

Introduction to Anthropology

ANTH 101 – 003

St. Mary's College of Maryland

Fall 2014

Monday and Wednesday, 6:00 – 7:50 pm

Kent Hall 120

Instructor

Mahri Irvine, PhD

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Office Location and Hours: Kent Hall 303; Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:45 – 5:45 pm

I will try to answer your messages in a timely manner, but, please plan for a 24-hour response time when you contact me. I do not usually answer phone calls or emails on the weekend.

Course Description

This course provides an overview of anthropology's approach to understanding humanity and the human condition from a holistic perspective. Students examine the four subfields of anthropology: archaeology, biological anthropology, linguistic anthropology and cultural anthropology. Students learn how anthropology provides useful knowledge, perspectives and skills to better understand and meet contemporary challenges facing humanity. This course satisfies the Core Curriculum requirement in Social Sciences.

(From the SMCM College Catalog)

Additional Information:

This course will introduce students to anthropology, which is the study of people and cultures. Students will learn about theories, ideas, and methods of each subfield of anthropology, as well as the concept of applied anthropology, and they will explore the major topics examined in the discipline. Students will also learn about how these different subfields overlap and have similar methodological approaches and goals. The primary theme of this class is "Power and Inequality," and using a four-fields approach, students will learn to critically examine how power imbalances and social inequalities are produced, explained, and naturalized in different cultures.

Trigger Warning:

In this class, we will discuss potentially upsetting topics, like violence and discrimination. It is your responsibility to look through the syllabus *in advance* and notify me if you think you might become triggered or overly upset by certain topics. Please see me immediately if you think that you will have difficulties attending class or completing assignments. If you do become triggered or experience psychological challenges during the semester, it is your responsibility to let me know ASAP so I can help you access appropriate resources.

Campus Resources

I want you to succeed in this class! If you start feeling overwhelmed or anxious from this class or because of other life events, please consider contacting these resources:

Counseling Services:

You can receive unlimited free counseling at SMCM! The Counseling Center also offers support groups and many other resources:

Chance Hall

240-895-4289

Walk-In Hours: Wednesdays, 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Appointments: Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Disability Services:

If you have a disability and would like to talk with someone about making arrangements for accommodations, or if you have questions, please contact Academic Support Services:

Glendening Hall, Suite 230

240-895-4388

academic_services@smcm.edu

Sexual Assault Resources:

If somebody sexually assaults you, there are many people who can give you help and support:

SMCM's First Responder Network: 301-904-2015 (call or text)

Student Counseling Services: 240-895-4289

Public Safety: 240-895-4911

National Hotline: 1-800-656-HOPE (online chat: www.rainn.org)

Police and Hospital: 911

Writing Center:

The Writing and Speaking Center, located in the Library Annex, offers free consultations in writing and speaking for students at all levels and in all disciplines. No matter what you're writing and no matter where you are in the process (generating ideas, drafting, revising or proofreading), the peer tutors in the Center can assist you. These tutors are friendly students and also excellent writers with special training as writing consultants. They would not grade or correct your papers; instead, they'd coach you and help you become a better writer. Similarly, the tutors are also trained to help you plan and practice presentations and other speaking assignments. I encourage you to use the Writing and Speaking Center as much as possible. You can make a one-time or repeating appointment with the Center by visiting their website, www.smcm.edu/writingcenter, and clicking 'Schedule an Appointment.' At the same website, you can find helpful resources on many writing- and speaking-related topics.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Understand the basic concepts and methods of the four subfields of anthropology.
2. Understand the concepts and methods of applied anthropology.
3. Explain the differences and overlaps between the four subfields of anthropology.
4. Recognize how anthropological concepts apply to the world around you.
5. Gain an understanding of the various research topics and careers that anthropologists often pursue.
6. Be able to synthesize information and knowledge from different sources.
7. Think critically about cultural issues, including issues of power and inequality.
8. Explain how your cultural background(s) have influenced you and your perceptions of the world.

