

# Syllabus, Spring 2018

## ANTH 101: LN-1

### Introduction to Anthropology (Online Course)

Professor Kurt Reymers, Ph.D.



[www.morrisville.edu/anthropology](http://www.morrisville.edu/anthropology)  
<https://blackboard.morrisville.edu>

**Office Location:** Crawford Hall 205

**Office Hours:**

M: 11-11:50am | T, W, R: 10-10:50am  
or by appointment

**e-mail:** reymers@morrisville.edu

### Course Description:

An introduction to the study of human beings, ranging across the four fields of biological and cultural anthropology, archaeology, and linguistics. Focus is placed on human evolution and origins, development of human culture, and description and comparison of differing ways of life around the world. Emphasis on basic anthropological concepts of evolution, culture, kinship, institutions, globalization and socio-historical change. *3 credits, fall or spring semester. These credits will satisfy the SUNY General Education requirements for "Other World Civilizations" and satisfies any local Liberal Arts requirement.*

**Note: This is an online course.** Regular Internet access is a requirement to successfully complete this online course.

### Course Outcomes:

Anthropology is the study of human beings which employs unique methods and a holistic perspective. The chief goal of this class is to pass on the rudiments of the four fields of anthropology: cultural anthropology, physical/biological anthropology, archaeology, and linguistics. Using worldwide examples, the course will emphasize human biological and cultural origins and diversity. The expected outcomes of the course include:

- identifying scientific theory and methodology and how it is applied in anthropological investigation;
- demonstrating an understanding of the contribution of each of the four fields of anthropology to understanding human origins and culture;
- demonstrating understanding of what is universal among and what is particular about human beings (both biologically and culturally);
- comparing and contrasting anthropological perspectives of cultural relativism and universality;
- developing the ability to analyze competing theories of human origins and culture.

Reading on your own, participating online, taking notes, and completing all assignments on time should allow you to successfully gain knowledge about anthropology and obtain the specific course outcomes.

### Required Texts and Materials:



**Ember, Carolyn R., Melvin Ember, and Peter Peregrine. 2011. Human Evolution and Culture, 8<sup>th</sup> edition.** Prentice Hall: Upper Saddle River, NJ.

*Reading roughly one chapter a week will enhance your understanding of the topics of each weekly session.*



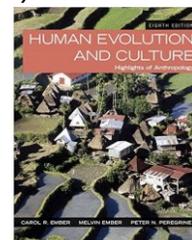
**Electronic reserve media.** Available on the course website (address at top of page).

*These videos, podcasts and readings can be found on the course website and their consumption is required to supplement weekly topics.*



**A coursework notebook.**

*While you read, watch, or listen to your assignments, you should take notes on the most interesting and meaningful aspects of what you read. This will help you recall information when you need to answer questions on assignments, quizzes and exams.*



**Course Reserve:** In the unfortunate event that you lose your book or otherwise do not have access to the course reading material, the book listed above is available on the Library Course Reserve. Go to the checkout desk at the Library and request the book (be specific which one you need) and you will be allowed to use it for two hours in the library (it cannot be checked out). Please do not write in or otherwise damage the reserve copy. Photocopies may be made of any course reading using course reserve.

## Grades:

### **Group Discussion Participation (10% of final grade)**

You will be asked to contribute to a weekly discussion of the topics covered in class. Typically, a specific question will be asked to which you must provide a comment, critique, example, or some other original thought. Because viewpoints differ, please remember to keep conversation civil and avoid harsh critique of others' viewpoints.

### **Online Weekly Quizzes (20% of final grade)**

You will be required to complete timed online quizzes on a weekly basis during the course. The quizzes will be made available on the Blackboard website for the course. They cannot be made up after the day/time due.

### **Online Media Weekly Assignment (20% of final grade)**

Each week, a reading, listening, or video activity will be put on the course website and you must send your answers to questions about these activities directly to the professor by email. These activities will relate to readings that enhance the topics from the textbook and/or other readings assigned in class and available through the course website. Answers should be completed individually. Online activities will be posted weekly and are typically due on Friday at 5pm. They CANNOT be made up after the due date. The lowest online activity grade will be dropped at the end of the semester.

### **Research Assignment (20% of final grade)**

A written report on anthropological research will be assigned during the semester. The assignment is designed to enhance research skills and show your understanding of the themes of evolution and culture that we are covering in the course. The reports will be typed and sent as a PDF file. Papers will be graded on a letter basis.

### **Exams (30% of final grade)**

Three exams will be given during the course, and there will be a final exam - study weekly with the schedule provided, use the review notes and web materials, and be prepared to get the most out of this largest portion of your grade. Exams will be rigorously timed and will be significantly longer and more complex than the weekly quizzes. Be sure to study ahead of time as you will not be given time to look up every answer in your book.

