

Syllabus

Introduction to Anthropology

Course Overview

This one-semester elective course is intended as a practical guide to introduce you to the field of anthropology. You will explore the evolution of anthropology as a distinct discipline, learn about anthropological terms, concepts and theories, and discuss the evolution of humans and human society and culture. Students will also learn about social institutions, such as marriage, economy, religion, and polity. The target audience for this course is high school students.

This course is structured into lessons and Course Activities as follows:

- The first lesson introduces students to the field of anthropology and its development as a distinct discipline. You'll learn some key ideas and methods in anthropology in the second lesson. The third lesson describes different branches of anthropology.
- In the fourth lesson, you'll learn about human origin and evolution.
- The next five lessons discuss important anthropological topics, such as culture, language and communication, art and aesthetics, subsistence and economy, and social groups.
- In lesson 9, you will learn about kinship and descent, and in lesson 13, you'll explore the concepts of race, caste, and ethnicity.
- Lessons 10, 12, and 14 delve into various social institutions—marriage and family, religion and belief systems, and political institutions respectively.

You will submit the Course Activity documents to your teacher, and you will grade your work in the Lesson Activities by comparing them with sample responses. Each lesson also has a multiple-choice mastery test. A multiple-choice end-of-semester test completes the course.

The Course Activities (submitted to the teacher) and the Lesson Activities (self-checked) are major components of this course. They will guide your learning as you work through this course.

Course Goals

This course will help you meet the following goals:

- Trace the growth of anthropology as a distinct discipline.
- Describe the contributions of pioneering anthropologists.
- Describe various anthropological terms, concepts, and theories.
- Discuss important topics in anthropology, such as culture, art, aesthetics, social groups, race, and ethnicity.
- Analyze the roles and functions of various socio-cultural institutions, such as marriage, religion, and polity.

Prerequisite Skills

Introduction to Anthropology is a beginner's course and does not have specific prerequisites. Nevertheless, these fundamental skills will be helpful:

- basic computer skills
- the ability to understand how social factors shape our world
- an interest in socio-cultural processes and phenomena
- the ability to structure and process information
- familiarity with the writing process

General Skills

To participate in this course, you should be able to do the following:

- Perform basic operations with word processing software, such as Microsoft Word or Google Docs.
- Perform online research using various search engines and library databases.
- Communicate through email and participate in discussion boards.

For a complete list of general skills that are required for participation in online courses, refer to the Prerequisites section of the Plato Student Orientation document, found at the beginning of this course.

Credit Value

Introduction to Anthropology is a 0.5-credit course.

Course Materials

- Notebook
- Computer with Internet connection and speakers or headphones
- Microsoft Word or equivalent
- Microsoft Excel or equivalent
- Microsoft PowerPoint or equivalent

Course Pacing Guide

This course description and pacing guide is intended to help you stay on schedule with your work. Note that your course instructor may modify the schedule to meet the specific needs of your class.

Day	Activity / Plato Objective	Type
1 day:	Course Orientation <i>Review the Plato Student Orientation and Course Syllabus at the beginning of this course.</i>	
5 days: 2-6	Understanding Anthropology <i>Describe the origin and evolution of anthropology.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 7-11	Key Ideas, Thinkers, and Methods in Anthropology <i>Discuss the basic concepts, key ideas, formative contributors, and research practices in anthropology.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 12-16	Branches of Anthropology <i>Describe the various branches of and careers within the field of anthropology.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 17-19	Being an Anthropologist	Course Activity
1 day: 20	Contributions of Anthropology	Course Discussion
1 day: 21	Para Jumble	Activity
5 days: 22-26	Human Origin and Evolution <i>Discuss the theories and models of human origin and evolution.</i>	Lesson
5 days: 27-31	Culture and Society <i>Describe origin of human culture and its role in society.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 32-35	Language and Communication <i>Discuss the varieties and functions of communication found in different cultures.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 36-38	Cultural Influences	Course Activity
1 day: 39	Future of Human Evolution	Course Discussion

Day	Activity / Plato Objective	Type
1 day: 40	Space Jumble	Activity
4 days: 41-44	Art and Aesthetics <i>Explain the cultural relativity and functions of aesthetics.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 45-48	Subsistence, Food, and Economy <i>Explain the cultural and social significance of food and its production in human society.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 49-51	Festivals	Course Activity
1 day: 52	Ancient Art and Anthropology	Course Discussion
1 day: 53	Para Jumble	Activity
5 days: 54-58	Social Groups and Organization <i>Discuss the role of social groups in society.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 59-62	Marriage and Family <i>Discuss the concepts and theories related to marriage and family.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 63-66	Kinship and Descent <i>Describe the concepts related to kinship and descent.</i>	Lesson
3 Days: 67-69	Marriage and Kinship	Course Activity
1 Day: 70	Surrogacy and Kinship	Course Discussion
1 day: 71	Space Jumble	Activity
4 days: 72-75	Religion and Belief Systems <i>Discuss the role of religion and belief systems in society.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 76-79	Race, Caste, and Ethnicity <i>Explain the concepts of race, caste, and ethnicity.</i>	Lesson
4 days: 80-83	Political Institutions <i>Discuss political systems and social control.</i>	Lesson
3 days: 84-86	Religion	Course Activity

Day	Activity / Plato Objective	Type
1 day: 87	Society and Polity	Course Discussion
1 day: 88	Para Jumble	Activity
1 day: 89	Course Review	
1 day: 90	End of Course Test	Assessment