Introduction to Anthropology  
Fall Semester 2012

Meeting Times:  Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00am-12:15pm

Location:  D Building, Room 319

Instructor:  Chaya Spears

Office Hours:  By appointment but DO NOT HESITATE to email me and we’ll find time to meet!!

Contact Information:  e-mail: chaya.r.spears@gmail.com

Required Texts:

Kottak, Conrad Phillip  

Course Description:

This course will introduce you to the discipline of anthropology through the selected text, lectures, and in-class discussion. Over the semester, you will become familiar with the four subfields of anthropology and some of the core concepts, principles, and methods utilized by anthropologists working in each of those subfields. You will explore subjects that anthropologists find interesting and, as an anthropologist and your instructor, it is my goal to demonstrate the general utility of an anthropological perspective.

To help me meet this goal, I will incorporate both lecture and discussion into our regular meetings. I have also chosen an introductory textbook that will supplement the lectures. I may also incorporate additional readings and videos into the course, as necessary and appropriate.

During my lectures, I will present introductory information that is related to the day’s assigned reading. Periodically, we will devote a class session to discussion of reading and writing assignments, as well as lecture content. In the end, you will come away with a greater understanding of what anthropology is, what anthropologists do, and, I hope, a greater appreciation for the benefits of anthropological perspectives in everyday life.
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Course Requirements:
I will evaluate your effort and progress in the following ways:

1) Attendance (45 points)
   a. These points will come from your mere presence in each class session. You are allowed one unexcused absence.
   b. Excused absences include: documented personal and family emergencies (e.g., child’s illness, funeral, death in the family); other circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

2) Critical Analyses (45 points)
   Each student is expected to compose 9/10 possible critical analyses of scientific or popular articles from the last 12 years (since the year 2000 AD) that are related to specific concepts or issues discussed in class. Each critical analysis should be 1-2 pages in length and will be used as fodder during discussion sessions. The critical analyses will be due the day before a discussion session is scheduled. Each summary is worth five points. If a student chooses to complete all 10, the “extra” may serve as “extra credit.”

   IMPORTANT: Your critical analyses should follow the format outlined in the attached critical analysis guide. Include your key thoughts or questions about the article or the concepts from class to which they’re related. Be prepared to discuss your article and your analysis—this will help us avoid mostly quiet discussion sessions that are not only boring but also make me want to give pop quizzes in lieu of summary points.

3) Midterm Exam (30 points)
   a. This exam will be:
      1) based on everything you have learned up to the time of the exam, including the textbook, lectures, and any additional information discussed in class;
      2) comprised of some or all of the following: multiple choice, true/false, matching, short answer, and essay questions; and,
      3) conducted from 11:00AM-12:15PM on Thursday, October 18th.
   b. An in-class review for the final exam will be held from 11:00AM-12:15PM on Tuesday, October 16th.

4) Final Exam (30 points)
   a. This exam will be:
      1) based on everything you have learned since the midterm exam, including the textbook, lectures, and any additional information discussed in class;
      2) comprised of some or all of the following: multiple choice, true/false, matching, short answer, and essay questions; and,
      3) conducted from 11:00AM-12:15PM on Tuesday, December 18th.
   b. An in-class review for the final exam will be held from 11:00AM-12:15PM on Thursday, December 13th.
NOTE: All writing assignments are to be in 12-point font and double-spaced, with 1-inch margins.

To summarize:

Your grade will be based on the percentage of 150 points that you obtain over the course of our class.

Letter grades will be determined by a 10% scale. That is: 90-100%=A, 80-89%=B, 70-79%=C, 60-69%=D, and below 50%=F.

Classroom Comportment:

1) Turn off all electronic equipment during class; this includes laptops/ipads/netbooks, cell phones & smart phones, ipods/mp3 players, and all other similar equipment.

2) Please do not engage in non-course related discussions during class time.

3) Please put all non-course related reading materials away during class-time.

4) Please refrain from sleeping during class.

If the above guidelines are repeatedly violated, I will incorporate pop quizzes into the course.

5) I do not tolerate cheating or plagiarism. If you are caught cheating or plagiarizing once, the assignment will receive a zero score. If you are caught a second time, you will fail the course.

Cheating is using notes, textbooks, cheat-sheets (electronic or other), instant messaging, texting, videochat/videocalls, photos, or any other such additional materials (aside from your brain and your writing utensil) to complete a test.

Plagiarism is taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as your own. It is fine to reference others’ words and ideas or use them to support your argument but you must use quotation marks to denote statements made by others when you use their exact words and you must cite them and their work when you reference of use their ideas or concepts (spoken or written).
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### Tentative Course Trajectory and Assignments

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics and Assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/21-23</td>
<td>8/21</td>
<td>Hello there! Introductions and the syllabus</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Lecture #1: What is science? NO READING ASSIGNMENT</td>
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<td>8/23</td>
<td>Lecture #2: What is anthropology? Reading Assignment: Chapter 1 (pp. 3-23)</td>
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<td>8/28-30</td>
<td>8/28</td>
<td>Lecture #3: What is culture? Reading Assignment: Chapter 2 (pp.24-47) Critical Analysis #1 is due at the end of class.</td>
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<td>8/30</td>
<td>Lecture #4: Applying anthropology Reading Assignment: Chapter 3 (pp. 48-69) Discussion Session #1</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/4-6</td>
<td>9/4</td>
<td>Lecture #5: What is physical anthropology? Reading Assignment: Chapter 4 (pp. 70-91)</td>
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<td>9/6</td>
<td>Lecture #6: Thinking about evolution Reading Assignment: Chapter 5 (pp. 92-113)</td>
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<td>9/11-13</td>
<td>9/11</td>
<td>Lecture #7: Human Variation and Adaptation Reading Assignment: Chapter 6 (pp. 144-205) Critical Analysis #2 is due at the end of class.</td>
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<td>9/13</td>
<td>Lecture #8: What does it mean to be a primate? Reading Assignment: Chapter 7 (pp. 134-159) Discussion Session #2</td>
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<td>9/18-20</td>
<td>9/18</td>
<td>Lecture #9: What does it mean to be “human”? Reading Assignment: Chapter 8 (pp. 160-183) Critical Analysis #3 is due at the end of class.</td>
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<td>9/20</td>
<td>Lecture #10: What came before “humans”? Reading Assignment: Chapter 9 (pp. 184-205) Discussion Session #3</td>
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9/25-27  9/25  Lecture #11: Thinking about “modern humans”
Reading Assignment: Chapter 10 (pp. 206-229)

