

ANT 150: Cultures of the World Spring 2014

Professor: Eric Bindler
Email: ebindler@rollins.edu
Phone: (954) 608-1637

Class Time: Wed., 6:45-9:15pm
Class Location: CSS 121
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the cultures of the world through the lens of the academic discipline of anthropology. We will survey several past and present human societies from a range of anthropological perspectives (biological, archaeological, sociocultural, and linguistic) in order to explore both the diversity and the underlying unity of human culture. The course will ultimately provide students with a more holistic framework for understanding the human species, as well as some of the most pressing issues facing humans throughout the world today.

Learning Outcomes and Objectives:

This course is designed to fulfill a wide range of educational goals for students with diverse backgrounds and interests. First and foremost, however, the engaged, attentive student should expect to come away from the course with an enhanced capacity to:

1. **Identify** the basic concepts, assumptions, and methodologies that define contemporary anthropology and its four constitutive ‘fields’
2. **Understand** the vast diversity, the underlying unity, and the fundamental interconnectedness of past and present human populations throughout the world in both cultural and biological terms
3. **Apply** anthropological ideas and perspectives to a host of issues, problems, and questions facing the human species today
4. **Classify** relevant anthropological texts in terms of their methodologies and main arguments, and **evaluate** the utility of different methodologies and arguments
5. **Compose** effective oral and written work that demonstrates mastery of the various skills and bodies of knowledge outlined above

Course Format:

The majority of our class sessions will be divided evenly between lecture and discussion. Lectures will serve to flesh out and contextualize the main issues and concepts addressed in assigned readings, while discussions will be based on students’ interpretations and evaluations of those readings themselves. Weekly reading assignments will typically fall between 30 and 40 pages total, and students will be expected to complete them in time to contribute to our weekly online discussion boards (see below). We will use Canvas for all online activities related to this class; our Canvas course site can be found at <https://rollins.instructure.com/courses/1200063>.

Required Course Materials:

1) Podolefsky, Aaron, Peter J. Brown, and Scott M. Lacy. 2012. *Applying Anthropology: An Introductory Reader* (10th edition). New York: McGraw-Hill. ISBN: 978-0-07-811704-6.
[*** Available at the Rollins College Bookstore for \$81.50 (new) or \$49 (used). A copy will also be placed on reserve at the Olin Library, but it is highly recommended that all students obtain their own personal copies.]

2) Additional course readings [*** Available on our Canvas course site.]

Assignments and Grading:

Attendance (50 pts):

Regular attendance is essential to succeeding in this course; our in-class activities are designed to complement rather than simply duplicate our reading assignments and online discussions, and are a crucial part of the learning experience overall. Each student will thus be allowed **one** free absence, no questions asked. Every absence beyond that will result in a deduction of one quarter of the overall attendance grade (12.5 points), unless the student contacts me **beforehand** and provides formal documentation detailing the nature of the conflict (a doctor's note, a business trip itinerary, etc.).

Canvas Discussion Boards (10 pts each):

For each of our ten regular class sessions (not including exam and review days), students will be expected to contribute to an online discussion board related to that week's assigned readings. Each board will begin with a discussion question, to which students must respond in a post of **no less than 200 words** by the Monday before that week's class at 11:59pm (5 points). Each student must then respond to **at least two** of his or her colleagues' posts by the Tuesday before that week's class at 11:59pm (2.5 points each); responses should be **no less than 100 words each** and should contribute substantively to the conversation (not just "I agree!" or "I disagree!"). I will review these discussions before each class session, and use student comments as jumping-off points for further class discussion. All discussion board assignments can be found on our Canvas course site.

In-Class Discussion Leadership (25 pts):

For each regular class session during the second half of the semester, a group of four or five students will be responsible for leading a portion of our class discussion. Weekly discussion leaders will be expected to talk about their assigned readings as a group ahead of time (either in person or online), prepare article synopses and discussion questions for their colleagues, and direct the flow of their colleagues' conversation in class. Each student will serve as a discussion leader once; a topic sign-up sheet and more detailed assignment instructions will be circulated during Week 6.

