

Classes: Tuesdays, 6:30 to 9:30, SSC-3018

This is an introduction to the foundations of anthropology that offers an overview of key concepts and methods in the discipline. The course focuses especially on certain key debates in the discipline – an approach that allows us to consider different perspectives on topics of common concern, and that demonstrates how the "foundations" of anthropology are continually being revisited, questioned and renegotiated in ways that are essential to maintaining the vitality and relevance of the discipline.

Prerequisite: *Anthropology 1020E or 1025F/G. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.*

Course Instructor

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Teaching Assistant

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Marking Breakdown

20% -- *Reading Quizzes (10 quizzes @ 2% each)*

At the start of 10 in-class tutorials (i.e., taking place within our weekly timeslot), students will be given a short quiz concerning assigned readings. This quiz will take no more than 5 minutes to write.

25% -- *Midterm (in class on February 14)*

To be completed in class. Short answer and short essay format.

25% -- *Essay*

To be discussed in class.

35% -- *Final Exam (During Exam Period)*

Date to be determined. PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU SHOULD NOT PLAN TO BE AWAY FROM CAMPUS DURING THE EXAM PERIOD.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify key debates relevant to the historical and ongoing development of anthropological thinking.
- Appreciate the role that debate plays in anthropological (and all scholarly) thinking and practice.
- Effectively evaluate and communicate alternative approaches to key topics in the field of anthropology.

Course Policies (please read carefully)

1. Students are responsible for ALL assigned readings unless notified otherwise by the instructor.
2. Attendance of classes is expected. Students should keep in mind that they may be tested on ALL material that is covered in class (including videos and research presentations). This will generally include a good deal of material that is not covered in course readings. If students are unable to attend a class, they are expected to obtain notes from a classmate.
3. Students are allowed to use laptop computers in class, but only for purposes related to the course. The instructor will ask students using laptops or other technology for non-course related purposes to leave the class.
4. Assignments and essays are due on the dates listed in this outline. Any late assignments or essays will be penalized at a rate of 5% / working day late.
5. Students should retain copies of all material handed in. Please note that the instructor does not accept primary responsibility for assignments or essays submitted outside of class time or office hours. In all cases, copies of material submitted should be retained by the student.
6. All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detections software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).
7. All term assignments must be submitted prior to the beginning of the exam period. Any work that is outstanding at this point will receive a grade of 0.
8. ANY ACTS OF **PLAGIARISM** WILL RESULT IN A GRADE OF 0 ON THE RELEVANT ASSIGNMENT/ESSAY AND AN F IN THE COURSE.

9. University Policies: All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current academic policies regarding **accessibility, plagiarism and scholastic offences, and medical accommodation**.

These policies are outlined (with links to the full policies) at:

http://anthropology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/course_information/academic_policies.html

Course Sources

Required:

Taking Sides: Clashing Views in Anthropology, Welsch and Endicott (eds) – available in bookstore. Most tutorial discussions and weekly quizzes will be based on readings from this source.

Students are required to search out additional weekly readings on-line. All additional readings are required, and are freely available through a Western-networked computer.

Week by Week Breakdown

*Please note: All classroom work listed below (lectures and tutorials) will take place in our regular Tuesday evening slot. You **do not** need to sign up for separate tutorials. I will provide more instructions on how this will work during our first class.*

Week 1 – January 10 – Introductions

	Topic	Readings
Lecture	Introduction to the course.	None
Tutorial	Introduction to tutorial groups.	None

Week 2 – January 17 – Culture and/or Society?

	Topic	Readings
Tutorial QUIZ #1	But is it “science”?	<i>Taking Sides</i> , Issue 11, “Should Cultural Anthropology Stop Trying to Model Itself as a Science?”, pp. 237-263.
Lecture	Arguing for, against and about “culture”.	Brumann, Christoph 1999 “Writing for Culture: Why a Successful Concept Should Not Be Discarded”. <i>Current Anthropology</i> 40(S1): S1-S27.

Week 3 – January 24 – How do we do it?

	Topic	Readings
Tutorial QUIZ #2	Getting it wrong?	<i>Taking Sides</i> , Issue 12, "Was Margaret Mead's Fieldwork on Samoan Adolescents Fundamentally Flawed?", pp. 264-289.
Lecture	Ethnographic practice and processes.	Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. 2000 "Ire in Ireland." <i>Ethnography</i> 1(1): 117-140.

Week 4 – January 31 – Human Nature?