9/27    Lecture #12: Archaeology & The Human Past, Part 1
Reading Assignment: Chapter 11 (pp. 230-253)
Critical Analysis #4 is due at the end of class.

10/2-4  10/2    Lecture #13: Archaeology & The Human Past, Part 2
Reading Assignment: Chapter 12 (pp. 254-279)
Discussion Session #4

10/4     “Life’s Really Big Questions”

10/9-11  10/9    Lecture #14: What do cultural anthropologists do?
Reading Assignment: Chapter 13 (pp. 280-309)
Critical Analysis #5 is due at the end of class.

10/11   Lecture #15: What is linguistic anthropology?
Reading Assignment: Chapter 14 (pp. 310-333)
Discussion Session #5
Receive Mid-term Exam Review Sheets

10/16-18  10/16  Review for Midterm Exam

10/18    Midterm Exam

10/23-25  10/23  Lecture #16: The Race Issue
Reading Assignment: Chapter 15 (pp. 334-359)
Critical Analysis #6 due at the end of class.

10/25    Discussion Session #6

10/30-11/1  10/30  Lecture #17: Thinking about food
Reading Assignment: Chapter 16 (pp. 360-287)

11/1     Lecture #18: Politics, Politics Everywhere
Reading Assignment: Chapter 17 (pp. 388-415)

11/6-8  11/6    Lecture #19: On Sex and Gender
Reading Assignment: Chapter 18 (pp. 416-443)
Critical Analysis #7 is due at the end of class.

11/8     Lecture #20: What does it mean to be a family?
Reading Assignment: Chapter 19 (pp. 444-465)
Discussion Session #7
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
<th>Discussion Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>11/13-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/13</td>
<td>Lecture #21: What is “marriage”?</td>
<td>Reading Assignment: Chapter 20 (pp. 466-489)</td>
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<td>11/15</td>
<td>“Hands to Work, Hearts to God” (~30 minutes)</td>
<td>Critical Analysis #8 is due at the end of class.</td>
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<td>11/20</td>
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<td>Discussion Session #8</td>
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<td>11/27-29</td>
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<td>11/27</td>
<td>Lecture #22: What is a “religion”?</td>
<td>Reading Assignment: Chapter 21 (pp. 490-515)</td>
<td>Critical Analysis #9 is due at the end of class.</td>
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<td>11/29</td>
<td>Lecture #23: “That’s Entertainment!”</td>
<td>Reading Assignment: Chapter 22 (pp. 516-545)</td>
<td>Discussion Session #9</td>
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<td>12/4-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/4</td>
<td>Lecture #24: Thinking about Globalization</td>
<td>Reading Assignment: Chapter 23 (pp. 546-571)</td>
<td>Critical Analysis #10 is due at the end of class.</td>
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<td>12/6</td>
<td>Lecture #25: The Wide, Wide World</td>
<td>Reading Assignment: Chapter 24 (pp. 572-597)</td>
<td>Discussion Session #10</td>
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<td>12/10-14</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/11</td>
<td>“First Contact” (~52 minutes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/13</td>
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<td>Receive Final Exam Review Sheets</td>
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<td>12/18</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Final Exam Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/18</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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**Class is cancelled Thursday, November 22.**

**Happy Thanksgiving!!**

**Please contact me if you would like to review your final exam in January, 2013.**

**It has been a pleasure getting to know you!**

**Have a wonderful winter break!!**
**Critical Analysis Guide**

**IMPORTANT:** Your analysis must be organized in accordance with the numbered steps outlined below, with every item addressed. If you feel that any of the items are not applicable to the article in question, you must specifically state why it is not. Please number the sections in accordance with the numbered items and attach a copy of the piece you analyze.

**REMEMBER:** You must be able to demonstrate that the piece is directly relevant to our class and specify the concepts that it uses or to which it relates.

1. Give the full article citation in the following format:
   
   Author’s Name (Last, First)
   

2. What are the author’s objectives for the article or book, whether explicit or implicit? Did he/she meet those objectives? Why or why not?

3. What methods did the author use to research his/her topic and what problems might arise with such methods? Were those methods appropriate to his/her study? Why or why not?

4. What were the author’s findings, conclusions, and/or inferences?

5. What is the significance of this work for our class? How did it utilize or relate to concepts from this course?

6. What is your evaluation of the work? What might you have done differently, if anything? Why and how? If you would not have changed anything, why not?

**Suggestions and Helpful Tips:** BE SPECIFIC! General statements won’t demonstrate to me that you’ve read and seriously considered the work. Remember to illustrate your arguments with specific examples from the text. It might be helpful if to write 1-3 paragraphs summarizing the major points or methods discussed in each section, as well as any critical thoughts or questions you might have after reading them.