

Syllabus, Spring 2018

ANTH 101:1

Introduction to Anthropology

Professor Kurt Reymers, Ph.D.



Course Website



www.morrisville.edu/anthropology

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.*

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.

Attending class, taking notes, participating, and reading the 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, 8th edition. Prentice Hall: Upper Saddle River, NJ.

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



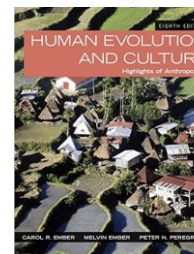
Electronic reserve media. Available on the course website (address at top of page).

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



A notepad (and pen or pencil, if applicable).

You should bring to class some paper for notes and a pen/pencil. It will be to your benefit to also bring with you the readings for the week and questions that contribute to discussion.



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:

Attendance and Participation (10% of final grade)

You are allowed *two absences* available to you without penalty, but unused absences are credited toward your participation. See the *Class Policies* section for more information regarding attendance. Participation may involve voluntary and involuntary contributions in class, attending tutoring sessions, seeing me during my office hours to discuss the course, or other behaviors indicating your involvement in the course.

Group Plickers Quizzes (20% of final grade)

You will be required to complete in-class quizzes during the time of this course. The quizzes will be administered to preassigned groups in class using *Plickers* smart-phone technology (explained in class). Group quizzes CANNOT be made up after the class if you are not in attendance – a 5% penalty will be taken off the average quiz grade for each missed quiz.

Online Media Weekly Assignment (20% of final grade)

Each week, activities will be put online and you must send your answers related to 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 recent anthropological research will be assigned during the semester. The reports will be typed papers designed to enhance research skills and show your understanding of the themes of evolution and culture that we are covering in the course. Papers will be graded on a letter basis.

Exams (total of 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. You are not allowed to use any books, notes or materials during the exams. You will have the regular class period to complete exams. Each exam is worth 10% of your final grade.

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

83 to 86 = **B** = 3.0

73 to 76 = **C** = 2.0

63 to 67 = **D** = 1.0

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

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

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

62 and below = **F** = 0.0

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

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

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

Asking about grades:

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 to email messages inquiring about specific grades on semester exams, papers, or (particularly) the final exam.

Class Policies

- **Attendance:** Students should make every attempt to attend all classes. Missing any more than **two classes** may impede your progress and result in a lower grade. Attendance is taken daily and recorded. The absences allowed are for athletic events, serious and contagious illness or injury, family emergencies, snow days, car accidents, etc. There are no “excused” or “unexcused” absences. It is expected that the absences allowed will satisfactorily cover the cases where absence is necessary. If they do not, please meet with the instructor during his office hours to explain your case. If you have too many absences and would like to have your case considered, please provide documentation of the reason for your absence, including date, evidence and explanation of the absence, *in writing* (**not** by e-mail or verbal agreement). As an incentive for good attendance, for each of the absences you are allowed that go unused, you will earn an extra bonus point toward the final grade. An additional bonus is given if you are present at the class sessions immediately before and after the mid-semester break.

- **Classroom Norms:** Norms are the product of culture; they happen when people get together in groups and decide on mutually agreeable behavior and expectations. Let's create the classroom norms together as the course proceeds. They should be attuned and appropriate to meeting the course outcomes. I will be asking you throughout the semester not only about what you think the norms of the classroom should be, but also how to enforce them.
- **Tardiness Policy:** Arriving late disrupts the class, as does leaving early. Showing up LATE to class (after I have taken the attendance for the day, which I do on the classroom view screen) will earn you an L (late) in the gradebook. Every three instances of tardiness will result in one absence marked on the attendance sheet. People showing up VERY LATE (15 minutes or more), or leaving the classroom during class (with the exception of *emergencies or prearranged circumstances only*) will be marked as absent for the day. Note, it is your responsibility to notify me if you come in late, otherwise you may be marked absent.
- **Weather Policy:** In the event of inclement weather, please pay attention to the college's Class Cancellations webpage to see if the class is cancelled. If class is cancelled due to weather, or for other reasons, see the course website immediately for instructions on assignments, due dates, or other important and timely information.
- **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: Make-up exams will not be given, unless you make arrangements with me more than *48 hours (2 days) in advance* of the exam. If you miss an exam without making arrangements to make it up, you will receive NO CREDIT for that particular exam.

Group Plickers Quizzes: Plickers quizzes cannot be made up more than one week after the quiz is given in class.

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 and time 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. 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

Introduction

Week 1. Jan 16, 18: *What is Anthropology?*
 Introductory Notes; Founding Concepts
 read: Ember textbook, Chapter 1

I: Biological Anthropology

Week 2. Jan 23, 25: *Genetics and Evolution*
 read: Ember textbook, Chapter 3
 prepare: Group Plickers Quiz *on Thursday*
 do: Online Media #1 - *due no later than 5pm Fri*

Week 3. Jan 30, Feb 1: *The Early Origins of Man*
 read: Ember textbook, Chapter 6
 prepare: Group Plickers Quiz *on Thursday*
 do: Online Media #2 - *due no later than 5pm Fri*

Week 4. Feb 6, 8: *Origins of Homo sapiens*
 read Ember textbook, Chapter 7
 prepare: Group Plickers Quiz *on Thursday*
 do: Online Media #3 - *due no later than 5pm Fri*

Week 5. Feb 13, 15: *Variation in Homo sapiens*
 read: Ember textbook, Chapter 4
 prepare: Group Plickers Quiz *on Thursday*
 do: Online Media #4 - *due no later than 5pm Fri*

Week 6. Feb 20, 22: *Exam Week*
 * **Exam 1: Thurs, Feb 22**

II. Archaeology and Linguistics

Week 7. Feb 27, Mar 1: *How We Discover the Past*
 read: Ember textbook, Chapter 2
 prepare: Group Plickers Quiz *on Thursday*
 do: Online Media #5 - *due no later than 5pm Fri*

Mar 5 - 9 SPRING BREAK

Week 8. Mar 13, 15: *How We Discover the Past*
 review: Ember textbook, Chapter 2
 prepare: Group Plickers Quiz *on Thursday*
 do: Online Media #6 - *due no later than 5pm Fri*

Week 9. Mar 20, 22: *Domestication & Civilization*
 read: Ember textbook, Chapter 8
 prepare: Group Plickers Quiz *on Thursday*
 do: online media #7 - *due no later than 5pm Fri*

Week 10. Mar 27, 29: *Civilization & Language*
 read Ember textbook, Chapter 10
 prepare: Group Plickers Quiz *on Thursday*
 do: online media #8 - *due no later than 5pm Fri*

Week 11. Apr 3, 5: *Exam Review*
 * **Exam 2: Thurs, Apr 5**

III. Ethnology

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

Week 13. Apr 17, 19: *Cultural Institutions II: Trade - Food Production and Economics*
 read: Ember textbook, Chapter 11
 prepare: Group Plickers Quiz *on Thursday*
 do: online media #10 - *due no later than 5pm Fri*

Week 14. Apr 24, 26: *Cultural Institutions III: Power Global Stratification and Political Organization*
 read: Ember textbook, Chapter 12
 prepare: Group Plickers Quiz *on Thursday*

Week 15. Final Exam, TBA
 Check final exam schedule on college website for time