

## Anth 111 - Introduction to Anthropology

**Instructor:** Kate Ellenberger  
**email:** kellenb1@binghamton.edu  
**office hours:** Wednesdays 9:30 am-10:30 am and  
Friday 11 AM-12 PM or by appointment  
**office location:** Science I Room 107a (inside room 107)

**Class Meetings:** MWF 8:30-9:30 AM

### **Course Description:**

What does it mean to be human? How do humans vary across time and space? Why do people vary in their ideas and practices? How can this knowledge be applied to solve contemporary problems--local and global? These are the core questions of the discipline of anthropology and comprise our focus in this course.

This course introduces students to the holistic discipline of anthropology and how anthropologists study human behavior across space and time. We will explore anthropology's four subfields (cultural anthropology, archaeology, biological anthropology, and linguistics) and the core concepts of culture and evolution. Throughout, we will examine human cultural and biological diversity. We will focus on key issues such as gender, language, race, class, ethnicity and religion, and consider a range of human social, economic, and political institutions. Additionally, we will engage with contemporary critiques of anthropology, ethical issues, and the application of anthropology to problems facing people today.

### **Learning Objectives:**

By the end of this class, you should be able to look at the world from an anthropologically informed point of view. A willingness to rethink what you know--or think you know--and to understand and respect the different perspectives that anthropology provides for your understanding of human behavior is required to meet the course requirements.

This course is designed with following learning objectives in mind:

- To familiarize you with the discipline of anthropology and provide you with an understanding of how anthropologists think.
- To help you develop analytical skills that will let you see how culture shapes everyday life.
- To generate an appreciation for human diversity, systems of privilege and oppression, and the interconnectivity of places and processes in the world.
- To develop skills in writing, giving feedback, and revising your work as a tool of college-level learning.

This course is coded as a C-composition and N-social science for general education requirements.

### **Course Website (Blackboard)**

You are responsible for checking Blackboard for course updates throughout the week. It is generally a good idea to check the site at least a day before we have each class to ensure that you have not missed an important update. I will do my best to email weekly announcements with reminders and resources for you, but you are ultimately responsible for visiting our Blackboard page to access course information.

### **Participation**

Participation will be graded based on active participation in class activities and completion of mini-assignments. Asking questions and answering in-class prompts regularly will ensure that you receive full points for this portion of your grade. The quality, not quantity, of your engagement during our time together is what is important.

At the mid-point of the semester, I will post a preliminary attendance and participation grade and brief comments for each student to improve this portion of your grade. Feel free to give me feedback throughout the semester about making our class a more comfortable environment for you to participate.

### **Required Reading**

- “Anthropology (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)” by Barbara D. Miller
- Short articles and videos to be posted on course Blackboard site

Understanding the content of the course reading and watching is critical to your participation in in-class activities. I have reduced the volume of the readings to give you the time to reflect on those that are assigned. You are responsible for reading these by the beginning of the class for which they are assigned – they will enable your participation in class activities.

I suggest that you keep a running document of main points presented in each reading assigned (article or chapter) to reference in written assignments. This will save you the trouble of re-reading all your readings and prevent you from getting lost in the details. We will workshop this process early in the semester.

### **Graded assignments and exams**

- Exams (20 points each; 40 points total of course grade)

There are two exams scheduled:

**Midterm: 3/18**

**Final: TBA**

Because this is a “C”/composition course, requiring 20 pages of expository prose and at least 50% of the grade based on writing, the exams will be comprised of short-answer and essay questions. A guide with study questions will be posted on Blackboard prior to each exam and

some class time will be set aside prior to the exams for review. Though exams are not cumulative, you will be building your knowledge of anthropology throughout the semester and there may be core concepts that you will be expected to demonstrate your grasp of. Make-ups will not be given for exams except in the case of a certifiable/documented emergency.

- Research Paper (see below for individual components; 40 points total of course grade)  
This course fulfills the Harpur College “C” requirement, which means that it provides considerable experience in and feedback on writing as a tool of college-level teaching and learning. Composition courses require that students perform the basic operations of personal computer use, understand and use basic research techniques, and locate, evaluate and synthesize information from a variety of sources. In this course, we will engage in writing as a process of revision and reflection. You will develop a topic, sources, and drafts, and engage in a peer review process where you will give and receive feedback. As such, your grade will be comprised of points earned from these various components:
  - Topic Proposal and Preliminary References: 5 points
  - First Draft: 10 points
  - Peer Reviews (of two peer drafts): 10 points
  - Portfolio (including Second Draft): 15 points

Specific instructions for the research paper assignment and peer review process will be distributed and reviewed in class. Assignments must be **submitted in TURNITIN (First and Second Drafts only) and in hard copy by the beginning of the class meeting in which they are due.** See Late Assignment Policy below.