What you can expect from me

I should:

- Provide you with information in an organized and clear manner.
- Help you learn by using a diverse range of assignments and teaching strategies.
- Give you clear guidelines about how to succeed in this class.
- Encourage you to learn and critically think about new ideas and concepts.
- Encourage you to critically think about how cultural values have influenced your life, your self-identity, and your perceptions of other people.
- Provide you with feedback about your writing and your ideas.
- Meet with you to discuss your work when you request assistance or guidance.
- Clearly communicate with you via email if anything on the syllabus changes.
- Silence/turn off my cell phone.

What I will expect from you

You should:

- Read the syllabus carefully and plan out your schedule to meet all deadlines.
- Refer to the syllabus and assignment sheets if you have questions about due dates or course requirements.
- Commit to following the course guidelines and meeting the course objectives.
- Complete your assignments on time and to the best of your abilities.
- Interact with other students and with me in a respectful, mature, and thoughtful manner.
- Be prepared for class by doing the readings and taking notes.
- Refrain from plagiarism and other forms of cheating.
- Contact me *immediately* if you are having difficulties with the course materials or if you are having personal problems that might affect your success in class.
- Silence/turn off your cell phone. If your phone constantly disrupts our class, I will ask you to leave.
- Only use your computer for class-related activities. If you use your computer inappropriately, I will ask you to leave.
- Respect the privacy of our classroom environment: do not record class discussions or lectures and share them publicly, and do not forward class-related emails to other people. In other words, treat your classmates and professor with respect and professional courtesy.

Academic Honesty and Ethical Conduct

Please do not commit any acts of academic dishonesty, as outlined in your “To the Point” student handbook. Academic dishonesty includes: 1) cheating, 2) plagiarism, 3) falsification, and 4) resubmission of work. All of these forms of dishonesty ultimately hurt you, because you will not actually learn course content or improve your writing or thinking skills if you just steal someone else’s ideas or words. Additionally, when you act dishonestly, you will weaken other people’s trust in your character and your abilities. Being dishonest will ultimately do you more harm than good: cheating isn’t worth it! If you have questions about how to properly paraphrase other people’s ideas or statements, if you do not know how to properly use citations/references, or if you do not know when to use quotation marks, please ask me, a librarian, or someone else for help. Please refer to your “To the Point” student handbook for more detailed information about academic honesty and your rights and responsibilities as a student:

<http://www.smcm.edu/tothepoint/policiesprocedures/Student%20Handbook%20August%202014.pdf>

Assignments and Due Dates

You will receive an assignment sheet and a grading rubric with detailed information about each assignment, including attendance and participation. Early submissions for your written assignments are always welcome!

Assignment	Due Date	Percentage of Final Grade
Participation and Attendance*	ongoing	10
In-Class Activities**	September 10 September 17 October 27 November 3 November 10	15
St. John’s Site Report	September 15	5
Response Paper for Mullins Book	October 20	10
Participant-Observation Project	November 24	20
Exams***		
• Exam 1	October 22	20
• Exam 2	December 17	20
<i>Total</i>		<i>100</i>

*You will automatically fail the class if you miss six or more classes.

**There are no make-up opportunities for these activities.

***You will automatically fail the class if you miss either exam.

Late Policy

I do not accept late assignments except in the case of documented emergencies, at my discretion. This is because in the “real world” outside of college, deadlines matter. While you are in college, you should learn to take deadlines seriously and organize your schedule to make sure that you can get your work done in a timely manner. If you start working on an assignment and realize you will have difficulties finishing it in time, you should talk to me *immediately* for advice.

Grading Scale

93% - 100%	A	(amazing!)	77% - 79%	C+	(okay)
90% - 92%	A-	(wonderful!)	73% - 76%	C	(adequate)
87% - 89%	B+	(very, very good!)	70% - 72%	C-	(meh)
83% - 86%	B	(good)	67% - 69%	D+	(very, very bad)
80% - 82%	B-	(pretty good)	63% - 66%	D	(something is terribly wrong)
			0% - 62%	F	(what a waste of tuition)

Automatic Course Failure

There are several ways that you will earn an automatic failure in this class:

1. Cheat on exams or plagiarize written assignments.
2. Miss six or more classes.
3. Miss Exam 1 or Exam 2.

Please do not earn an F! If you are having problems with attendance, studying for exams, etc., it is your responsibility to come talk with me about your challenges.

