

# Introduction to Anthropology: Course Syllabus

## Introduction to Anthropology: Uncovering Human Mysteries Course Syllabus

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

*"Anthropology demands the open-mindedness with which one must look and listen, record in astonishment and wonder that which one would not have been able to guess."* (Margaret Mead)

The aim of anthropology is to use a broad approach to gain an understanding of our past, present, future and address the problems humans face in biological, social and cultural life. This course will explore the evolution, similarity and diversity of humankind through time. It will look at how we have evolved from a biologically and culturally weak species to one that has the ability to cause catastrophic change. Exciting online video journeys to different areas of the world will also be presented in the course.

---

### ***Unit 1: Studying Humans: What Anthropologists Do***

#### **Objectives:**

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- \* **Describe anthropology, and explain why it is holistic.**
- \* **Define culture, and explain how anthropologists learn about other cultures.**
- \* **State why anthropology is a science and how it differs from other social sciences.**
- \* **Explain why anthropology is important, especially in today's world.**
- \* **Describe some careers in anthropology and the value of anthropology training.**

### **ASSIGNMENTS:**

***Studying Humans: What Anthropologists Do: Unit Text Questions***

***Homework***

10 points

---

<b><i>Studying Humans: What Anthropologists Do: Online Anthropology Lab Questions</i></b>	<b><i>Homework</i></b>	10 points
<b><i>Unit 1 Discussion Assignment 1</i></b>	<b><i>Discussion</i></b>	5 points
<b><i>Unit 1 Discussion Assignment 2</i></b>	<b><i>Discussion</i></b>	5 points
<b><i>Unit 1 Quiz: Studying Humans: What Anthropologists Do</i></b>	<b><i>Quiz</i></b>	15 points

## ***Unit 2: Culture & Language: Why Humans Are Special***

### **Objectives:**

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- \* **Define culture, and list cultural universals.**
- \* **Give examples of material, social, and ideological culture.**
- \* **Explain why art is an important part of culture.**
- \* **Identify ways that people acquire culture.**
- \* **List traits of human language.**
- \* **Outline the origin of human language.**
- \* **Describe modern human languages.**
- \* **State how language influences thought.**

### **ASSIGNMENTS:**

<b><i>Culture &amp; Language: Why Humans Are Special: Unit Text Questions</i></b>	<b><i>Homework</i></b>	10 points
---	------------------------	-----------

<b><i>Culture &amp; Language: Why Humans Are Special: Online Anthropology Lab Questions</i></b>	<b><i>Homework</i></b>	10 points
<b><i>Unit 2 Discussion Assignment 1</i></b>	<b><i>Discussion</i></b>	5 points
<b><i>Unit 2 Discussion Assignment 2</i></b>	<b><i>Discussion</i></b>	5 points
<b><i>Unit 2 Quiz: Culture &amp; Language: Why Humans Are Special</i></b>	<b><i>Quiz</i></b>	15 points

---

### ***Unit 3: Human Evolution: How We Got Here***

#### **Objectives:**

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- \* **State how and why evolution occurs.**
- \* **Identify different types of evidence for evolution.**
- \* **Outline the events of early primate evolution.**
- \* **Describe the Australopithecines and their role in human evolution.**
- \* **Identify early species of Homo, including their traits and distribution.**
- \* **Describe where and when Homo sapiens evolved.**
- \* **Identify the Neandertals and what may have happened to them.**

#### **ASSIGNMENTS:**

<b><i>Human Evolution: How We Got Here; Unit Text Questions</i></b>	<b><i>Homework</i></b>	10 points
---	------------------------	-----------

---

<b><i>Human Evolution: How We Got Here: Online Anthropology Lab Questions</i></b>	<b><i>Homework</i></b>	10 points
<b><i>Unit 3 Discussion Assignment 1</i></b>	<b><i>Discussion</i></b>	5 points
<b><i>Unit 3 Discussion Assignment 2</i></b>	<b><i>Discussion</i></b>	5 points
<b><i>Unit 3 Quiz: Human Evolution: How We Got Here</i></b>	<b><i>Quiz</i></b>	15 points

#### ***Unit 4: The Human Animal: Who We Are***

##### **Objectives:**

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- \* **Describe how humans are classified in the animal kingdom, and name our closest living relatives.**
- \* **Identify biological traits that define the human species, and explain how they are related to culture.**
- \* **Describe ways that humans vary, and explain why racial classifications are not useful.**

##### **ASSIGNMENTS:**

<b><i>The Human Animal: Who We Are: Unit Text Questions</i></b>	<b><i>Homework</i></b>	10 points
<b><i>The Human Animal: Who We Are: Online Anthropology Lab Questions</i></b>	<b><i>Homework</i></b>	10 points

