

# Introduction to Anthropology

ANTH 101 – 01  
St. Mary's College of Maryland  
Spring 2014  
Tuesday and Thursday, 6:00 – 7:50 pm  
Kent Hall 120



## **Instructor**

Mahri Irvine

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Office Hours: Thursdays, 4:00 – 5:30 pm

*I will do my best to respond to your emails or phone calls in a timely manner. However, please plan for at least a 24-hour response time. This means you need to plan ahead 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.

## **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](mailto: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](http://www.rainn.org))

Police and Hospital: 911

### Writing Center

If you would like to work on your writing skills, you can find a tutor at the Writing Center:

[apheatwole@smcm.edu](mailto:apheatwole@smcm.edu)

<http://www.smcm.edu/writingcenter/> (online appointments)

## **Learning Objectives**

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

- Understand the basic concepts and methods of the four subfields of anthropology.
- Understand the concepts and methods of applied anthropology.
- Explain the differences and overlaps between the four subfields of anthropology.
- Recognize how anthropological concepts apply to the world around you.
- Gain an understanding of the various research topics and careers that anthropologists often pursue.
- Be able to synthesize information and knowledge from different sources.
- Think critically about cultural issues, including issues of power and inequality.
- 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 for 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. If it rings in class, I will bring dessert for the class during our next meeting.

## **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 it rings in class, you will bring dessert for the class during our next meeting.

## 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 cheating, plagiarism, falsification, and resubmission of work. All of these forms of dishonesty ultimately hurt you, because you will not actually be learning our course content or strengthening 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%202013.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	ongoing	10
Subfield Reports		
• Archaeology Report	February 6	10
• Biological Anthro Report/Pres.	varies (sign up)	10
• Participant-Observation Report	March 27	10
• Linguistics Report/Pres.	April 29	10
Personal Reflection essay	May 1	10
Exams*		
• Exam 1	March 6	20
• Exam 2	May 8	20
<i>Total</i>		<i>100</i>

\*You must complete both exams in order to pass the class.

Late Policy: Please make an effort to turn your work in on time. You will lose one full letter grade (10%) for each 24-hour period that your assignment is late. *I do not accept work that is more than 48 hours past the due date except in the case of documented emergencies.*

## Grading Scale

93% - 100%	A	(excellent)	73% - 76%	C	(satisfactory)
90% - 92%	A-		70% - 72%	C-	
87% - 89%	B+		67% - 69%	D+	
83% - 86%	B	(good)	63% - 66%	D	(poor)
80% - 82%	B-		60% - 62%	D-	
77% - 79%	C+		0% - 59%	F	(failure)

### **Textbooks and Course Materials**

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

Abu-Lughod, Lila

2002 Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving? Anthropological Reflections on Cultural Relativism and Its Others. *American Anthropologist* 104(3):783-790.

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.

Kratz, Corinne A.

2012 Circumcision, Pluralism, and Dilemmas of Cultural Relativism. *In* Applying Anthropology: An Introductory Reader. Pp. 310-321. New York: McGraw-Hill.

Lynott, Mark J.

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

Miner, Horace

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

Norwood, Frances

2009 The Maintenance of Life: Preventing Social Death Through Euthanasia Talk and End-of-Life Care, Lessons from the Netherlands. Durham, NC: Carolina Academic Press.

Park, Michael Alan

2012 *Introducing Anthropology: An Integrated Approach*. Fifth edition. New York: McGraw-Hill.

### **Film List**

BBC Worldwide, Ltd.

2005 The Day Pictures Were Born. 47 min. New York: Films Media Group.

BBC Worldwide, Ltd.

1995 Bones of Contention: Native American Archaeology. 49 min. New York: Films Media Group.

Films Media Group

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

Films Media Group

1991 Evolution. 23 min. New York: Films Media Group.

Films Media Group.

1988 The Record of the Rocks. 20 min. New York: Films Media Group.

Heredia, Paula

2008 Africa Rising: The Grassroots Movement to End Female Genital Mutilation. 62 min.  
New York: Women Make Movies.

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.

Leduc, Louis-Roland

1999 A History of Social Classes. 53 min. Princeton, NJ: Films for the Humanities & Sciences.

Loizeau, Manon

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

Rodriguez, Chema

2008 Will You Marry Me? Marriage Customs in Ethiopia, Mali, Niger, and Senegal. 50 min.  
Princeton, NJ: Films for the Humanities & Sciences.

Rubin, John

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

Simmons, Jeremy

2005 Transgeneration. 300 min. New York: New Video Group.

Stange, Eric

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

Stauffer, Zachary, Vicente Franco, and Andres Cediel

2013 Rape in the Fields. 53 min. Boston, MA: WGBH Educational Foundation.

Strain, Tracy Heather

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

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.