	Topic	Readings
Tutorial QUIZ #3	Is human violence a product of our evolution?	<i>Taking Sides</i> , Issue 2, "Are Humans Inherently Violent", pp. 15-39.
Lecture	Nature and/or nurture.	Kuper, Adam and Jonathan Marks 2011 "Anthropologists Unite!" <i>Nature</i> 470(10): 166-168. Gurven, Mulder and Smith. 2011 "Response to Kuper and Marks", available online at: (http://faculty.washington.edu/easmith/ReKuper&Marks.pdf)

Week 5 – February 7 – Cognition and Culture

	Topic	Readings
Tutorial QUIZ #4	How much is our thought influenced by the language we speak?	<i>Taking Sides</i> , Issue 9, "Does Language Shape How We Think?", pp. 188-214.
Lecture	Acculturation	Hirschfeld, Lawrence A. 2002 "Why don't anthropologists like children?" <i>American Anthropologist</i> 104(2): 611-627.

Week 6 – February 14 – MIDTERM

	Topic	Readings
Meet in regular lecture room.	MIDTERM (2 hours, in class)	No readings.

Week 7 – February 28 – Gender

	Topic	Readings
Tutorial QUIZ #5	Gender (in)equality?	<i>Taking Sides</i> , Issue 13, "Do Men Dominate Women in All Societies?", pp. 290-305.
Lecture	Thinking about gender.	Fong, Vanessa L. 2002 "China's One-Child Policy and the Empowerment of Urban Daughters". <i>American Anthropologist</i> 104(4): 1098-1109.

Week 8 – March 7 – Identity

	Topic	Readings
Tutorial QUIZ #6	Ethnic conflict.	<i>Taking Sides</i> , Issue 15, "Is Conflict Between Different Ethnic Groups Inevitable?", pp. 327-350.
Lecture	Identity	Leve, Lauren 2011 "Identity". <i>Current Anthropology</i> 52(4): 513-535.

Week 9 – March 14 – Power and Inequality

	Topic	Readings
Tutorial QUIZ #7	"Invented" traditions.	<i>Taking Sides</i> , Issue 16, "Do Native Peoples Today Invent Their Traditions", pp. 351-374.
Lecture	Ideology	Nader, Laura 1997 "Controlling Processes: Tracing the Dynamic Components of Power". <i>Current Anthropology</i> 38(5): 711-738

Week 10 – March 21 – Worldview

	Topic	Readings
Tutorial QUIZ #8	What is (super)natural?	<i>Taking Sides</i> , Issue 14, "Does the Distinction Between the Natural and the Supernatural Exist in All Cultures?", pp. 306-326.
Lecture	Religion/Worldview/Ontology	Luhrmann, Tanya 2012 "A Hyperreal God and Modern Belief: Toward an Anthropological Theory of Mind", <i>Current Anthropology</i> 53(4): 371-95.

Week 11 – March 28 – Globalization

	Topic	Readings
Lecture	History of the world.	Farmer, Paul 2004 "An Anthropology of Structural Violence". <i>Current Anthropology</i> , 45(3): 305-325.
Tutorial QUIZ #9	The politics of representation in an unequal world.	Taking Sides, Issue 17, "Should the Remains of Prehistoric Native Americans Be Reburied Rather Than Studied?", pp. 376-399.

Week 12 – April 4 – Applying Anthropology (Essay Due Date 1)*

	Topic	Readings
Tutorial QUIZ #10	Anthropology at war?	Gonzalez, Roberto 2007 "Towards a mercenary anthropology?" <i>Anthropology Today</i> 23(3):14-19 Kilcullen, David 2007 "Ethics, Politics, and Non-State Warfare." <i>Anthropology Today</i> 23(3): 21. McFate, Montgomery 2007 "Building Bridges or Burning Heretics?" <i>Anthropology Today</i> 23(3): 22
Lecture	Applying Anthropology.	Wood, Graeme 2013 "Anthropology Inc." <i>The Atlantic</i> , March 2013 (available online at: http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2013/03/anthropology-inc/309218/)

Week 13 – Essay Due no later than April 8

***** Final Exam – During Exam Period – (30%) *****

* Essays handed on the first due date will receive extensive comments, and are sure to be returned to you by the time of the final exam. Essays handed in on the second due date will receive fewer comments and may not be returned to you by the final exam. There is no grade penalty associated with submitting your essay on the second due date. Essays submitted after the second due date will be penalized at a rate of 5% (out of 100%)