

Fall 2023

STS-230 (001): Intro to Anthropology

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Brooks, Charles, "STS-230 (001): Intro to Anthropology" (2023). *Humanities Syllabi*. 697.
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STS 230

Introduction to Anthropology

Course Description

This course reviews the four primary subfields of Anthropology. Anthropology is the cross-disciplinary study of the human species, spanning the social sciences, the humanities, and the physical sciences. The subfields are all united in their focus on culture. Physical Anthropology studies the evolution of the species that has resulted in its capacity for having culture. Archeology studies the preserved artifacts from past human societies to discover the cultures of prehistoric times. Linguistic Anthropology studies the development and use of languages, and how language is related to other aspects of culture. Cultural Anthropology studies the systems of culture in contemporary social groups, analyzing their similarities and difference.

Student Learning Objectives

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the history of anthropology.
2. Explain the history, importance and methods of physical/biological anthropology
3. Explain the history, importance and methods of archaeology.
4. Explain the history, importance and methods of linguistic anthropology.
5. Explain the history, importance and methods of cultural anthropology.
6. Demonstrate effective written and oral communication skills

Required Text

PERSPECTIVES: AN OPEN INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Nina Brown, Thomas McIlwraith, Laura Tubelle de González. ISBN Print:

978-1-931303-67-5 ISBN Digital: 978-1-931303-66-8

OPEN SOURCE URL <http://perspectives.americananthro.org/>

Overview of Physical Anthropology

<https://study.com/academy/lesson/overview-of-physical-anthropology.html>

Optional Texts (Some course assignments drawn from Fair Use of the these texts)

TBA

Grading

Class engagement: 15%; Essay 1 (The Anthropological Perspective): 25%; Essay 2 (Review of an Ethnography): 30%; Research Proposal and Oral Presentation of Proposal: 30%

Standard Grading

Rubric for Assessing Course Written Assignments

1. The topic is appropriate for the assignment. 20%
2. The thesis of the report is clearly stated. 15%
3. The report is logically organized. 15%
4. Citations and Documentation follow MLA format including a Works Cited Page. 15%
5. Sentence structure, paragraphing, and grammar follow standards of written American English. 15%
6. The work is clearly your own. 20%

Prerequisites: ENGL 101 and ENGL 102. ENGL 102 may be taken as a co-requisite.

Office Hours: TBA

NJIT Policy on Academic Integrity

All students must abide by the university's policy on academic integrity. Please review:

Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at:

<http://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf>

Please note that it is the instructor's professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at dos@njit.edu.

COURSE OUTLINE

Module 1—Week One

Introduction to the discipline of anthropology

Overview of the sub-disciplines

The unifying concept of culture

The difference between culture and society

Anthropology and the other social sciences

Reading: Perspectives, Chapter 1:

Module 2—Weeks 2 and 3

Physical/Biological Anthropology

Historical Overview

Methods of Physical Anthropology

Evolution of the Human Species: How we became capable of having culture

Video lesson: <https://study.com/academy/lesson/overview-of-physical-anthropology.html>

Assignment: Short essay 1: The anthropological perspective

Module 3—Weeks 4 and 5

Archaeology

Historical Overview

Methods for understanding prehistoric cultures

Reading: Archaeology 101

<https://www.archaeological.org/pdfs/education/Arch101.2.pdf>

Module 4-Weeks 6 and 7

Linguistic Anthropology

Historical Overview

Language and cultural systems

Linguistic theory and methods

Deep Structure

Emics and Etics

Video Lesson: <https://study.com/academy/lesson/understanding-linguistic-anthropology.html>

Module 5—Weeks 8, 9, and 10

Cultural Anthropology

Early European Scholarship

The Development of American Cultural Anthropology

Methods: Participant Observation and Ethnography

Integration of quantitative and interpretive methods

Reading: Perspectives: Chapters 2 and 3

Assignment: Essay 2: Review of an ethnography to be selected by student

Module 6: Weeks 11 and 12

Overview of Other Sub-Disciplines

Psychological Anthropology (Culture and the Individual)

Applied Anthropology

Medical Anthropology

Environmental Anthropology

Urban Anthropology

Cyborg Anthropology

Reading: Perspectives: Chapters 15-19

Reading: Psychological Anthropology:

<http://sumananthromaterials.blogspot.com/2013/11/psychological-anthropology-suman-nath.html>

Module 7—Weeks 13, 14, and 15

Doing Anthropology

Methods: Surveys, questionnaires, interviews, quantitative methods, fieldwork

Developing a research proposal.

Assignment: Write an anthropological research proposal: Topic must be approved by instructor

Make an oral presentation on your proposal

Reading: Perspectives: Chapter 3

General Guideline for Assignments

The written assignments should focus on readings and other resources in the appropriate modules. These are written reports that should reflect on 1) what you have taken away from the module topics, 2) documentation of your thought processes as you interacted with the material, 3) how the material challenged your pre-assumptions, and 4) whether any new assumptions emerged. See the rubric for assessing written assignments above.

These assignments should be in an essay format. They should be at least three double-spaced pages with appropriate citations and documentation.

For the Final Project (Research Proposal)

The specifics of the final project are open-ended, but must be approved by your instructor. This assignment should be a written report of at least five double-spaced pages and propose a research project that could practically be done. Projects of a different nature will be considered on an individual basis. Students will make an oral presentation on their proposal during the last week of class.