#### **Grade Distribution:**

**10% of grade: Attendance and Participation**

**20% of grade: Group Quizzes**

**20% of grade: Online Media Activity**

**20% of grade: Research Report**

**30% of grade: Exams and Quizzes (10% each exam)**

**Grade Converter: (use for any assignment/exam/grade in my classes)**

**Percent / Letter / Grade Point Converter:**

93 to 100+ = **A** = 4.0

90 to 92 = **A-** = 3.67

87 to 89 = **B+** = 3.33

83 to 86 = **B** = 3.0

80 to 82 = **B-** = 2.67

77 to 79 = **C+** = 2.33

73 to 76 = **C** = 2.0

70 to 72 = **C-** = 1.67

68 to 69 = **D+** = 1.33

63 to 67 = **D** = 1.0

62 and below = **F** = 0.0

#### **Asking about grades:**

Grades will be available for your review on the course website. Feel free to ask your professor in person about your grade in the course at any point during the semester. However, I may not respond directly to email messages inquiring about specific grades on semester exams, papers, or (particularly) the final exam. Use the web to get your grades

### **Online Class Policies:**

- **Online Participation:** Regular and active participation is an essential, unmistakably important aspect of this online course. The expectation of the instructor is that students will log on a minimum of three times every seven days. It is critical that you read all of the lecture and assignment materials as well as all of the public discussion materials. Your full participation ON A WEEKLY BASIS is not only a requirement, it is an essential aspect of the online course process. All students are expected to do the work assigned and must notify the instructor when emergencies arise that prevent regular participation in discussions, assignments, quizzes and exams. **The attached course schedule will help you manage weekly expectations on workload.**

- **Internet Outage Policy:** In the event of an internet outage during the course (particularly while taking a quiz or exam) that affects your ability to succeed in the course, you should contact the professor as soon as possible. If internet accessibility becomes a regular problem, the professor reserves the right to grade the student accordingly (*ut videre apta*).
- **Academic Honesty and the Plagiarism Policy:** Academic honesty promotes continued academic and occupational success. Maintenance of academic honesty and quality education is the responsibility of both faculty and students. Any written assignment (including all electronic media) submitted by a student must be *original authorship*. Representation of another's work as his or her own shall constitute plagiarism. See the student handbook for more information.

Plagiarism means theft of intellectual property, obtained from a print or electronic medium. A person has plagiarized if s/he quotes three or more words in sequence from a source and (1) doesn't use quotation marks ("The quick brown fox..."), or (2) doesn't identify the source (what is known as "citation"). A person has also plagiarized if s/he records or cites ideas, information, or other material from a source that is not identified, or if the individual paraphrases information from a source that is not acknowledged. The penalty for plagiarism could be failure on the assignment, failure in the course, or even expulsion from the college. *Ignorance of these rules is not an excuse for plagiarism.*

### ***Late, Make-up Assignment, and Extra Credit Policies***

**Exams:** Because you will have a long period of time to take your exams online, Please contact Professor Reymers by email if you cannot access an exam. If you miss an exam without making contact before the end of the exam period, you will receive NO CREDIT for that particular exam.

**Online Media:** You cannot make up *any* online media activities after the due date. There are no exceptions to this rule. Online activities can be submitted at any time *before* the due date/time. Inability to access the website to complete the activity is NOT a valid excuse for missing an assignment. Be prepared to complete the activity prior to the due date.

**Research Reports:** Research reports will be due as scheduled, but may be turned in up to ONE WEEK after the due date with a penalty of ONE LETTER GRADE (or 10 points on a 100 point scale), unless otherwise indicated. No written assignments will be accepted after the one-week late period.

**Extra credit:** I do not give extra credit assignments to individuals – any extra credit will be on a class-wide basis (and there is no guarantee of ANY extra credit assignments in any given semester).

### ***Office of Disability Services***

Morrisville State College is committed to ensuring the full participation of all students in its programs. If you have a documented disability (or think you may have a disability) and, as a result, need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this class, complete course requirements, or benefit from the College's programs or services, contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) as soon as possible. To receive any academic accommodation, you must be appropriately registered with ODS. The ODS works with students confidentially and does not disclose any disability-related information without their permission. If you wish to use their test accommodations for an exam please speak with me the class before each exam. Doing this will help me accommodate you. All tests must be completed the same day the test is scheduled. Any other arrangements must be made by agreement between the student and the instructor. For further information about services for students with disabilities, please contact the ODS.