Research Paper Proposal (25 pts), Draft Workshop (25 pts), and Final Revision (100 pts):

The primary written assignment for this class will be a **6-8 page** research paper, in which each student will be asked to explore and evaluate the various ways that anthropological ideas and perspectives have been (or could be) applied to an issue or topic of his or her choice. A **2-3 page** proposal which outlines each student's paper topic and includes a working bibliography of relevant scholarly sources will be due on Wednesday, February 19. Students will then prepare rough drafts of their research papers by no later than Monday, April 21, and each student's draft will be reviewed and commented on by both the instructor and a group of three or four classmates working on similar topics. Revised final papers will be due on Sunday, May 4.

Midterm Exam (75 pts) and Final Exam (100 pts):

There will be two exams in this course. The midterm exam (Wednesday, February 26) will cover Weeks 1-6, while the final exam (Wednesday, April 30) will cover Weeks 8-14. Each exam will

feature a range of question types (multiple choice, true or false, short answer, etc.), and questions will be drawn from course readings, lectures, discussions, and videos. The final exam will **not** be cumulative at the level of basic content, but be aware that several of the broader themes, issues, and ideas we explore in the first half of the semester will carry over into the second half as well.

Grade Distribution:

The grade for this course will be distributed as follows:

Attendance:	50 pts	10%
Canvas Discussion Boards (10):	100 pts (10 pts each)	20% (2% each)
In-Class Discussion Leadership:	25 pts	5%
Research Paper Proposal:	25 pts	5%
Research Paper Draft Workshop:	25 pts	5%
Research Paper:	100 pts	20%
Midterm Exam:	75 pts	15%
Final Exam:	100 pts	20%
Total:	500 pts	100%

Grading Scale:

Letter grades for this course will be assigned according to the following scale:

<u>%</u>	<u>Grade</u>
93-100	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
Below 60	F

*** **Note:** Decimals will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole number.

Additional Course Policies:

Assignment Submission, Late Work, and Makeup Exams:

All written assignments for this class, with the exception of the midterm and final exams, are to be submitted electronically in our Canvas course site. Weekly discussion posts can be composed within the Canvas site itself, while research paper proposals, drafts, and final revisions should be written in a separate word processor and uploaded onto the designated Canvas submission pages.

*** **Note:** All uploaded assignments will automatically be processed by Turnitin.com.

Late work will be assessed a 2.5-point penalty per day. Students may make up exams if extreme and/or unavoidable circumstances prevent them from attending the scheduled in-class exam sessions, but only if they provide documentation of the conflict and a reasonable amount of advance warning.

Communication Policy:

I will use both Canvas and the Rollins email system to distribute all announcements, reminders, and any other information pertinent to the class. Students should thus remember to check their Rollins email accounts on a regular basis, or arrange to have messages forwarded to an account that they use more frequently.

I prefer to be contacted via my Rollins email address (ebindler@rollins.edu), but students should feel free to call or text me if they do not have access to their email or in the event of an emergency. I am usually able to reply to emails, texts, and calls within a few hours of receiving them, though in some cases it may take me up to 24 hours to respond.

Netiquette Policy:

Several of our class discussions will take place online, and I encourage students to use these discussions as opportunities to explore ideas, opinions, and experiences that they might not feel as comfortable or confident sharing in face-to-face settings. However, I expect all students to observe the same standards of civility that guide their conduct in the classroom; disrespectful, intolerant, inflammatory, or otherwise inappropriate comments can make others feel unsafe or uncomfortable in our online learning environment, and consequently will not be tolerated.

