



MASTER SYLLABUS

For additional course information, including prerequisites, corequisites, and course fees, please refer to the Catalog: <https://catalog.uvu.edu/>

Semester: Fall

Course Prefix: ANTH

Course Title: Introduction to Anthropology

Year: 2025

Course and Section #: 101G-011

Credits: 3

Course Description

Introduces students to the variability of human behavior cross-culturally and provides an understanding of the holistic approach to human behavior. Explores interrelationships, in a variety of cultural contexts, between beliefs, economic structures, sexuality, eating habits, ecology, politics, living arrangements, psychology, symbolism, and kinship.

Course Attributes

This course has the following attributes:

- ☒ General Education Requirements
- ☒ Global/Intercultural Graduation Requirements
- ☐ Writing Enriched Graduation Requirements
- ☐ Discipline Core Requirements in Program
- ☐ Elective Core Requirements in Program
- ☐ Open Elective

Other: *Click here to enter text.*

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Mel Gurr

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion, students should be able to:

- 1 - Demonstrate knowledge and recognition of complexities inherent in global and/or intercultural issues.
 - 2 - Interrelate knowledgeably, reflectively, responsibly, and respectfully with a society of increasing intercultural connections.
 - 3 - Apply an understanding of class and contemporary models in anthropology.
 - 4 - Exhibit knowledge of the application of theoretical perspectives to current real-life issues.
 - 5 - Show a familiarity with the methods and models currently used in anthropology.
 - 6 - Give evidence of a thorough understanding of cultural analysis and critique.
 - 7 - Analyze research and write an in-depth, thorough, anthropological analysis comprising a variety of theoretical perspectives.
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Course Materials and Texts

Wesch, Michael. *The art of being human: A textbook for cultural anthropology*. New Prairie Press, 2018.

Spradley, James P., and David W. McCurdy. *Conformity and conflict: Readings in cultural anthropology*. Jill Potash, 2012.

Miner, Horace Mitchell. "Body ritual among the Nacirema." (1956).

Kulick, Don, and Anne Meneley. *Fat: The anthropology of an obsession*. Penguin, 2009.

Narby, Jeremy. "Confessions of a vampire." (2019). *Grantas*.

O'Reilly, Jessica, et al. "Climate change: expanding anthropological possibilities." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 49.1 (2020): 13-29.

Harrison, K. David. *When languages die: The extinction of the world's languages and the erosion of human knowledge*. Oxford University Press, 2008.

Martin, Emily. "Egg and sperm: A scientific fairy tale." *Gender and Scientific Authority*. Ed. Barbara Laslett. Chicago: University of Chicago P (1996): 324-339

Brown, Nina, Thomas McIlwraith, and Laura Tubelle de González. *Perspectives: An open introduction to cultural anthropology*. Vol. 2300. American Anthropological Association, 2020.

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy

Participation

15%

UVU policy requires a *minimum* of six hours of outside work for every three hours of time spent in lecture (see <https://www.uvu.edu/catalog/current/policies-requirements/academic-policies-and-standards.pdf>). Participation in class is expected to reflect that level of engagement outside of class. Every class period you will be given points for completing in-class assignments. Reference to specific passages in the assigned readings when making your contribution to the discussion is highly encouraged.

Challenges

10%

Over the course of the semester, you will be challenged to apply course lessons and experiment with anthropological methods in a series of engaging, experiential assignments. Detailed instructions are posted on Canvas. You will generally be graded pass/fail. Remember, these are academic assignments—so academic conventions (grammar and spelling check) apply.

Midterm

30%

Your midterm exam will be a series of multiple choice, short answer, true/false, and essay questions—drawn from films, readings, lectures, and discussions in the first part of the course. Your professor will make a study guide, and facilitate a comprehensive review session in class to make sure students are prepared.

Final

30%

The final exam will also be a series of multiple choice, short answer, true/false, and essay questions, based on all of the content in the second part of the course (e.g., films, readings, discussions, lectures). Your professor will make a study guide, and facilitate a comprehensive review session in class to make sure students are prepared.

GI Key Assignment – Other Assignment

15%

In your GI assignment (The Other Challenge), you will be asked to demonstrate your mastery of respectful intercultural understanding, by spending time with a community or subculture that is different from your own. You

will take detailed notes, interact with this community, and submit an engaging, generative, and original accounting of your experience. See detailed instructions on Canvas.

Late Policy: I accept late work, but to encourage you to turn in assignments on time, the scores on late work will be reduced by 5%.

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments

Wesch, Michael. *The art of being human: A textbook for cultural anthropology*. New Prairie Press, 2018.

Spradley, James P., and David W. McCurdy. *Conformity and conflict: Readings in cultural anthropology*. Jill Potash, 2012.