I assume that all of us learn in different ways, and that the organization of any course will accommodate each student differently. For example, you may prefer to process information by speaking and listening, so that some of the reading assignments I assign may be difficult to absorb. Please talk to me as soon as you can about your individual learning needs and how this course can best accommodate them. If you do not have a documented disability, remember that other support services, including the Tutoring Center, are available to all students.

Note that this schedule is **tentative and subject to change** – check the website to find out what changes are made.  
<http://www.morrisville.edu/anthropology> Questions? e-mail [reymers@morrisville.edu](mailto:reymers@morrisville.edu)

**Introduction**

**Week 1. Jan 15-19: *What is Anthropology?***  
 Introductory Notes; Founding Concepts  
 read: Ember textbook, Chapter 1  
 to do: Group Discussion 1 – Introductions

**I: Biological Anthropology**

**Week 2. Jan-22-26: *Genetics and Evolution***  
 read: Ember textbook, Chapter 3  
 to do: Group Discussion 2 – Evolution  
 to do: Quiz due on Blackboard *on Thursday*  
 to do: Online Media #1 - *due no later than 5pm Fri*

**Week 3. Jan 29-Feb 2: *The Early Origins of Man***  
 read: Ember textbook, Chapter 6  
 to do: Group Discussion 3 – Early Human Origins  
 to do: Quiz due on Blackboard *on Thursday*  
 to do: Online Media #2 - *due no later than 5pm Fri*

**Week 4. Feb 5-9: *Origins of Homo sapiens***  
 read Ember textbook, Chapter 7  
 to do: Group Discussion 4 – Last Human Standing  
 to do: Quiz due on Blackboard *on Thursday*  
 to do: Online Media #3 - *due no later than 5pm Fri*

**Week 5. Feb 12-16: *Exam Review***  
 review: Ember textbook Chps 1, 3, 6, 7 and notes  
 \* **Exam 1: see Blackboard**

**Week 6. Feb 19-23: *Variation in Homo sapiens***  
 read: Ember textbook, Chapter 4  
 to do: Group Discussion 5 – Race and Society  
 to do: Quiz due on Blackboard *on Thursday*  
 to do: Online Media #4 - *due no later than 5pm Fri*

**II. Archaeology and Linguistics**

**Week 7. Feb 26- Mar 2: *How We Discover the Past***  
 to do: Ember textbook, Chapter 2  
 to do: Group Discussion 6 – Archaeology  
 to do: Online Media #5 - *due no later than 5pm Fri*

**Mar 5 - 9 SPRING BREAK**

**Week 8. Mar 12-16: *Domestication & Food Production***  
 read: Ember textbook, Chapter 8  
 to do: Group Discussion 7 – Human Domestication  
 to do: Quiz due on Blackboard *on Thursday*  
 to do: Online Media #6 - *due no later than 5pm Fri*

**Week 9. Mar 19-23: *The Rise of Civilization***  
 review: Ember textbook, Chapter 8  
 to do: Group Discussion 8 – Human Civilizations  
 to do: Quiz due on Blackboard *on Thursday*  
 to do: online media #7 - *due no later than 5pm Fri*

**Week 10. Mar 26-30: *Linguistics***  
 read Ember textbook, Chapter 10  
 to do: Group Discussion 9 – Human Language  
 to do: Quiz due on Blackboard *on Thursday*  
 to do: online media #8 - *due no later than 5pm Fri*

**Week 11. Apr 2-6: *Exam Review***  
 review: Ember textbook Chps 4, 2, 8, 10 and notes  
 \* **Exam 2: see Blackboard**

**III. Ethnology**

**Week 12. Apr 9-13: *Cultural Institutions I: Family, Marriage and Kinship***  
 read: Ember textbook, Chapter 14  
 to do: Group Discussion 10 – Kinship Practices  
 to do: Quiz due on Blackboard *on Thursday*  
 to do: online media #9 - *due no later than 5pm Fri*

**Week 13. Apr 16-20: *Cultural Institutions II: Trade - Food Production and Economics***  
 read: Ember textbook, Chapter 11  
 to do: Group Discussion 11 – Trade Customs  
 to do: Quiz due on Blackboard *on Thursday*  
 to do: online media #10 - *due no later than 5pm Fri*

**Week 14. Apr 23-27: *Cultural Institutions III: Power Global Stratification and Political Organization***  
 read: Ember textbook, Chapter 12  
 to do: Group Discussion 12 – Tribalism vs. Global Order  
 to do: Quiz due on Blackboard *on Thursday*

**Week 15. April 30-May 3: *Course Review and Final Exam***  
 review: Ember textbook Chps 14, 11, 12 and notes