### Schedule of Class Meetings

PARK chapters are *highly recommended* (not required) for background/prep reading before class.

All other articles/books and films are *absolutely required* reading/viewing before class.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Readings/Films Due</b>	<b>Assignments Due</b>
<b>January 21 (Tuesday)</b>	Welcome Course Overview			
<b>January 23 (Thursday)</b>	Introductory Concepts	Lecture	PARK chapters 1 and 2 Miner article	
<b>January 28 (Tuesday)</b>	Anthropological Ethics and Values	Film (“Bones of Contention”) Discussion/Activity	Lynott article AAA statement	
<b>January 30 (Thursday)</b>	Archaeological Concepts and Methods	Lecture Guest Speaker (Jordan Riccio)	“Digging Up the Past” film “Record of the Rocks” film	
<b>February 4 (Tuesday)</b>	Evolution	Lecture Film (“Evolution”)	PARK chapter 3	
<b>February 6 (Thursday)</b>	Humans as Primates	Lecture Film (“Ape Genius”)	PARK chapter 5	Archaeology report
<b>February 11 (Tuesday)</b>	History of Humans	Lecture Presentations	PARK chapter 6	Bio Anthro presentations
<b>February 13 (Thursday)</b>	History of Humans	Lecture Presentations		Bio Anthro presentations
<b>February 18 (Tuesday)</b>	History of Humans	Lecture Film (“The Day Pictures Were Born”) Presentations		Bio Anthro presentations
<b>February 20 (Thursday)</b>	Constructing Identities: Race and Ethnicity	Lecture Film (“(When the Bough Breaks”) Presentations	PARK chapter 8	Bio Anthro presentations
<b>February 24 (Monday) 4:45 pm</b>	Dr. Norwood’s Public Lecture	Cole Cinema		
<b>February 25 (Tuesday)</b>	Visiting Anthropologist: Dr. Frances Norwood	Discussion with Dr. Norwood	Norwood book	Questions for Dr. Norwood

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Readings/Films Due</b>	<b>Assignments Due</b>
<b>February 27 (Thursday)</b>	Constructing Identities: Gender and Sexuality	Lecture Film (“Transgeneration”) Presentations	PARK chapter 7	Bio Anthro presentations
<b>March 4 (Tuesday)</b>	Exam Review	Presentations		Bio Anthro presentations
<b>March 6 (Thursday)</b>	Exam 1			
<b>March 11 (Tuesday)</b>	Cultural Anthropology: Concepts and Methods	Lecture In-Class Activities	PARK chapters 2 (review) and 13	
<b>March 13 (Thursday)</b>	Modes of Production	Lecture In-Class Activity	PARK chapter 9	
<b>March 18 and 20</b>	<i>Spring Break!</i>	<i>Relax and sleep!</i>		
<b>March 25 (Tuesday)</b>	Economic and Political Systems	Lecture In-Class Activity	“A History of Social Classes” film	
<b>March 27 (Thursday)</b>	Families and Kinship	Lecture In-Class Activity	“Will You Marry Me?” film	Participant-Observation report
<b>April 1 (Tuesday)</b>	<i>NO CLASS: Advising Day</i>			
<b>April 3 (Thursday)</b>	Gender and Inequality	Film (“Africa Rising”) Discussion	Kratz article	
<b>April 8 (Tuesday)</b>	Religion and Worldviews	Lecture Film (“Wearing Hijab”) Discussion	Abu-Lughod article	
<b>April 10 (Thursday)</b>	Globalization, Development, and Inequality	Lecture Film (“Collateral Damage”) In-Class Activity	Bodley article	
<b>April 15 (Tuesday)</b>	Applied Anthropology and Social Justice	Lecture Discussion	“Rape in the Fields” film	
<b>April 17 (Thursday)</b>	Linguistics: Theories and Concepts	Lecture Film (“Multilingual Hong Kong”) Discussion	“Voices of the World” film	



Date	Topic	Activity	Readings/Films Due	Assignments Due
<b>April 22 (Tuesday)</b>	Archaeology and History at SMCM	Historic St. Mary's City tour: meet in classroom		
<b>April 24 (Thursday)</b>	Linguistics: Power and Inequality	Lecture In-Class Activity		
<b>April 29 (Tuesday)</b>	Language in the Public Domain	Presentations		Linguistics report/pres.
<b>May 1 (Thursday)</b>	Exam Review			Personal Reflection essay
<b>May 8 (Thursday) 7:00 – 9:15 pm</b>	Exam 2			

## 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*