City University of New York (CUNY)

CUNY Academic Works

2021

ANT-3700 - Introduction to Anthropology

Igor Pashkovskiy
CUNY Kingsborough Community College

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Introduction to Anthropology-Ant 3700
Kingsborough Community College
Department of Behavioral Sciences and Human Services

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Spring 2021 (Off Camp, 3 credits)
Instructor: Dr. Igor Pashkovskiy

E-Mail: Igor.Pashkovskiy@kbcc.cuny.edu

If you send me an email, please include your name and section number in the subject line.

Virtual Office Hours: Monday 9-10am, Tuesday 9-10am, & Thursday 9-10am

Course Description: A comparative study of the human condition in various societies and its application in solving practical problems. Topics include: human evolution, the meaning of our physical diversity, communication, miscommunication, and past and present cultural diversity.

What is Anthropology? Anthropology is the study of human beings past and present, with a focus on human culture, biology and language. Anthropology is divided into four subfields: cultural anthropology, linguistics, physical anthropology and archaeology, which are used to understand and explain the human condition. The Discipline provides a cross-cultural comparison of individuals and their societies based on customs, practices and interpretations of the world around them.

Course Objectives:
1. Students will evaluate anthropological information from a variety of sources, utilize critical thinking about what it means to be human and examine information from multiple cultural perspectives. They will produce written and oral arguments using these sources and perspectives.

2. Students will explain and analyze the diversity of economic, political, religious, gender, kinship, language, and cultural change in the modern world and the past using anthropological holistic perspective.

3. Students will analyze and discuss the role of race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexual orientation and beliefs in a cross-cultural perspective. They will compile examples of cultural bias, ethnocentrism and social injustice; they will be able to demonstrate how cultural relativism will foster respect for other behaviors.

4. Students will debate the effects/impacts of globalization and global cultural diversity on peoples and cultures around the world.

5. Students will increase their awareness of racial and/or cultural diversity, and develop reflexivity about their own place in society.

6. The students will gain competency in understanding key anthropological concepts, methods and terminology. They will recognize the four-field approach and define each sub-discipline.

7. Students will recognize the scientific process of discovery. Students will discover the major changes in primate and human evolution over the last 65 million years.

8. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the use of material culture in exploration of past cultures and analyze the historical development of non-western societies.

Course Readings: This is a **Zero Textbook Cost** Course. All course readings are open access and fall under the and licenses. Select Open Access chapters will be shared on a weekly basis. Other select readings will also be shared on a weekly basis. All assigned readings are recommended and provide additional context. Recommended readings are not required to be read word-for-word.

Select chapters will be available from:

1. Brown, N., McIlwraith, T., & González, T.L. (2020). *Perspectives: An open invitation to cultural anthropology* (2nd ed.). American Anthropological Association.

2. Shook, B., Nelson, K., Aguilera, K., & Braff, L. (2019). *Explorations: An open invitation to biological anthropology*. American Anthropological Association.

Materials: To be successful in a hybrid or online course you will need to be proficient in the use of Blackboard; have regular access to a computer and internet access.

Civic Engagement: Civic Engagement has become an increasingly important mission at Kingsborough Community College. All students are now required to have two civic engagement experiences as part of what is needed for graduation. Many of the courses within the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Human Services offer Civic Engagement opportunities which should be designated as such on CUNY First.

Students can satisfy the Civic Engagement graduation requirement in any of the following ways: a certified CE course (this is a CE certified course), a component CE course (where a portion of some courses' content is devoted to civic engagement), or through a non- course related experience (where students satisfy an experience independent of a KCC course).

In this class, the CE component will be fulfilled with an essay assignment, a blog posting, and weekly contributions to the course discussion board.

Assistance: Kingsborough Community College provides instructional assistance for all students. In response to current circumstances, tutoring services have transitioned to a distance learning model. Information on tutoring formats can be seen via the following link: https://www.kbcc.cuny.edu/tutorialservices/index.html#online

Accessibility Statement: Access-Ability Services (AAS) serves as a liaison and resource to the KCC community regarding disability issues, promotes equal access to all KCC programs and activities, and makes every reasonable effort to provide appropriate accommodations and assistance to students with disabilities. Your instructor will make the accommodations you need once you provide documentation from the Access-Ability Office (D205). Please contact https://www.kbcc.cuny.edu/access-ability/homepage.html for assistance.

Grading Criteria: Grades are earned and are calculated mathematically based on the criteria below.

Three tests (20 points each)	60 points
Readings/Lectures Discussion Board (DB) (2 points per week)	24 points
Analysis Essay	<u>16 points</u>
	100 points

• Unless otherwise posted, our week begins on Monday morning and ends the following Sunday at midnight.
• Tests should be completed by the posted due date.

Participation: In accordance with class policy, class participation is required. Students who miss 4 weeks of work (missing the entire session for that week) or the equivalent will receive a grade of WU. This is non-negotiable. Active participation in the DB fulfills the attendance requirement for this course.

Given the asynchronous online nature of the course, I will be online daily to answer all questions and to facilitate discourse in the DB threads.

Analysis Essay: There will be a 4-6 page analysis essay where students will be asked to explore a topic that is covered in class. The goal is to analyze said topic. This is not a book report but an exploration paper. A topic proposal will be due from each student at least four weeks before the essay is due. The proposal will let me know what your interests are and how you are planning to explore the topic as well as allow time for revision if necessary. A minimum of 4-5 academic sources (articles, written publications, etc.) should be used but students are encouraged to use more. Electronic submission as a word document/PDF of the essay to Blackboard's SafeAssign section is due by TBD. Further details will be discussed when the time comes.