**Course grading schema:**

Each portion of the class is allotted a specific number of points to ensure fair and consistent grading. I encourage you to use the table below to track your grades throughout the semester.

**Calculating Course Grade**

	<b>Points possible</b>	<b>Points I got</b>
Participation (Attendance, in-class activities, and mini-assignments)	20	
Midterm Exam	20	
Topic Proposal	5	
Peer Reviews	10	
First Draft	10	
Portfolio (incl. Final Draft)	15	
Final Exam	20	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	

- To calculate your letter grade for any assignment, divide the number of points you got by the number of possible points.
- To calculate your total course grade, add up all your points. Your percent grade is equal to that total number and corresponds to a letter grade in the table below.

**Final Course Grade Schema**

A	92.5 and above
A-	89.5 and above
B+	86.5 and above
B	82.5 and above
B-	79.5 and above
C+	76.5 and above
C	72.5 and above
C-	69.5 and above
D	62.5 and above
F	62.4 and below

**Course Policies:**

- **Appropriate classroom behavior**

We are a community of learners. Remember at all times that this is a class in which we are respectful of each other. Late arrivals, early departures, cell phone conversations, text messaging, eating, and other disruptive and distracting behavior are inappropriate during class time. If you engage in any of these activities, you may be asked to leave class. Please silence your phones before the beginning of class; if you need to tend to an emergency phone call or text message, please leave the room to respond.

Laptop Use: Laptop use is permitted in this course ONLY FOR COURSE-RELATED NOTE-TAKING. Laptops can become very distracting for other students when a laptop is being used for something other than note-taking (e.g. having a Skype date, playing The Sims, and other unrelated activities I have actually seen students do during class). If you are using your laptop during class for other activities, you will be asked to leave.

- **Late assignments**

Late assignments will not be accepted after 2 calendar days beyond the deadline (this means that if a paper is due in class on Tuesday, Thursday is the absolute last day the paper will be accepted). For each day your assignment is late, you lose 10% of the total grade you would have received if it were on time (if you were to get 25/25 points on the assignment and you turned it in 1 day late, you would instead get 25-2.5 points, or 22.5 points).

If you can provide documentation of an illness or other extenuating circumstance, you need to notify the instructor BEFORE the class meeting when the assignment is due. You will still be expected to complete the assignment within a reasonable amount of time.

- **Academic honesty policy**

Academic dishonesty refers to acts of plagiarism, cheating, and falsification of research data. When you registered for classes, you signed a statement agreeing to abide by the Student Academic Honesty Code and other University rules and procedures. These rules apply to this class. Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing in any work submitted for this course will be penalized and may FAIL THE COURSE. Each year academic honesty violations can and do result in Harpur students being suspended from the University for multiple semesters. Submitting work that contains someone else's work, without proper citation, demonstrates a disregard for academic honesty, and will be considered as a form of cheating. I WILL NOT tolerate ANY form of plagiarizing or cheating in this course. For additional information on plagiarism and the correct use of sources, see resources provided by the Writing Center, the University Bulletin, and the Libraries.

Each student is required to submit original work in all areas of this course. This means that for writing assignments and exams each student must submit his/her own work. If you quote any material not of your own writing, paraphrase or summarize the work of someone else (even if it's just a few phrases), or rely on another person's data, evidence or critical method, be sure to CITE that material. This pertains to anything you've learned from books, articles, or web-based sources.

To see a proper form of citation, take a look at any of the articles that you will be reading for this class and the citation guidelines provided on the Binghamton University Libraries website. If you are unsure, ask me!

- **Services for Students with Disabilities**

Should you require additional assistance due to a physical or learning disability, your instructor is eager to make appropriate accommodations for you in conjunction with Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). Please do not hesitate to discuss your situation with me, or if you prefer, to contact SSD for confidential discussion. Your instructor and the University community are here to help you succeed. For more information on SSD, please call 777-2686 or email [bjfairba@binghamton.edu](mailto:bjfairba@binghamton.edu).

