

Peoples and Cultures of the World

ANTH 205 – Spring 2013



Mondays and Wednesdays, 16:10 – 17:25 PM – NCTM 122

Office Hours Monday 13:30 – 15:00 – Anthropology Bld. 105A

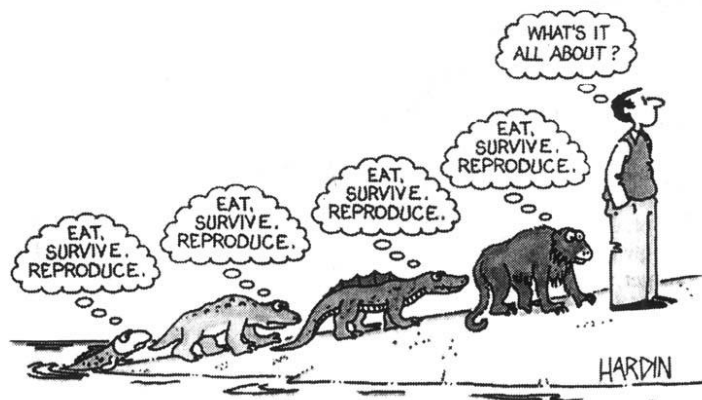
Instructor: Dr. Filipe Castro (fvcastro@tamu.edu)

The course explores four topics from an anthropological perspective. First we will discuss some aspects of the similarities and differences among human cultures, and discuss some cultural aspects that characterize human beings. Second, we will examine the role of colonialism and try to understand why inequities continue to plague the world today. Third, we will examine the victors and the vanquished that resulted from the *Age of Discovery* and how that period affected traditional societies around the world. Fourth, we will look at a range of global problems and crises that are affecting different cultures in various ways: globalization, terrorism, overpopulation, disease, poverty, warfare, and world debt. The overriding objective throughout the course will be to discuss these topics in a way that will demonstrate how an understanding of culture, history, environment, colonialism, and global problems will help us build a better perspective and understanding of why the world is the way it is today. This is an introductory course and thus there are no prerequisites for taking it.

Learning Objectives of the Course

As a result of taking this course you should gain a basic understanding of different human cultures and the variety of customs, which are considered the norm by some cultures but are not adopted by others.

Hopefully, you will gain new insights into how cultures change over time, how historical events have affected human cultures, the important role humans must play in saving our natural environment, the impact of colonialism on today's cultures and the many global problems that nations face today.



Grades

The course grade will be based on three (3) exams. There will be ten (10) unannounced quizzes. Each exam will be worth one third of your grade ($3 \times 33.3\% = 100\%$). The quizzes will not be graded. Letter Grades are based on the following scale: 100-90 = A; 80-89.9 = B; 70-79.9 = C; 60-69.9 = D; <60 = F. The final exam is not comprehensive.

Due to security requirements we will not be able to tell you any grade over the telephone or by email. Grades will only be posted on the course website and can be accessed there.

Tests

Each test will consist of 50 to 100 multiple choice questions. Approximately 50% of the questions for each exam will come directly from lectures and any movie or video listed on your syllabus and/or shown during the assigned times. The other 50% of each exam will come from information in the readings.

Note that you must bring a photo ID with you to take each test. We need to be certain who you are and that you are enrolled in the course!

Missed Exams: Students who miss an exam on the scheduled test day must notify the instructor or a teaching assistant as soon as possible. Only students with a valid university excused absence will be allowed to take a make-up exam.

Extra credit projects are not an option in this course. Bonus questions may be available for each test, and will be based on short articles about current issues in anthropology.

Attendance

I do not take attendance, but I am under no obligation to provide any opportunity for the student to make up work missed because of an unexcused absence. ***Absent students will not be given any opportunity to take the quizzes.***

Videos

Some scheduled movies will be shown in class; some you will have to watch in the library, or online.

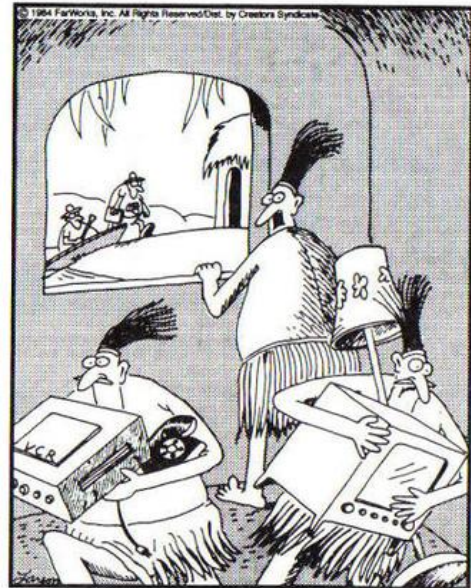
The Mission, 1986. Dir. Roland Joffé.

