

*NATIVE AMERICANS: ANCIENT PAST AND PRESENT*  
*ANTHROPOLOGY 4330*

**Fall Semester 2025**

Location: ONLINE, ASYNCHONOUS

**Instructor**

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**Course Description**

This course takes examines the temporal scope of human prehistory in two parts.

The first half of the class examines the biological origins of humanity and the attributes that make us human. The second half examines the theoretical framework regarding why complex society (AKA, civilization) developed and then examines examples of this development through the human past. In part, the lens of the concept of the Anthropocene will be used to view these developments. The Anthropocene is the current period of geological time and is defined as the period during which the major casual force for landscape change is the activity of humans. So, we will examine how prehistoric civilizations impacted the landscape of our planet

**Textbook:** There is no textbook for this course. Readings will be provided via CANVAS.

**Class**

Classes (lectures) will be online and asynchronous. There will be two 70-minute lecture modules each week. They will be opened on Monday morning and closed on the following Monday. You are free to participate in both during this period. In addition to lectures, there will be films and reading provided via Canvas. **The lectures and case studies will complement but not duplicate the readings. You are expected to have read appropriate assignments prior to coming to class.** It is the student's responsibility to be aware of all deadlines and material discussed in class.

The key to success in this class is simply keeping up with the work.

Since this class is asynchronous, we may not be interacting with each other on a daily basis. In order to ensure that your questions are answered, we will arrange zoom meetings with you individually or in small groups via zoom or in person, three times during the semester. I will be contacting you to arrange these meetings soon after the semester begins. All such contacts will be done through Canvas.

**Grading**

Grading will be based on multiple writing assignments. There will be five biweekly short tests asking students to contextualize material presented, including materials from the readings and videos. Students

are expected to be able to synthesize major concepts and be responsible for specific details presented in class and the textbook. Additionally, each student will write a 7-page paper on a topic of their choice related to each of the 3 modules.

**Grades will be weighed as follows:**

5 Biweekly Tests (10% each)	50 points
3 7-page papers (16.7% each)	50%

**Attendance:**

Attendance in this class is mandatory. Since this is an online class, you are expected to login and for the amounts of time required for each lecture, film, assignment, etc. University courses are about learning a wealth of material in a short period of time - with the goal of being able to think critically about the topic at hand. Attendance will greatly increase your ability to understand the field of anthropology.

Additionally, attendance will improve your quiz, exam and final paper grades. You will be allowed one unexcused absence. Each subsequent unexcused absence will result in a reduction of your attendance and participation grade. (Please note my definition of an excused absence is broad and includes not only illness, but also work-related conflicts, personal days, etc. For an absence to be excused you will need to advise me ASAP.)

**Research Paper Requirements:** Students will write 3 7-page papers. These are to be structured as double-spaced, 12-point New Times Roman font, and APA citation format). There should be approximately 10 peer-reviewed references per paper. Paper will be evaluated according to the following rubric:

Criterion	Good (90-100%)	Fair (75-90%)	Poor (<75%)
<b>Content and Development</b>  ____/50 points	Content is comprehensive, addresses itself to the issues raised by the prompt and the major points are clearly stated and well supported.	Content is not comprehensive or persuasive. Major points are identified but not well addressed. Content is inconsistent with regard to purpose and clarity of thought.	Content is incomplete. Paper demonstrates little or no understanding of the issues raised by the prompt. The content is confused or confusing and without apparent purpose.

<b>Organization and Structure</b> ____/20 points	The <i>structure</i> of the paper is clear. The <i>Introduction/Thesis paragraph</i> demonstrates sufficient understanding of the issues and previews major points. <i>Paragraph transitions</i> are present, logical, and maintain the flow of thought throughout the paper. <i>The conclusion</i> is logical and flows from the body of the paper.	Structure of the paper is not easy to follow. The Introduction/Thesis is missing or, if provided, does not demonstrate an understanding of the issues or preview major points. Paragraph transitions need improvement. The conclusion is missing or, if provided, does not flow from the body of the paper. You should not use crutch phrases like “In conclusion...”	Poor or missing organization and structure detract from the writer’s discussion. The Introduction/Thesis is missing. Paragraphs are disjointed and lack transition of thought—or they are merely missing.
<b>Format</b> ____/10 points	Paper follows these guidelines and is of the appropriate length.	Paper follows most guidelines or is too long or too short.	Paper lacks many elements of proper formatting. Writer does not follow directions.
<b>Grammar, Spelling, and Punctuation</b> ____/20 points	Rules of grammar, usage, and punctuation are followed. Spelling is correct. Language is clear and precise. Sentences display consistently strong, varied structure.	Paper contains few grammatical, punctuation, and spelling errors. Language lacks clarity or includes the use of some jargon or conversational tone.	Paper contains numerous grammatical, punctuation, and spelling errors. Language uses jargon or is too conversational in tone.

