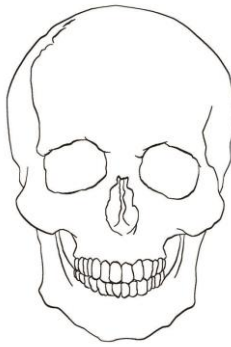


Syllabus, Spring 2023

ANTH 101

Introduction to Anthropology

Professor Kurt Reymers, Ph.D.



 **Blackboard Website Required**

<https://blackboard.morrisville.edu>

Blackboard

Professor Kurt Reymers, Ph.D.

Office Location: 205 Crawford Hall

Office Hours: Mon: 11am - 12pm;

Tues, Weds, Thurs: 10am-11am

Fri: No office hour

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.

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:



Lavenda, Robert & Emily Schulz. 2018. Anthropology: What Does It Mean To Be Human, 4th ed.

Oxford University Press: NY.

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



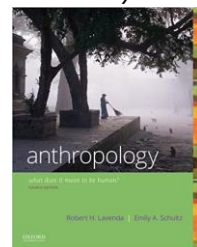
Electronic reserve media. Available on the course Blackboard site.

These videos, podcasts and readings can be found on the course Blackboard site 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.



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.

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, a reading, listening, or video activity will be put on the course Blackboard site 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 Blackboard site. 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. One missing online activity grade can be dropped at the end of the semester.

Research Assignment (20% of final grade)

A written report on an area of 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 should be saved as a PDF file. Papers will be graded using an open rubric.

Exams (30% of final grade)

Three exams will be given during the course, including 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 large proportion 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: (2x/week) Attendance and Participation

20% of grade: (10+) Plickers Quizzes

20% of grade: (10+) Online Media Weekly Assignment

20% of grade: (1) Research Assignment

30% of grade: (3) Exams (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

60 to 67 = **D** = 1.0

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

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

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

59 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:

I DO NOT USE BLACKBOARD'S GRADE BOOK. All your grades for this course will be available on a home-brewed webpage, by clicking the "My Grades" link on the Blackboard left menu and signing in with a password I will get from you early in the semester. Please refer to this page before emailing me with questions about specific grades on assignments and exams.

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 (for COVID-19 related illness, see the more detailed policy below), 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(s).
- **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 Blackboard site 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 Blackboard site 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).

Golden Points: See the course Blackboard site for more information about how to accumulate extra points.

Office of Accessibility Services

SUNY Morrisville 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 Accessibility Services (OAS) as soon as possible. To receive any academic accommodation, you must be appropriately registered with OAS. The OAS 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 OAS. 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.

Starfish

This course participates in the Starfish Early Alert System (accessible through Blackboard), an early intervention system designed to enable academic success, student persistence, and graduation. When an instructor observes student behaviors or concerns that may impede academic success, the instructor may raise an alert flag that 1) notifies the student of the concern, 2) requests an individual contact to discuss the issue, and 3) in most cases, refers the student to the academic advisor. If you receive an email notification of an early alert, it is your responsibility to contact the instructor as soon as possible to discuss the issue. The purpose of the contact is to determine the severity of the issue, accurately assess its potential impact on your academic success, and to plan actions to prevent negative consequences and enable academic success. For more information about harnessing your success, contact your academic advisor.

COVID-19 Coronavirus

If you have questions about the College's COVID policies with respect to attendance, testing, and forbearance, please refer to the College's website address: <https://www.morrisville.edu/coronavirus>