Black Robe, 1991. Dir. Bruce Beresford.

The End of Poverty? 2011. Dir. Philippe Diaz

These movies are longer than the class duration, so they must be streamed from the Ed MS website, or viewed on line or by going to the library.

THE FAR SIDE® BY GARY LARSON



"Anthropologists! Anthropologists!"



Readings

I am basing most of the classes on chapters of two **books** and one small booklet, which can be downloaded from the National Academy of Sciences website:

Conrad Kottak. *Mirror for Humanity* (1999 and 2011). Boston, etc.: McGraw Hill.

Scott Sernau. *Global Problems: The Search for Equity, Peace, and Sustainability* (2nd edition 2009). Boston, etc.: Pearson Publishing.

Steering Committee on Science and Creationism. *Science and Creationism: A View from the National Academy of Sciences*, Washington: National Academy of Sciences (2nd edition - <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/6024.html>).

The content of my classes will be complemented with a small number of *papers and book chapters* that will help clarify some concepts. The PDF files will be accessible through Blackboard:

Gordon Allport 1954 – *The Nature of Prejudice*. Cambridge, Mass.: Addison-Wesley Pub. Co. Chapters 1 and 2.

Felipe Fernandez-Armesto 2006 – *Pathfinders*. New York : W. W. Norton. Chapter 1 – Stretching: the First Trail Finders.

For those interested in exploring the subjects taught in class, there will be extra readings and videos. Some of these materials are videos, sometimes from TED (www.ted.com), but there are other sources, mostly available online. An incomplete list is presented below. ***These readings are NOT mandatory:***

Paul Bahn, *Cambridge Illustrated History of Archaeology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999 (Class 2).

Christopher Hitchens “Tea’d Off” in *Vanity Fair*, Jan. 2011 (Class 4).

Kevin Pope and John Terrell, “Environmental setting of human migrations in the circum-Pacific region” in *Journal of Biogeography* (2008) 35: 1-21 (Class 4)

Steven Shapin, *A Social History of Truth. Civility and Science in 17th Century England*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1994 (Class 4).

Diversity Statement

Respect for cultural diversity is a core concept of Anthropology. In this course, each voice in the classroom has something of value to contribute to class discussion. Please respect the different experiences, beliefs and values expressed by your fellow students and refrain from anti-intellectual comments about other individuals, cultures, groups, or viewpoints. The Anthropology Department supports the Texas A&M University commitment to Diversity, and welcomes individuals of all ethnic groups, genders, sexual orientations, and family backgrounds.



Visit: <http://diversity.tamu.edu/WhatsDiversity/CommitmentToDiversity.aspx>.

Course Schedule

1. Intro 2011

No readings other than the Syllabus

2. The Discipline of Anthropology

Readings:

- Class Notes

3. A Short History of the Past

Readings:

- Class Notes
- *Science and Creationism: A View from the National Academy of Sciences*, Second Edition (<http://www.nap.edu/catalog/6024.html>)

4. A Quick Look at Diversity

Readings and PBS Video:

- Class Notes
- Fernandez-Armesto 2006 – *Pathfinders* – Chapter 1 – Stretching: the First Trail Finders.
- Allport 1956 – *The Nature of Prejudice* – Chapter 1 – Preferential Thinking.
- Allport 1956 – *The Nature of Prejudice* – Chapter 2 – The Normality of Pre-Judgment.
- Watch PBS Video: A Class Divided, Parts 1- *The Daring Lesson*; and 2 – *Day Two*: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/divided/>

5. Video: Race, the Power of an Illusion

Readings:

- *Ten things everyone should know about race*:
http://www.pbs.org/race/000_About/002_04-background-01-x.htm
- *Human diversity - go deeper*:
http://www.pbs.org/race/000_About/002_04-background-01-11.htm

6. Culture

Readings:

- Class Notes
- Kottak 1999 – Chapter 2 – Culture.



7. Kinship

Readings:

- Class Notes
- Kottak 2011 – Chapter 7 – Families, Kinship, and Marriage.

8. Bands and Tribes

Readings:

- Class Notes
- Sernau 2009 – Chapter 7 – Democracy and Human Rights, pp. 180-185.
- Kottak 1999 – Chapter 6 – Political Systems

9. Chiefdoms and States

Readings:

- Class Notes
- Kottak 1999 – Chapter 6 – Political Systems

10. First Exam

11. Money and the Rise of Capitalism

Readings:

- Class Notes
- Sernau 2009 – Chapter 1 – Class: A World of Rich and Poor.