Pop Quizzes

At the beginning of most classes, there will be a random chance for a pop quiz, based on the roll of a die. The quizzes will consist of very basic questions about an assigned reading. If you prepared for class, these questions should be easy for you to answer. The pop quiz grades will be part of your overall participation grade. If your final course grade is on the borderline (i.e., between an A- and a B+), I will review your pop quiz grades. If you consistently did well on the pop quizzes, I will bump up your grade. If you consistently failed the quizzes, I will assign you the lower grade.

Class as Community

This class is a community and a space for intellectual exploration and expression. Many of the topics we discuss are emotionally charged. A diversity of opinions contributes to an intellectually challenging classroom environment. The success of the class as a whole depends on each person supporting, encouraging, and respecting other people in the class. Continuing discussion outside of class is highly encouraged, but please be mindful of the privacy of your peers.

Schedule of Class Meetings

Date	Topic	Activity	Readings Due	Assignments Due
September 3 (Wednesday)	Welcome Course Overview			
September 8 (Monday)	Introductory Concepts	Lecture	Lavenda Chapter 1 Miner article	
September 10 (Wednesday)	Archaeological Concepts and Methods	Lecture In-Class Activity*	Lavenda Chapter 6	
September 15 (Monday)	Archaeology and History at SMCM	Historic St. Mary's City tour		St. John's Site report
September 17 (Wednesday)	Anthropological Ethics and Values	Film (<i>Bones of Contention</i>) In-Class Activity*	AAA statement Lynott article	
September 22 (Monday)	Evolution	Lecture Film (<i>First Primates</i>)	Lavenda Chapter 2	
September 24 (Wednesday)	Humans as Primates	Lecture Film (<i>Ape Genius</i>)	Lavenda Chapter 4	
September 29 (Monday)	Human Origins and Ancestors	Lecture	Lavenda Chapter 5	
October 1 (Wednesday)	Human Origins and Ancestors	Lecture Film (<i>Last Human Standing</i>)	Lavenda Chapter 7	
October 6 (Monday)	Human Variation	Lecture	Lavenda Chapter 3	
October 8 (Wednesday)	Constructing Identities: Race and Ethnicity	Lecture Film (<i>When the Bough Breaks</i>) Discussion	McIntosh article	
October 13 (Monday)	NO CLASS: Fall Reading Day			
October 15 (Wednesday)	Exam Review			
October 20 (Monday)	Dr. Mullins' Public Lecture and Class Visit	Cole Cinema, 4:30 pm	Mullins book	Response Paper <i>and</i> Questions
October 22 (Wednesday)	Exam 1			
October 27 (Monday)	Cultural Anthropology: Concepts and Methods	Lecture In-Class Activity*	Simonelli article van Maanen article	

Date	Topic	Activity	Readings Due	Assignments Due
October 29 (Wednesday)	Worldviews and Meaning-Making	Lecture Film (<i>Wearing Hijab</i>) Discussion	Lavenda Chapter 10	
November 3 (Monday)	Economic Systems	Lecture In-Class Activity*	Lavenda Chapter 11	
November 5 (Wednesday)	Constructing Identities: Gender and Sexuality	Lecture Film (“Assume Nothing”)	Kessler article	
November 10 (Monday)	Families and Kinship	Lecture In-Class Activity*	Lavenda Chapter 13	
November 12 (Wednesday)	Globalization	Lecture Film (<i>Collateral Damage</i>)	Lavenda Chapter 15 Bodley article	
November 17 (Monday)	Culture and Inequalities	Lecture Film (<i>Missing Women</i>)	Lavenda Chapter 8	
November 19 (Wednesday)	Linguistic Anthropology	Lecture Film (<i>Multi-Lingual Hong Kong</i>)	Lavenda Chapter 9	
November 24 (Monday)	Language and Cultural Diversity	Film (<i>Voices of the World</i>) Discussion		Participant-Observation Paper
November 26 (Wednesday)	NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING BREAK			
December 1 (Monday)	Career Center presentation			
December 3 (Wednesday)	NO CLASS			
December 8 (Monday)	Language and Power	Film (<i>Nu Shu</i>) Discussion		
December 10 (Wednesday)	Exam Review			
December 17 (Wednesday) 7:00 – 9:15 pm	Exam 2			

Textbooks and Course Materials

All articles are posted on Blackboard. You can purchase the textbook at the bookstore or online.