Tech Support Policy:

I have done my best to ensure that our Canvas course site is as smooth, straightforward, and glitch-free as possible, but it is impossible to guarantee that we won't run into technological problems at some point in the semester. If at any time a student has trouble accessing or navigating through the site or any of its content, it is his or her responsibility to contact me and/or the Rollins help desk (<http://r-net.rollins.edu/it/help-desk>; 407-628-6363) so that we can try to resolve the issue as quickly as possible.

Syllabus:

This syllabus is subject to change. However, changes will only be made when absolutely necessary, and they will be announced well in advance and through multiple channels.

The Honor Pledge and Reaffirmation:

Membership in the student body of Rollins College carries with it an obligation, and requires a commitment, to act with honor in all things. Because academic integrity is fundamental to the pursuit of knowledge and truth and is the heart of the academic life of Rollins College, it is the responsibility of all members of the College community to practice it and to report apparent violations. The following pledge is a binding commitment by the students of Rollins College:

The development of the virtues of Honor and Integrity are integral to a Rollins College education and to membership in the Rollins College community. Therefore, I, a student of Rollins College, pledge to show my commitment to these virtues by abstaining from any lying, cheating, or plagiarism in my academic endeavors and by behaving responsibly, respectfully and honorably in my social life and in my relationships with others.

This pledge is reinforced every time a student submits work for academic credit as his/her own. Students shall add to all papers, quizzes, tests, lab reports, etc., the following handwritten abbreviated pledge followed by their signature:

“On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance on this work.”

Material submitted electronically should contain the pledge; submission implies signing the pledge.

Students with Disabilities:

Rollins College is committed to equal access and does not discriminate unlawfully against persons with disabilities in its policies, procedures, programs or employment processes. The College recognizes its obligations under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 to provide an environment that does not discriminate against persons with disabilities. If you are a person with a disability on this campus and anticipate needing any type of academic/medical accommodations in order to participate in your classes, please make timely arrangements by disclosing this disability in writing to the Disability Services Office at (Box 2772) – Mills Building, 1000 Holt Ave., Winter Park, FL, 32789. Appointments can be scheduled by calling 407-646-2354 or by emailing: gridgey@rollins.edu

Last Date to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty:

Friday, March 21. Students should contact the Holt School Office if there are questions regarding withdrawal deadlines, policies, or procedures.

Course Schedule:

UNIT ONE: INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY

What is anthropology, and how has it developed over time? What are the four ‘fields’ of anthropology, and what types of research questions, governing assumptions, and methodological approaches are associated with each? What are the underlying similarities in subject matter and perspective that link the four fields to each other and to anthropology as a whole?

**Week 1 (1/15):
Course Introduction**

Readings:

- a) Course Syllabus
- b) Applying Anthropology (AA): “To the Student” (Podolefsky et al., pp. xv-xvi)
- c) AA: “Introduction: Understanding Humans and Human Problems” (Podolefsky et al., pp. 1-2)

Assignments:

None

**Week 2 (1/22):
Biological Anthropology**

Readings:

- a) AA: "Part I: Biological Anthropology" (Podolefsky et al., pp. 3-5)
- b) AA Selection 1: "Teaching Theories" (Root-Bernstein and McEachron, pp. 6-14)
- c) AA Selection 2: "Re-Reading Root-Bernstein and McEachron" (Freed, pp. 15-20)
- d) AA Selection 3: "Great Mysteries of Human Evolution" (Zimmer, pp. 21-26)
- e) AA Selection 4: "A New Kind of Ancestor" (Gibbons, pp. 27-31)
- f) AA Selection 7: "Apes, Hominids, and the Roots of Religion" (King, pp. 45-48)

Assignments:

Canvas Discussion Board 1 (initial post due Mon. 1/20 at 11:59pm; replies due Tues. 1/21 at 11:59pm)

**Week 3 (1/29):
Archaeology**

Readings:

- a) AA: "Part II: Archaeology" (Podolefsky et al., pp. 85-87)
- b) AA Selection 16: "Disease and Death" (Goodman and Armelagos, pp. 112-116)
- c) AA Selection 17: "Uncovering America's Pyramid Builders" (Wright, pp. 117-120)
- d) AA Selection 18: "Battles of the Bones" (Bonnichsen and Schneider, pp. 121-126)
- e) AA Selection 20: "Archaeology and Vanua Development in Fiji" (Crosby, pp. 136-147)
- f) AA Selection 21: "Around the Mall and Beyond" (Kernan, pp. 148-150)

Assignments:

Canvas Discussion Board 2 (initial post due Mon. 1/27 at 11:59pm; replies due Tues. 1/28 at 11:59pm)

**Week 4 (2/5):
Cultural Anthropology**

Readings:

- a) AA: "Part IV: Cultural Anthropology" (Podolefsky et al., pp. 197-199)
- b) AA Selection 29: "Body Ritual among the Nacirema" (Miner, pp. 200-203)
- c) AA Selection 30: "Shakespeare in the Bush" (Bohannon, pp. 204-209)
- d) AA Selection 37: "Tricking and Tripping" (Sterk, pp. 257-264)
- e) AA Selection 42: "Circumcision, Pluralism, and... Cultural Relativism" (Kratz, pp. 310-321)
- f) AA Selection 47: "Army Enlists Anthropology in War Zones" (Rohde, pp. 357-359)

Assignments:

Canvas Discussion Board 3 (initial post due Mon. 2/3 at 11:59pm; replies due Tues. 2/4 at 11:59pm)

**Week 5 (2/12):
Linguistic Anthropology**

Readings:

- a) AA: “Part III: Linguistic Anthropology” (Podolefsky et al., pp. 157-158)
- b) AA Selection 23: “From Heofonum to Heavens” (Bhattacharjee, pp. 159-162)
- c) AA Selection 24: ““To Give Up on Words”” (Basso, pp. 163-172)
- d) AA Selection 25: “Village of the Deaf” (Fox, pp. 173-176)
- e) AA Selection 26: “Shifting Norms of... Respect” (Rudwick, pp. 177-186)
- f) AA Selection 27: “Lost in Translation” (Boroditsky, pp. 187-189)

Assignments:

Canvas Discussion Board 4 (initial post due Mon. 2/10 at 11:59pm; replies due Tues. 2/11 at 11:59pm)

**Week 6 (2/19):
Midterm Exam Review**

Readings:

Canvas Midterm Exam Study Guide

Assignments:

- a) Research Paper Proposal (submit **in Canvas** by Wed. 2/19 at 11:59pm)
- b) In-Class Discussion Leadership Sign-Up (sign-up sheet available **in class and in Canvas**)

**Week 7 (2/26):
Midterm Exam**

Readings:

Canvas Midterm Exam Study Guide

Assignments:

Midterm Exam (complete in class on Wed. 2/26)

***** **SPRING BREAK 3/2-3/9** *****

UNIT TWO: ANTHROPOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES ON CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

How do contemporary anthropologists apply ideas and perspectives from the four fields in their efforts to better understand human biological and cultural diversity in both the past and the present? How do they employ anthropological insights in their efforts to find practical solutions to the most pressing issues facing diverse human populations in both the present and the future?

**Week 8 (3/12):
The Anthropology of Race and Ethnicity**

Readings:

- a) AA Selection 8: "How Race Becomes Biology" (Gravlee, pp. 49-63)
- b) AA Selection 19: "The Challenge of Race to... Archaeology" (Orser Jr., pp. 127-135)
- c) AA Selection 40: "Pocahontas Goes to the Clinic" (Mattingly, pp. 287-296)
- d) [Sociolinguistics of Race article TBA]

Assignments:

Canvas Discussion Board 5 (initial post due Mon. 3/10 at 11:59pm; replies due Tues. 3/11 at 11:59pm)

**Week 9 (3/19):
The Anthropology of Gender and Sexuality**

Readings:

- a) AA Selection 14: "Feminine Knowledge and Skill Reconsidered" (Arthur, pp. 91-105)
- b) AA Selection 28: "Talk in the Intimate Relationship" (Tannen, pp. 190-196)
- c) AA Selection 36: "'Strange Country This'" (Roscoe, pp. 249-256)
- d) AA Selection 49: "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving?" (Abu-Lughod, pp. 368-374)

Assignments:

Canvas Discussion Board 6 (initial post due Mon. 3/17 at 11:59pm; replies due Tues. 3/18 at 11:59pm)

**Week 10 (3/26):
The Anthropology of Family and Kinship**

Readings:

- a) AA Selection 6: "Mothers and Others" (Hrdy, pp. 38-44)
- b) AA Selection 32: "Our Babies, Ourselves" (Small, pp. 215-221)
- c) AA Selection 34: "When Brothers Share a Wife" (Goldstein, pp. 226-230)
- d) AA Selection 35: "How Families Work" (Auslander, pp. 231-248)

Assignments:

Canvas Discussion Board 7 (initial post due Mon. 3/24 at 11:59pm; replies due Tues. 3/25 at 11:59pm)

**Week 11 (4/2):
The Anthropology of Music and Art**

Readings:

[Readings TBA]

Assignments:

Canvas Discussion Board 8 (initial post due Mon. 3/31 at 11:59pm; replies due Tues. 4/1 at 11:59pm)

**Week 12 (4/9):
The Anthropology of Economics and Class**

Readings:

- a) AA Selection 11: "The Tall and the Short of It" (Bogin, pp. 78-81)
- b) AA Selection 31: "Eating Christmas in the Kalahari" (Lee, pp. 210-214)
- c) AA Selection 41: "Culture, Poverty, and HIV Transmission" (Farmer, pp. 297-309)
- d) AA Selection 43: "Conflict and Confluence in Advertising Meetings" (Morais, pp. 322-333)
- e) AA Selection 44: "Just Another Job?" (Anderson, pp. 334-339)

Assignments:

Canvas Discussion Board 9 (initial post due Mon. 4/7 at 11:59pm; replies due Tues. 4/8 at 11:59pm)

**Week 13 (4/16):
The Anthropology of 'Progress' and Modernity**

Readings:

- a) AA Selection 10: "Ancient Genes and Modern Health" (Eaton and Konner, pp. 74-77)
- b) AA Selection 15: "The Secrets of Ancient Tiwanaku" (Straughan, pp. 106-111)
- c) AA Selection 22: "'Clean Your Plate'" (Jones, pp. 151-156)
- d) AA Selection 48: "Moral Fibers of Farmer Cooperatives" (Lacy, pp. 360-367)
- e) AA Selection 50: "The Price of Progress" (Bodley, pp. 375-383)

Assignments:

Canvas Discussion Board 10 (initial post due Mon. 4/14 at 11:59pm; replies due Tues. 4/15 at 11:59pm)

**Week 14 (4/23):
Research Paper Draft Workshop and Final Exam Review**

Readings:

Canvas Final Exam Study Guide

Assignments:

Research Paper Draft (submit **in Canvas** and **distribute to group** by Mon. 4/21 at 11:59pm)

**Week 15 (4/30):
Final Exam**

Readings:

Canvas Final Exam Study Guide

Assignments:

a) Final Exam (complete **in class** on Wed. 4/30)

b) Research Paper (submit **in Canvas** by Sun. 5/4 at 11:59pm)

COURSE CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

MLK Day:	Mon. 1/20
Research Paper Proposal:	Wed. 2/19
Midterm Exam:	Wed. 2/26
Spring Break:	Sun. 3/2 to Sun. 3/9
Drop w/o Penalty ('WF') Deadline:	Fri. 3/21
Research Paper Draft:	Mon. 4/21
Final Exam:	Wed. 4/30
Research Paper:	Sun. 5/4