

General Anthropology

Spring 2011

M/W/F 12-12:50pm

Stone Center 103

Instructors:

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Course Website: <https://blackboard.unc.edu/>

Course Description: This introductory course follows a traditional approach to the study of anthropology, including topics related to the biology, language, and culture of present and past humans. Students will learn the basics of method and theory in anthropology, discuss contemporary themes in anthropological research, and investigate applications of anthropology to the modern world.

Course Theme: This semester we will explore the cross-cultural construction of the human body, that is, the relationship between human bodies and human culture, using the four fields of anthropological inquiry. How and why did our physiques evolve into the form we see today? What cultural and environmental influences affect human variation throughout the world? How much did ancient cultures know about the form and function of the human body? What effects do religion, law, and society have on the way people think about, discuss, and use their bodies today? What happens to our bodies after we die?

Required Texts:

Park, M. 2010. *Introducing Anthropology: An Integrated Approach*, 5th edition. McGraw-Hill.
 Skloot, R. 2010. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*. Crown.
 Webster, D. 2010. *Meeting the Family*. National Geographic.

Course Requirements:

Midterm – 25%. The midterm (*March 4*, 12 noon) will cover all information in the first half of the class. The test will consist of multiple choice questions and short answer essays.

Final – 25%. The final exam (*May 2*, 12 noon) will mainly cover information from the midterm onward. Do note, however, that anthropology is holistic and you may be asked to draw on themes developed in the first half of the semester. This test will similarly consist of multiple choice and short answer questions.

Book Review – 25%. In this class, your main writing assignment will consist of a 5-page review of one of the two assigned nonfiction books. This assignment differs from a simple book report, and guidelines will be forthcoming. The paper is due *on or before April 20*. For help with your writing, proofreading, or just bouncing ideas off of someone, please feel free to make use of the university's Writing Center: <http://www.unc.edu/depts/wweb/>.

Recitation Section – 25%. In addition to the above, your *attendance* at and *participation* in discussion section is mandatory. There are six recitation meetings scheduled during the semester for discussion of course themes and readings, as well as two additional meetings scheduled for pre-exam review. Requirements for recitation section will be distributed at the first meeting, January 18-20. Recitation weeks are marked with asterisks (*) on the course outline below.

Extra Credit – Up to 6%. There will be two opportunities during the semester to earn extra credit towards your grade. In the first half of the semester, students may visit the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery on campus to find cultural information hidden on tombstones. In the second half of the semester, students may visit the Ackland Art Museum on campus to observe the relationship between art and culture. Due dates are noted on the course outline below. Detailed guidelines for the report(s) can be found on Blackboard.

Classroom Behavior:

This class will sometimes cover controversial topics such as gender, ethnicity, marriage, and religion. All efforts will be made to present information in a social scientific manner as well as to encourage productive dialogue and discussion during recitation. However, I do expect that all students will treat each other, me, and their TAs with respect at all times. No opinions or speech that discriminate against or are derogatory towards others on the basis of race, ethnicity, age, gender, religion, sexual orientation, political affiliation, or disability will be tolerated. Students who express such opinions will be asked to leave the classroom. Those wishing to use laptops in class should position themselves at the back of the lecture hall. Students should also refrain from unacceptable behavior such as sleeping, using their cell phones, or talking with classmates at inappropriate times. Such behaviors will also result in the student being asked to leave the classroom.

Academic Dishonesty Policy:

Please review UNC's Honor Code if you are unfamiliar with the contents. Note especially Section B, which lists the following responsibilities of Carolina students regarding academic integrity.

Section B. Academic Dishonesty.

It shall be the responsibility of every student enrolled at the University of North Carolina to support the principles of academic integrity and to refrain from all forms of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, the following:

1. Plagiarism in the form of deliberate or reckless representation of another's words, thoughts, or ideas as one's own without attribution in connection with submission of academic work, whether graded or otherwise.
2. Falsification, fabrication, or misrepresentation of data, other information, or citations in connection with an academic assignment, whether graded or otherwise.
3. Unauthorized assistance or unauthorized collaboration in connection with academic work, whether graded or otherwise.
4. Cheating on examinations or other academic assignments, whether graded or otherwise, including but not limited to the following: a. Using unauthorized materials and methods (notes, books, electronic information, telephonic or other forms of electronic communication, or other sources or methods); b. Violating or subverting requirements governing administration of examinations or other academic assignments; c. Compromising the security of examinations or academic assignments; d. Representing another's work as one's own; or e. Engaging in other actions that compromise the integrity of the grading or evaluation process.
5. Deliberately furnishing false information to members of the University community in connection with their efforts to prevent, investigate, or enforce University requirements regarding academic dishonesty.
6. Forging, falsifying, or misusing University documents, records, identification cards, computers, or other resources so as to violate requirements regarding academic dishonesty.
7. Violating other University policies that are designed to assure that academic work conforms to requirements relating to academic integrity.
8. Assisting or aiding another to engage in acts of academic dishonesty prohibited by Section II. B.

Course Outline:

* Date * = Recitation week

Unit I What Is Anthropology?				
		<i>Monday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
1/10-1/14	What is anthropology?	Course & Instructor Intros	Why Study Anthropology? Park, Ch 1 Miner, <i>The Nacirema</i>	Anthropology is Holistic Park, Ch 2
Unit II Human Origins and Variation				
1/17-1/21	Body Epistemology	<i>No class</i>	The Evolution Concept Park, Ch 3 Webster, <i>Prologue</i>	Our Genes Park, Ch 3 Webster, <i>Africa</i>
1/24-1/28	The Physical Past	Primates Park, Ch 5	Australopithecines Park, Ch 6	<i>Homo</i> spp. Park, Ch 6 Webster, <i>World of Possibilities</i>
1/31-2/4	Biology and Culture 2 questions	Stones and Brains Park, Ch 4 Webster, <i>Lebanon</i>	Evolution of Language Park, Ch 11	Evolution of Culture Park, Chs 4 & 14
2/7-2/11	The Physical Present	Diversity Park, Ch 8 Webster, <i>Uzbekistan</i>	Race Park, Ch 8	What is our future? Park, pp. 386-90 Webster, <i>Spain</i>
Unit III Living in the Past				
2/14-2/18	Feeding Our Bodies 2 questions	Chronology of AMHs Park, Chs 6 & 9 Webster, <i>Home</i>	Getting Food Park, Ch 9	Who Eats What Park, Ch 9
2/21-2/25	Gathering Together	Migration Park, Ch 8	State Formation Park, Ch 9	Urbanism Park, Ch 9
2/28-3/4	Biology and Society Cemetery EC	Sedentism & Health Diamond, <i>Worst Mistake</i>	What is society? Park, Ch 10	MIDTERM 12 noon
3/7-3/11	<i>Spring Break</i>	<i>No class</i>	<i>No class</i>	<i>No class</i>

Unit IV Living in the Present				
3/14-3/18	Understanding People 2 questions	Ethnographic Method Park, Ch 2 Skloot, <i>Part One</i>	Theories of People Park, Chs 4 & 13	Ethics in Anthropology Park, Ch 2
3/21-3/25	Making New Bodies	Sex & Gender Park, Ch 7	Reproduction & Childbirth Park, Ch 7	Marriage & Kinship Park, Ch 10
3/28-4/1	Decorating our World 2 questions	Clothing & Beauty Skloot, <i>Part Two</i>	Art & Media Park, pp. 152-6	Communication Park, Ch 11
4/4-4/8	End of the Body	Religion Park, Ch 12	Death Park, Ch 12	The Afterlife Park, Ch 12
4/11-4/15	(De)Population 2 questions	Colonialism Park, Ch 15 Skloot, <i>Part Three</i>	Contemporary Health Park, Chs 8 & 9	Globalization Park, Ch 15
4/18-4/22	The “Modern” World Book Review	Technology & Culture Change Park, Ch 13	Who or what is modern? Park, Chs 14 & 15	<i>No class</i>
Unit V Conclusions: Discussing the Body				
4/25-4/29	Intersections: Biology and Culture	Skull Wars: Osteology & Native Americans	HeLa: Race & Medicine	<i>No class</i>
5/2	Museum EC	FINAL EXAM 12 noon		

Additional Required Readings (posted on Blackboard)

Diamond, J. 1987. *The Worst Mistake in the History of the Human Race*. Chapter 13, pp. 78-81, *Applying Anthropology*.
 Miner, H. 1956. *Body Ritual Among the Nacirema*. Chapter 25, pp. 158-161, *Applying Anthropology*.