These citations are listed in AAA citation style. You should copy these citations to use for your Works Cited pages. Be sure to use the AAA in-text citation style in your essays.

American Anthropological Association

2012 Statement on Ethics: Principles of Professional Responsibilities. Arlington, VA: American Anthropological Association.

Bodley, John H.

2008 The Price of Progress. *In* Victims of Progress. Pp. 167-184. Lanham, MD: Altamira Press.

Kessler, Suzanne

1998 The Medical Construction of Gender. *In* Lessons from the Intersexed. Pp. 12-51. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

Lavenda, Robert H. and Emily A. Schultz

2012 Anthropology: What Does It Mean to be Human? 2nd ed. New York: Oxford University Press.

Lynott, Mark J.

1997 Ethical Principles and Archaeological Practice: Development of an Ethics Policy. *American Antiquity* 62(4):589-599.

McIntosh, Peggy

2010 White Privilege and Male Privilege: A Personal Account of Coming to See Correspondence Through Work in Women's Studies. *In* Privilege: A Reader. Michael S. Kimmel and Abby L. Ferber, eds. Pp. 13-26. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Miner, Horace

1956 Body Ritual Among the Nacirema. *American Anthropologist* 58(3):503-507.

Mullins, Paul R.

2012 The Archaeology of Consumer Culture. Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida.

Simonelli, Jeanne

2007 The Active Voice: Narrative in Applied and Activist Anthropology. *Anthropology and Humanism* 32(2):156-170.

van Maanen, John

2003 [1982] The Moral Fix: On the Ethics of Fieldwork. *In* Qualitative Approaches to Criminal Justice: Perspectives from the Field. Mark R. Pogrebin, ed. Pp. 363-376. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.

Film List

Chen, Katherine

2005 Multilingual Hong Kong: A Sociolinguistic Case Study of Code-Switching. 32 min. New York: Films Media Group.

Jansen, Janus Billeskov & Signe Byrge Sørensen

2005 Voices of the World: The Extinction of Language and Linguistic Diversity. 60 min. New York: Films Media Group.

Loizeau, Manon

2006 Missing Women: Female-Selective Abortion and Infanticide. 54 min. Princeton, NJ: Films for the Humanities & Sciences.

MacDonald, Kirsty

2009 Assume Nothing. 80 min. New York: Films Media Group.

Peck, Danielle and Alex Seaborn

1998 Bones of Contention: Native American Archaeology. 49 min. Princeton, NJ: Films for the Humanities and Sciences.

Randall, Terri

2008 First Primates. 13 min. WGBH Educational Foundation.

Rubin, John

2008 Ape Genius. 52 min. Boston, MA: NGHT, Inc. and WGBH Educational Foundation.

Stange, Eric

2008 Collateral Damage. 29 min. San Francisco: California Newsreel.

Strain, Tracy Heather

2008 When the Bough Breaks. 29 min. San Francisco: California Newsreel.

Townsley, Graham

2009 Becoming Human: Last Human Standing. 51 min. WGBH Educational Foundation.

Watson, Mary Ann and Ray LeJeune

2003 Wearing Hijab: Uncovering the Myths of Islam in the United States. 34 min. Princeton, NJ: Films for the Humanities & Sciences.

Yang, Yue-Qing

1999 Nu Shu: A Hidden Language of Women in China. 107 min. New York: East-West Film Enterprise Ltd.

Some final thoughts about anthropology...

Anthropology is the science which tells us that people are the same the whole world over – except when they are different.

– Nancy Banks Smith

Anthropology is the most humanistic of the sciences and the most scientific of the humanities.

– Alfred L. Kroeber

The purpose of anthropology is to make the world safe for human differences.

– Ruth Benedict

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

- Margaret Mead