- **Staying in Touch**

Do not hesitate to speak to me with any questions or concerns you may have, especially if you have questions about the course material or assignments. You are welcome to talk to me after class (please, not before class while I am setting up!) or come to my office hours.

**Course Schedule:**

The following is the course schedule including the general topic for each class period and any readings or assignments that should be completed for that class. **Refer back to this schedule regularly because you will be expected to turn listed assignments at the beginning of the class period.**

Class #	Date	Topic	Readings/Assignments
1	1/28	Overview & First Impressions	
2	1/30	What is Anthropology?	Miller 1, Kehoe 2008
3	2/1	History and Methods of Anthropological Research	Miller ch 3, 4
4	2/4	Cultural Relativism / Note-taking workshop	Miller ch 2
5	2/6	Activity - Cultural Relativism / Research Paper Introduction	
6	2/8	Human Biological Origins	Miller ch 3 (review notes), 6
7	2/11	The Genus Homo	Miller ch 5; TED Talk of Zeresenay Alemseged
8	2/13	Activity – Research Skills Tutorials	Explore “Library Resources” tab on BB
9	2/15	Linguistic and Biological Diversity	Miller ch 7, pgs 478-491
10	2/18	Movie – “Judgment Day: Intelligent Design on Trial”	Humes 2007
11	2/20	Activity – Evolution vs. Intelligent Design Debate	Debate Materials TBA
12	2/22	Human Diversity: The Myth & Reality of Race	Miller ch 10, Explore <a href="http://understandingrace.org">understandingrace.org</a> Exhibit
13	2/25	Communication and Language; Movie Excerpt – “American Tongues”	Miller ch 17
14	2/27	Activity – Librarian Visit/Paper Topic Brainstorming	
15	3/1	Social Organization and Kinship; Paper Topic Meeting Signup	Small 2003
16	3/4	Sociopolitical and Economic Organization	Miller chs 11, 16
17	3/6	Activity – Kinship and Social Networks Discussion	“My Family Tree” Diagram Due; Miller ch 14
18	3/8	Religion	<b>Paper Topic Proposal Due;</b> Miller ch 18
19	3/11	Social Stratification and Inequality	Miller pgs 427-442
20	3/13	Activity – Social Inequality Simulation	
21	3/15	Exam Review / Paper Progress Check-in	Midterm Study Guide
22	3/18	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>	
23	3/20	Movie – “Ongka’s Big Moka”	
24	3/22	Lecture and Activity - Space and Place	Miller 20, Mt. Vernon Distillery Site (website)

-	3/25-4/1	*SPRING BREAK*	
25	4/3	GUEST LECTURE: Biomedical anthropology	TBA
26	4/5	Movie – Partners in Health documentary	Miller 13
27	4/8	GUEST LECTURE: Bioarchaeology	TBA
28	4/10	Activity – Peer Review	<b>Paper Draft Due</b> (Turnitin and 3 hard copies)
29	4/12	Culture, Change, & Globalization	Miller 21, TED Talk Amber Case
30	4/15	Anthropology & Ethics: Responsibilities to Communities	<b>Peer Reviews Due;</b> Kingsolver 2010, 1 short excerpt TBA
31	4/17	Movie – “Box of Treasures”	
32	4/19	The Cultural Politics of Fertility and Reproduction	Miller 12
33	4/22	Gender, Sexuality, and Enculturation	Miller pgs 27-28 (review), Goldstein, Joyce 2012 “Are you a boy, or are you a girl?”
34	4/24	Movie – “Preschool in Three Cultures Revisited”	Tobin et al. 2009
35	4/26	Discussion – Preschool in Three Cultures	Discussion Question Response Due
36	4/29	Anthropology and Social Justice	Unearthing Evil (short film), 1 short excerpt TBA
37	5/1	Movie – “Mardi Gras: Made in China”	
38	5/3	Bringing Together the Past and the Present: Applied Anthropologies	<b>Paper Portfolio Due</b> (Draft 1, Draft 2, Peer Reviews from other students)
39	5/6	Discussion - Profiles of Anthropologists	Bruchac 2010, Huyghe 1988, 2 short excerpts TBA
40	5/8	Final Exam Review / Course Wrap-up	Final Exam Study Guide
41	5/10	NO CLASS	
FINAL			