Format: MLA/APA, in-text citations, a works cited page, grammatically correct.

Plagiarism: All class projects will be sent to "SafeAssign", the anti-plagiarism software. Any student with a score 11% or higher (and up to 39%) will have to re-write the copied sections of the project. Any student with a score of 40% or higher will have to pick a completely different topic and write a brand new project. All assignments must be the original work and ideas of the student. Any assignment or part of an assignment that is copied from another source will be grounds for failing the course. This includes information from the internet or another student. The professor will turn all plagiarized work into the Dean's office.

Netiquette: Discussion Board Forums require you to read and write a reflective response regarding course content. Think of them in the same way you think about a discussion in a face-to-face class. In other words, never post anything that you would not say in person. Below are some guidelines:

▪ Be respectful and courteous
▪ Do not make offensive remarks regarding ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation
▪ Do not use profanity
▪ Try to proofread and punctuate your postings

Class Schedule: Subject to change (check the Assignments tab for all due dates)

<u>Week 1</u>: The history of anthropology and Methods

Recommended Reading: Perspectives-What is Anthropology; Fieldwork
Reading: Lectures in this week's folder
Post: To this week's Introduce Yourself (no point value) **and** Reading/Lecture DB
Watch: Videos in this week's folder

<u>Week 2</u>: Understanding Culture and Economic Systems

Recommended Reading: Perspectives-Culture Concept; Subsistence
Reading: Lectures in this week's folder
Watch: Videos in this week's folder
Post: To this week's DB

<u>Week 3</u>: Political and Social Structure, Family and Kinship

Recommended Reading: Perspectives-Political Anthropology; Family and Kinship
Reading: Lectures in this week's folder
Watch: Videos in this week's folder
Post: To this week's DB

<u>Week 4</u>: Gender, Social Interpretation, and Identity, Religion

Recommended Reading: Perspectives-Religion; Gender and Sexuality
Reading: Lectures in this week's folder
Watch: Videos in this week's folder
Post: To this week's DB

<u>Week 5</u>: Biological Anthropology, Evolution, **Test 1**

Recommended Reading: Explorations-Molecular Biology and Genetics (1-32)
Reading: Lectures in this week's folder
Watch: Videos in this week's folder
Post: To this week's DB
Complete Test 1: Test 1 covers lectures and readings weeks 1-4 – including the information in the video links such as YouTube video clips. It consists of 40 multiple choice questions. Once you "open" the test, you will have 1 hour to complete it. Test 1 will be available from Fri 9:00am and will remain open until Sun 11:00pm. You must complete it within the time frame.

Week 6: Primates and Primate Behavior

Recommended Reading: Explorations-Primate Ecology and Behavior (1-22, 31-33); Wild primates copy higher-ranked individuals in a social transmission experiment by Canteloup et al. (2020)
Reading: Lectures in this week's folder
Watch: Videos in this week's folder
Post: To this week's DB

Week 7: Early Non-Human Primate Evolution and Human Evolution

Reading: Lectures in this week's folder, **Analysis Essay Instructions**
Watch: Videos in this week's folder
Post: To this week's DB

Week 8: Early Human Evolution pt.2, Modern Humans and Neanderthals

Recommended Reading: Were Neanderthals Rational? by Whiting et al. (2018)
Reading: Lectures in this week's folder
Watch: Videos in this week's folder
Post: To this week's DB

Week 9: Language, **Test 2**, **Topic proposals are due**

Recommended Reading: Perspectives-Language; Rapid evolution of the primate larynx? by Bowling et al. (2020)
Reading: Lectures in this week's folder
Watch: Videos in this week's folder
Post: To this week's DB
Complete Test 2: Test 2 covers lectures and readings weeks 5-8 – including the information in the video links such as YouTube video clips. It consists of 40 multiple choice questions. Once you "open" the test, you will have 1 hour to complete it. Test 2 will be available from Fri 9:00am until Sun at 11:00pm.You must complete it within the time frame.

Week 10: Development of Agriculture, Early City-States

Recommended Reading: Persistent controversies about the Neolithic revolution by Svizzero (2017)
Reading: Lectures in this week's folder
Watch: Videos in this week's folder
Post: To this week's DB

Week 11: Early City-States pt.2, World System

Recommended: The Body of Hierarchy by Bishop & Cartmill (2020)
Reading: Lectures in this week's folder
Watch: Videos in this week's folder
Post: To this week's DB

Week 12: Race and Ethnicity, Global Issues

Recommended Reading: Perspectives-Human Variation (10-17)
Reading: Lectures in this week's folder
Watch: Videos in this week's folder
Post: To this week's DB
Complete Test 3: Test 3 covers lectures and readings weeks 9-12 – including the information in the video links such as YouTube video clips. It consists of 40 multiple choice questions. Once you "open" the test, you will have 1 hour to complete it. Test 3 will be available from Fri 9:00am until Sun at 11:00pm.You must complete it within the time frame.

TBD: Analysis Essays are due- SafeAssign Submission only. Please note, work will not be accepted after the due date.

Last day to return completed withdrawal form for grade of (W) by those who are doing passing work is TBD.