<b>Unit 4 Discussion Assignment 1</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	5 points
<b>Unit 4 Discussion Assignment 2</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	5 points
<b>Unit 4 Quiz: The Human Animal: Who We Are</b>	<b>Quiz</b>	15 points

### **Anthropology Midterm Exam**

#### **Objectives:**

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- \* **Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.**
- \* **Take a course exam based on material from the first four units in this course**  
(Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)

#### **ASSIGNMENT:**

<b>Anthropology Midterm Exam</b>	<b>Exam</b>	<b>50 points</b>
<b>Midterm Discussion Assignment</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	5 points

## **Unit 5: All About Food: What We Do in Order to Eat**

### **Objectives:**

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- \* **Describe cuisines of different cultures.**
- \* **Identify cultural differences in eating habits.**
- \* **Contrast four basic types of subsistence strategy.**
- \* **Explain how subsistence strategy influences other aspects of culture.**
- \* **Describe social purposes served by food.**

### **ASSIGNMENTS:**

<i>All About Food: What We Do in Order to Eat: Unit Text Questions</i>	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
<i>The Human Animal: Who We Are Online Anthropology Lab Questions</i>	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
<i>Unit 5 Discussion Assignment 1</i>	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
<i>Unit 5 Discussion Assignment 2</i>	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
<i>Unit 5 Quiz: All About Food: What We Do in Order to Eat</i>	<i>Quiz</i>	15 points

## **Unit 6: Material Culture: How Humans Are Handy**

### **Objectives:**

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- \* Define archeology and the archeological record.
- \* Identify the types of material remains that people leave behind.
- \* Outline how archeologists find and excavate sites.
- \* Explain how archeologists analyze and interpret what they discover.
- \* Describe the earliest evidence of culture that was left behind by human ancestors.
- \* State when and how agriculture first developed.
- \* Describe other changes that agriculture brought.

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

<i>Material Culture: How Humans Are Handy: Unit Text Questions</i>	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
<i>Material Culture: How Humans Are Handy: Online Anthropology Lab Questions</i>	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
<i>Unit 6 Discussion Assignment 1</i>	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
<i>Unit 6 Discussion Assignment 2</i>	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
<i>Unit 6 Quiz: Material Culture: How Humans Are Handy</i>	<i>Quiz</i>	15 points

**Unit 7: Family Ties & Social Bonds: What Keeps Us Together**

**Objectives:**

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- \* Identify types of marriage rules and forms of marriage.
- \* Explain how residence patterns are related to household makeup.

- \* Describe different ways to trace relationships and name kin.
- \* Explain the importance of social groups and how social behavior is controlled.
- \* Compare and contrast different types of human societies.

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

<i>Family Ties &amp; Social Bonds: What Keeps Us Together: Unit Text Questions</i>	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
<i>Family Ties &amp; Social Bonds: What Keeps Us Together: Online Anthropology Lab Questions</i>	<i>Homework</i>	10 points
<i>Unit 7 Discussion Assignment 1</i>	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
<i>Unit 7 Discussion Assignment 2</i>	<i>Discussion</i>	5 points
<i>Unit 7 Quiz: Family Ties &amp; Social Bonds: What Keeps Us Together</i>	<i>Quiz</i>	15 points

**Unit 8: Religion: What We Believe**

**Objectives:**

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- \* **Religious myths (what they are; examples)**
- \* **Supernatural beings (what they are; examples)**
- \* **Religious practices (e.g., rituals, rites of passage, magic, sorcery, divination)**
- \* **Moral codes (what they are; examples)**

**ASSIGNMENTS:**



<b><i>Religion: What We Believe: Unit Text Questions</i></b>	<b><i>Homework</i></b>	10 points
<b><i>Religion: What We Believe: Online Anthropology Lab Questions</i></b>	<b><i>Homework</i></b>	10 points
<b><i>Unit 8 Discussion Assignment 1</i></b>	<b><i>Discussion</i></b>	5 points
<b><i>Unit 8 Discussion Assignment 2</i></b>	<b><i>Discussion</i></b>	5 points
<b><i>Unit 8 Quiz: Religion: What We Believe</i></b>	<b><i>Quiz</i></b>	15 points

### ***Anthropology Final Exam***

#### **Objectives:**

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- \* **Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.**
- \* **Take a course exam based on material from units five to eight in this course – the last four units. (Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)**

#### **ASSIGNMENT:**

<b><i>Anthropology Final Exam</i></b>	<b><i>Exam</i></b>	<b>50 points</b>
---------------------------------------	--------------------	------------------

***Class Reflection Discussion  
Assignment***

***Discussion***

10 points