opposability?
- 4.8. What are dominance hierarchies?
- 4.9. What is the dominant sense in primates?
- 4.10. Distinguish the Prosimians from the Anthropoids?
- 4.11. Describe the various locomotor adaptations of the primates?
- 4.12. Describe, in general terms, the reproductive strategy of primates?
- 4.13. What is distinctive about primate brains?
- 4.14. What are the functions of grooming among primates?
- 4.15. In what key ways do humans differ from other primates?

#### Chapter 5: Anatomy

- 5.1. When do prosimians first appear in the fossil record?
- 5.2. What is an ape and when do they show up in the fossil record?
- 5.3. What were the earliest hominids like?
- 5.4. Why is "Lucy" considered a "hominid"?
- 5.5. When do hominids show up in the fossil record?
- 5.6. How and why might bipedalism have evolved?
- 5.7. In what genus are the earliest hominids placed?
- 5.8. What climatic changes may have initiated the emergence of the early hominids?
- 5.9. How do members of the genus *Paranthropus* differ from *Australopithecus*?

- 5.10. What important cultural innovation is associated with the first members of genus *Homo*?
- 5.11. What, does it appear, were the first stone tools used for?
- 5.10. What important evolutionary and cultural developments are associated with *Homo erectus*?
- 5.11. What distinctive characteristics are associated with archaic *Homo sapiens*?
- 5.12. When do *Homo erectus* and archaic *Homo sapiens* appear in the fossil record?
- 5.13. Who were the neandertals and where did they live?
- 5.14. What about the neandertals morphology suggests that they were cold adapted?
- 5.15. What is the proper geologic term for the last "Ice Age"?
- 5.16. What important cultural innovations are associated with the neandertals?
- 5.17. When does modern *Homo sapiens* first appear in the fossil record?
- 5.18. Where do the earliest members of modern *Homo sapiens* appear?
- 5.19. What important cultural innovations are associated with the evolution of modern *Homo sapiens*?
- 5.20 Who was "Piltdown Man"?
- 5.21. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the case for human evolution? What do we know with high degrees of confidence? What do we know with little certainty?
- 5.22. Are the ideas provided by modern evolutionary theory sufficient to explain our biological history? Why or why not?
- 5.23. What prevents us from believing that adaptive traits are good in a moral sense?

## Chapter 6 Reproduction

- 6.1. When did sexual reproduction arise in the history of life?
- 6.2. Why, is sexual reproduction important evolutionarily?
- 6.3. What is an allele?
- 6.4. What is meiosis and what is its importance in evolution?
- 6.5. Why are the concepts of genotype and phenotype important in understanding evolutionary processes?
- 6.6. What do the following terms refer to:  
     dominant, codominant, recessive, homozygous, heterozygous
- 6.7. How many genes are there is the human genome?
- 6.8. What is estrus?
- 6.9. How does the human reproductive pattern differ from other mammals?

- 6.10. What characteristics of human males and females are sexually dimorphic?
- 6.11. What does the term "gender" refer to?
- 6.12. What are "folk taxonomies"?
- 6.13. How does Park relate the customs of marriage and the incest taboo to our biology?

## Chapter 7: Learning How to Survive

- 7.1. What is culture?
- 7.2. To what does the term "protoculture" refer?
- 7.3. Describe MacLean's "triune" brain model.
- 7.4. Define the anthropological concept of "world view".
- 7.5. How does Park account for the rise of monotheism?

## Chapter 8: Food

- 8.1. What basic subsistence patterns are found among humans?
- 8.2. Why have anthropologists emphasized the hunting part of hunting and gathering subsistence patterns?
- 8.3. To what does the term "foraging" refer to?
- 8.4. What are the basic sociocultural characteristics associated with the different subsistence patterns?
- 8.5. What social function does "insulting the meat" serve for San foragers?
- 8.6. When did humans first invent means for producing food?
- 8.7. Distinguish between the various forms of reciprocity. What characterizes a redistribution system and a market system?
- 8.8. How do rank, class/caste, and egalitarianism relate to the distribution of power, property, pleasure, and prestige (the 4 Ps)?

## Chapter 9: Nature of the Group

- 9.1. Distinguish cultural relativism from ethnocentrism
- 9.2. What are the core groups in the social organizations of chimpanzees and baboons?
- 9.3. Why are anthropologists so interested in kinship?
- 9.4. Distinguish polyandry, polygyny and monogamy and forms of marriage?
- 9.5. What does it mean to trace descent "patrilineally"? Matrilineally? Bilaterally?
- 9.6. What major cultural characteristics distinguish horticultural societies for other types of subsistence?

9.7. Describe the Hawaiian, Eskimo, Crow and Omaha systems of kinship terminology?

9.8. What's the difference between a cross-cousin and a parallel cousin?

## Chapter 11 Communication

10.1. Define the following design features of language:

displacement, productivity, arbitrariness, duality of patterning, openness

10.2. What are phonemes and morphemes?

10.3. In what ways have anthropologists tried to study the origin of language?

10.4. When did a humanlike vocal tract first appear? What species of ancient hominid possessed this humanlike vocal tract?

10.5. How many languages are spoken in the world today?

10.6. Why are historical linguists interested in cognates?

10.7 How does language differ from other forms of animal communication?

## Chapter 12 The Maintenance of Order

12.1. What are the social functions of religion?

12.2. What do all religions have in common?

12.3. What does Park believe to be the biological basis of religion?

12.4. With what societal features do the practices of monotheism and polytheism correlate?

12.5. What kinds of supernatural beings are recognized within Christianity?

12.6. With what societal features do personalities of supernatural beings correlate?

12.7. With what societal features does the degree to which supernatural beings intervene directly in the daily affairs of people correlate with?

12.8. What is a shaman?

12.9. What is a priest?

12.10. What ways are there to communicate with the supernatural?

12.11. What is magic?

12.12. In what historical context did Christianity arise?

12.13. What factors account for the Hutterites communal lifestyle?

12.14. Why were the early Anabaptists persecuted?

12.15. Why, from an anthropological perspective, do people in the Holiness Church handle snakes, speak in tongues, and drink poison?

12.16. In what way is the Holiness church egalitarian?

12.17. How do religious systems and legal systems relate to one another?

## Chapter 13 The Evolution of Our Behavior

- 13.1. What two functions do cultural behaviors serve, according to Park?
- 13.2. According to the Bible, why are Jews prohibited from eating pork?
- 13.3. What is Mary Douglas's view of the cultural symbolism?
- 13.4. What is cultural materialism, as advocated by Marvin Harris?
- 13.5. How does Harris explain biblical dietary laws?
- 13.6. What is Park's view on explaining biblical dietary laws?
- 13.7. What is the subsistence system of the Dani?
- 13.8. What is the Dani's stated reason for their ritual warfare?
- 13.9. What does an anthropological analysis of Dani ritual warfare suggest?
- 13.10. What is the ecological impact of Dani ritual warfare?
- 13.11. What is the Dani's stated reason for secular warfare?
- 13.12. What causes Kuru?
- 13.13. What, from an anthropological view, is the function of Fore cannibalism?
- 13.14. What is the Fore's explanation for the Kuru epidemic?
- 13.15. How did the Kuru epidemic affect Fore economics?
- 13.16. What is altruism?
- 13.17. What is "biological determinism"?
- 13.18. Define "kin selection"?
- 13.19. What is the basic premise of sociobiology?