Introduction

Week 1. *What is Anthropology?*

Before Jan 23: Purchase textbook and review syllabus/schedule

Jan 23: CLASS - read Lavenda textbook, [Chapter 1](#) pgs. 3-10

Jan 24: read Lavenda textbook, [Chapter 1](#) pgs. 11-20

Jan 25: CLASS - read Lavenda textbook, [Module 1](#), pgs. 21-29

Jan 26: Do Online Media #1 (on Blackboard) - *due by end of Fri.*

I: Biological Anthropology

Week 2. *Genetics and Evolution*

Jan 30: read Lavenda textbook, [Chapter 2](#), pgs. 31-45

Feb 1: read Lavenda textbook, [Chapter 2](#), pgs. 46-58

Quiz on Wednesday

Online Media #2 (Blackboard) - *due by end of day Friday*

Week 3. *Primateology and Early Origins of Man*

Feb 6: Lavenda textbook, [Chapter 3](#), pgs. 61-80

Feb 8: Lavenda textbook, [Module 2](#), pgs. 81-93

Quiz on Wednesday

Online Media #3 (Blackboard) - *due by end of day Friday*

Week 4. *The Origins of Homo sapiens*

Feb. 13: read textbook, Chapter 4, pgs. 96-123

Feb. 15: read textbook, Chapter 4, pgs. 124-139

Quiz on Wednesday

Online Media #4 (Blackboard) - *due by end of day Friday*

Week 5. *Review and Exam 1*

Feb. 20: review: textbook Chps 1, 2, 3, 4 and notes

Feb 22: Exam 1

Week 6. *Variation in Homo sapiens*

Feb 27: read Lavenda textbook, Chapter 5, pgs. 143-152

Mar 1: read Lavenda textbook, Chapter 5, pgs. 153-167

Quiz on Wednesday

Online Media #5 (Blackboard) - *due by end of day Friday*

II. Archaeology and Linguistics

Week 7. *How We Discover the Past*

Mar. 6: read Lavenda textbook, Chapter 6, pgs. 169-189

Mar 8: read Lavenda textbook, Chapter 6, pgs. 190-198

Quiz on Wednesday

Online Media #6 (Blackboard) - *due by end of day Friday*

Spring Break – Mar 13-17

Week 8. *Domestication & The Rise of Civilization*

Mar 20: review Lavenda textbook, Chapter 7, pgs. 201-222

Mar 22: read Lavenda textbook, Chapter 7, pgs. 223-235

Quiz on Wednesday

Online Media #7 (Blackboard) - *due by end of day Friday*

Week 9: *Human Culture and Cultural Change*

Mar 27: read Lavenda textbook, Chapter 8, pgs. 237-256

Mar 29: read Lavenda textbook, Module 3, pgs. 257-270

Quiz on Wednesday

Online Media #8 (Blackboard) - *due by end of day Friday*

Week 10: Report and Exam Week

Apr 5: Exam 2

Week 11. *Anthropological Linguistics and Culture*

Apr 10: read Lavenda textbook, Chapter 9, pgs. 273-288

Apr 12: read Lavenda textbook, Module 4, pgs. 289-301

Quiz on Wednesday

Online Media #9 (Blackboard) - *due by end of day Friday*

III. Ethnology

Week 12. *Cultural Institutions I: Trade & Economics – The 3 R's*

Apr 17: read Lavenda textbook, Chapter 11, pgs. 337-356

Apr 19: read Lavenda textbook, Chapter 11, pgs. 357-361

Quiz on Wednesday

Online Media #10 (Blackboard) - *due by end of day Friday*

Week 13. *Cultural Inst. II: Global Stratification and Political Organization—The 3 P's*

Apr 24: read Lavenda textbook, Chapter 12, pgs. 363-384

Apr 26: read Lavenda textbook, Chapter 12, pgs. 385-391

Quiz on Wednesday

OPTIONAL Online Media #B1 (Blackboard) - *due by end of Fri.*

Week 14. *Cultural Inst. III: Indigeneity Amidst Globalization*

May 1: read Lavenda textbook, Chapter 15

May 3: read Lavenda textbook, Chapter 15

Quiz on Wednesday

OPTIONAL Online Media #B2 (Blackboard) - *due by end of Fri.*

Week 15. *Week of May 8: Final Exam*

Review ALL assigned Lavenda textbook readings and notes (see final exam review sheet)

TBA: Final Exam

See Final Exam Schedule on college website/Blackboard