12. 'Haves' and 'Have Nots'

Readings:

- Class Notes
- Sernau 2009 – Chapter 1 – Class: A World of Rich and Poor.

13. Religion

Readings:

- Class Notes
- Sernau 2009 – Chapter 8 – Ethnicity and Religion.
- Kottak 2011 – Chapter 9 – Religion



14. Marriage and Sex

Readings:

- Class Notes
- Sernau 2009 – Chapter 3 – Gender and Family.

15. Colonialism

Readings:

- Class Notes
- Kottak 2011 – Chapter 10 – The World System and Colonization
- Video: *The End of Poverty?*

16. Age of Discovery and New Spain

Readings:

- Class Notes
- Sernau 2009 – Chapter 6 – War.

17. Movie: *The Mission*

Readings:

- Movie *The Mission* Notes

18. Settlement of New England

Readings:

- Class Notes

19. Settlement of Canada

Readings:

- Class Notes

20. Movie: *Black Robe*

Readings:

- Movie *Black Robe* Notes

21. Indian Acculturation

Readings:

- Class Notes
- Sernau 2009 – Chapter 8 – Ethnicity and Religion.



22. Second Exam

23. Anthropology of the American Diet

Readings:

- Class Notes

24. World in Crisis I

Readings:

- Class Notes
- Sernau 2009 – Chapter 2 – Work.
- Sernau 2009 – Chapter 4 – Education.

25. World in Crisis II

Readings:

- Class Notes
- Sernau 2009 – Chapter 9 – Urbanization.

26. Why Are There So Many People?

Readings:

- Class Notes
- Sernau 2009 – Chapter 10 – Population and Health.
- Sernau 2009 – Chapter 11 – Technology and Energy.

27. World in Crisis III - Pollution

Readings:

- Class Notes
- Sernau 2009 – Chapter 12 – Ecology.

28. World in Crisis IV - Trade

Readings:

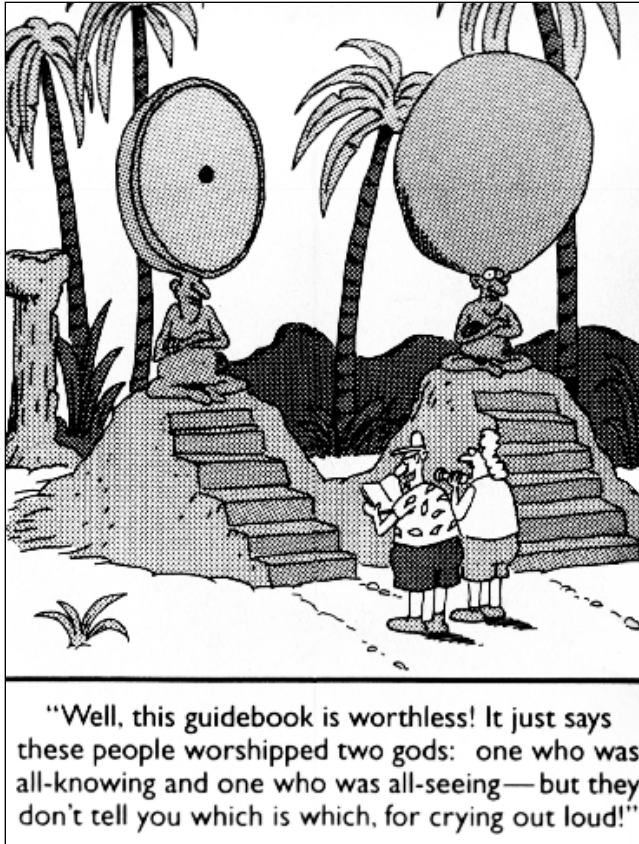
- Class Notes
- Sernau 2009 – Conclusion.

29. Final Exam



Aggie Code of Honor

An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate those who do. The Aggie Code of Honor affirms values that apply to students, faculty, and staff alike. This simple statement exemplifies two of our core values—excellence and integrity—and underscores our commitment to ethical conduct and compliance with laws and official policies.



These core values forge a strong base to embrace our other core values of leadership, loyalty, respect, and selfless service (see web site:

<http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor>).

Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, in Cain Hall, Room B118, or call 845-1637. For additional information visit:

<http://disability.tamu.edu>.

I hope you enjoyed the class!

