Anthropology 100

INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY

General Education Credit (GE89:B3, GE2000: Social Behavioral Studies–elective)

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Objectives: The first section examines the roots and development of humans and cultural diversity over the last 7 million years. What does it entail to be human and how does culture evolve over time? The second section focuses on the diversity of cultures in the world today. The course will enhance your critical thinking and lifelong learning by exploring a series of cultures, past and present, from around the world and comparing and contrasting one’s own culture with the wide diversity of beliefs and values of other cultures. You will learn to critically examine from an anthropological perspective the context of behavior and belief in other cultural systems. Your communication skills will be developed through in-class discussion, essay questions, and a paper assignment, which will be critically evaluated by the instructor.


Web Page: Assignments and other course information are available on my web page, which can be found at: isu.indstate.edu/stafford/ or through your MyISU web portal. I will make assignments in class, but you will need to print out copies from the web page (most documents will be in pdf format which requires Adobe Acrobat Reader, a free copy of which is available through a link on the web site). Due dates for assignments and test dates will be available on the web page, in addition to being announced in class. An outline of the course lectures will also be posted on the web page.

Requirements:
• Three non-cumulative exams, equally weighted (ca. 100 pts each) with mostly objective questions but including at least one essay. Missed exams must be made up the following day unless you have a written medical excuse. Exams will be based on lectures, video/slide presentations, web resources, and assigned readings in the text.

• A series of videos and slides will be shown throughout the semester to visually illustrate different aspects of culture, including examples of prehistoric cultures, studies in human/cultural origins, and examples of different levels of complexity among cultures in the world today. You are responsible for the content of these videos/slides on examinations and in class discussion which will follow the presentations. Essay questions on exams will often be based on videos/slides.

• A two page double-spaced typewritten evaluation of an anthropology news item from a daily newspaper or weekly news magazine of your choice is due December 2nd (30 pts). See detailed instructions available on the web site. The ISU student code for academic dishonesty including plagiarism will be strictly enforced.

Attendance: Regular attendance of lectures and class participation are important ingredients to success in this course and will play a part in determining your grade. Chronic absence (≥ 5)
could result in a lower grade (loose 5 pts per absence after fourth). Your first four absences are “free” in that you do not need to provide an excuse. An attendance sheet requiring your signature will be circulated in the first five minutes of class; credit for attendance is based on that sheet—so don’t be tardy.

SECTION 1: HUMAN ORIGINS AND CULTURES OF THE PAST

This section presents the genetic and evolutionary roots of contemporary human diversity and address the chronological emergence of this diversity as well as the common origin of all modern humans in Africa. It is clear that cultural diversity increases over time. Contemporary cultures and behavior do not represent all of the diversity that existed around the world in the past.

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<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Week</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anthropological &amp; Evolutionary Perspectives</td>
<td>1,3 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Modern &amp; Fossil Primates</td>
<td>4-5 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Earliest Hominids</td>
<td>6-7 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evolution of Genus Homo and Early Culture</td>
<td>8-9 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Modern Humans and Upper Paleolithic Culture</td>
<td>2,10 5</td>
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TEST #1

Farming and the Diversification of Culture   11 6
The Rise of Cities & Complex Division of Labor 12 7-8

SECTION 2: CULTURAL DIVERSITY TODAY

This section explores the diversity of cultures and sub-cultures in the contemporary world. We will take a holistic perspective of culture. A wide range of institutions and interrelationships are examined in other cultures and contrasted against your own societal values and beliefs. Social, economic, kin, religious, gender, and language diversity among cultures will be a central focus.

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<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
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<tr>
<td>Human Biological Diversity Today</td>
<td>13   9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nature of Culture</td>
<td>14   10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language Diversity</td>
<td>15   11</td>
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TEST#2

Patterns of Subsistence & Economic Diversity 17-18 12
Marriage and the Family                    19-20 13
Connecting with Kin                        21   14
Political Systems                          23   15
Religious Diversity                        24   15

TEST #3 (Finals Week—Thursday, December 18 @ 10:00 am)

Grade based on 300 combined pts on exams and 30 pt paper equaling 330 pts possible for the course. Your grade is determined as a percentage of total points earned as follows:

A (90-100%)                      C (65-74%)
B+ (86-89%)                      D+ (60-64%)
B (80-85%)                       D (55-59%)
C+ (75-79%)                      F(<55% of total pts)