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General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion

Thurs, Aug 21– Introduction, overview of course policies and syllabus

Tues, Aug 26, Introducing Global Cultural Diversity

Thurs, Aug 28 Fieldwork

Tues, Sep 2– Reciprocity & Challenge 1 (Talking with Strangers)

Thurs, Sep 4, Culture

Tues, Sep 9, Body Rituals

Thurs, Sep 11, Human Origins

Tues, Sep 16, The Unmaking of the Human Body & Challenge #2: Trying New Things

Thurs, Sep 18, Tools and Technology

Tues, Sep 23, Mediated Worlds

Thurs, Sep 25, Ecology and Subsistence

Tues, Sep 30, Sustainability

Thurs, Oct 2, In-Class Review Session

Tues, Oct 7, Mid-Term Exam

Thurs, Oct 9, Language

Tues, Oct 14, Endangered Languages, Film: The Grammar of Happiness

Thurs, Oct 16, Sociolinguistics

Tues, Oct 21, Sociolinguistics & Challenge: Breaking Rules

Thurs, Oct 23, Disability

Tues, Oct 28, Gender and Sexuality

Thurs, Oct 30, Race & Ethnicity & Film: Race: The Power of an Illusion, Episode 1 (available on Fulton Library website)

Tues, Nov 4, Kinship and Marriage, Pakistani Rishta Activity

Thurs, Nov 6, Diverse Marriage Systems, Polyandry

Tues, Nov. 11, Ethics and Morality

Thurs, Nov. 13, The Dynamics of Cultural Change

Tues, Nov. 18, Religion and the World's Wisdom

- Challenge: The Other Encounter | GI Assignment

Thurs, Nov. 20, Global Encounters

Tues, Nov. 25, Applying anthropology: Lessons for Life, University, and Career

Thanksgiving Break, Review Session, Final Exam

Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI

AI programs are not a replacement for your human creativity, originality, and critical thinking. Writing, thinking, and researching are crafts that you must develop over time to develop your own individual voice. At the same time, you should learn how to use AI and in what instances AI can be helpful to you.

The use of generative AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT, Google Gemini, etc.) is permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Brainstorming and refining your ideas;
- Fine tuning your research questions;
- Drafting an outline to organize your thoughts; and
- Checking grammar and style.

The use of generative AI tools is not permitted in this course for the following activities:

- Impersonating you in classroom contexts, such as by using the tool to compose discussion board prompts/responses assigned to you or completing your written assignments. Be assured that you will not earn full points should you do so, as prompts have been written to elicit your own personal perspective.
- Completing group work that your group has assigned to you, unless it is mutually agreed upon that you may utilize the tool.
- Writing a draft of a writing assignment.
- Writing entire sentences, paragraphs or papers to complete class assignments.
- You are responsible for the information you submit based on an AI query (for instance, that it does not violate intellectual property laws, or contain misinformation or unethical content). Your use of AI tools must be properly documented and cited in order to stay within university policies on academic honesty.

Any student work submitted using AI tools should clearly indicate what work is the student's work and what part is generated by the AI. In such cases, no more than 25% of the student work should be generated by AI. If any part of this is confusing or uncertain, please reach out to me for a conversation before submitting your work.

Using Remote Testing Software

☐ This course does not use remote testing software.

☒ This course uses remote testing software. Remote test-takers may choose their remote testing locations. Please note, however, that the testing software used for this may conduct a brief scan of remote test-takers' immediate surroundings, may require use of a webcam while taking an exam, may require the microphone be on while taking an exam, or may require other practices to confirm academic honesty. Test-takers therefore shall have no expectation of privacy in their test-taking location during, or immediately preceding, remote testing. If a student strongly objects to using test-taking software, the student should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to determine whether alternative testing arrangements are feasible. Alternatives are not guaranteed.

Required University Syllabus Statements

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities

Students needing accommodations due to a permanent or temporary disability, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions may contact UVU [Accessibility Services](#) at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu or 801-863-8747.

Accessibility Services is located on the Orem Campus in BA 110.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing students requesting ASL interpreters or transcribers can contact Accessibility Services to set up accommodations. Deaf/Hard of Hearing services can be contacted at DHHservices@uvu.edu

DHH is located on the Orem Campus in BA 112.

Academic Integrity

At Utah Valley University, faculty and students operate in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Maintaining an atmosphere of academic integrity allows for free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential. Our goal is to foster an intellectual atmosphere that produces scholars of integrity and imaginative thought. In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged and UVU students are expected to produce their own original academic work.

Faculty and students share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at UVU. Students have a responsibility to promote academic integrity at the university by not participating in or facilitating others' participation in any act of academic dishonesty. As members of the academic community, students must become familiar with their [rights and responsibilities](#). In each course, they are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, assessments, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Likewise, instructors are responsible to clearly state expectations and model best practices.

Further information on what constitutes academic dishonesty is detailed in [UVU Policy 541: Student Code of Conduct](#).

Equity and Title IX

Utah Valley University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 and over), disability, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related conditions, citizenship, genetic information, or other basis protected by applicable law, including Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. Inquiries about nondiscrimination at UVU may be directed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or UVU's Title IX Coordinator at 801-863-7999 – TitleIX@uvu.edu – 800 W University Pkwy, Orem, 84058, Suite BA 203.

Religious Accommodation

UVU values and acknowledges the array of worldviews, faiths, and religions represented in our student body, and as such provides supportive accommodations for students. Religious belief or conscience broadly includes religious, non-religious, theistic, or non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as well as participation in religious holidays, observances, or activities. Accommodations may include scheduling or due-date modifications or make-up assignments for missed class work.

To seek a religious accommodation, a student must provide written notice to the instructor and the Director of Accessibility Services at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu. If the accommodation relates to a scheduling conflict, the notice should include the date, time, and brief description of the difficulty posed by the conflict. Such requests should be made as soon as the student is aware of the prospective scheduling conflict.

While religious expression is welcome throughout campus, UVU also has a [specially dedicated space](#) for meditation, prayer, reflection, or other forms of religious expression.