### Tentative Schedule for Class

DATE	4330 Origins of Humanity and Civilization

<b>Aug 26</b>	Introductory material;
<b>Aug 28</b>	Developing the Modern View of the World and our place in it.
<b>Sept 2</b>	The Origins of Humanity, Stratigraphy Explained
<b>Sept 4</b>	The Origins of Humanity, Stratigraphy Explained
<b>Sept 9</b>	The Australopithecines
<b>Sept 11</b>	The Australopithecines
	<i>Biweekly test</i>
<b>Sept 16</b>	The Plio-Pleistocene Boundary and the Early Genus Homo
<b>Sept 18</b>	The Plio-Pleistocene Boundary and the Early Genus Homo
<b>Sept 23</b>	Late Genus Homo and the Human Diaspora;
<b>Sept 25</b>	Late Genus Homo and the Human Diaspora;
	<i>Biweekly Test</i>
<b>Sept 30</b>	The Origins of Art and Reverence of the Dead.
<b>Oct 2</b>	The Origins of Art and Reverence of the Dead.
<b>Oct 7</b>	The Anthropocene
<b>Oct 9</b>	The Anthropocene
	<i>Biweekly Test</i>
<b>Oct 14</b>	Theories of the Origin of civilizations
<b>Oct 16</b>	Theories of the Origin of civilizations
<b>Oct 21</b>	Early Civilization and the Early Anthropocene in Middle America 1
<b>Oct 23</b>	Early Civilization and the Early Anthropocene in Middle America 2
	<i>Biweekly Test</i>
<b>Oct 28</b>	Early Civilization and the Early Anthropocene in South America
<b>Oct 30</b>	Early Civilization and the Early Anthropocene in South America
<b>Nov 4</b>	Early Civilization and the Early Anthropocene in the Indus Valley
<b>Nov 6</b>	Early Civilization and the Early Anthropocene in the Indus Valley
<b>Nov 11</b>	
<b>Nov 13</b>	
	<i>Biweekly Test</i>
<b>Nov 18</b>	Into the Future: The contemporary Anthropocene
<b>Nov 20</b>	Into the Future: The contemporary Anthropocene
<b>Thanksgiving</b>	Vacation
<b>Dec 2</b>	TBA

<b>Dec 4</b>	TBA
<b>Dec 8-12</b>	FINAL EXAMS-third paper due

**Please read carefully the following pages of this syllabus which contains university-wide policies on student's rights and responsibilities, disability services, emergency procedures, etc.**

### **UT Tyler Honor Code**

Every member of the UT Tyler community joins together to embrace: Honor and integrity that will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do. If you are reading this, you should know that there is a \$20 bill under an eraser by the whiteboard in this room. The first person to get it owns it.

**Classroom distractions:** Cell phones, text messages and any other contact with persons outside of the classroom is a distraction to other students (as well as the instructor) and will not be tolerated.

### **Students Rights and Responsibilities**

To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: <http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php>

### **Campus Carry**

We respect the right and privacy of students 21 and over who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campuscarry/index.php>

### **UT Tyler a Tobacco-Free University**

All forms of tobacco will not be permitted on the UT Tyler main campus, branch campuses, and any property owned by UT Tyler. This applies to all members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, University affiliates, contractors, and visitors.

Forms of tobacco not permitted include cigarettes, cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookah), bidis, kreteks, electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco, and all other tobacco products. There are several cessation programs available to students looking to quit smoking, including counseling, quitlines, and group support. For more information on cessation programs please visit [www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free](http://www.uttyler.edu/tobacco-free).

### **Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies**

Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at <http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar>. Each semester's Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.

Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract. The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions of which students need to be aware. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a "W" grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions waivers

### **Financial Aid State-Mandated Course Drop Policy**

Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

### **Disability/Accessibility Services**

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with Cynthia Lowery, Assistant Director of Student Services/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices>, the SAR office located in the University Center, # 3150 or call 903.566.7079.



### **Student Absence due to Religious Observance**

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

### **Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities**

If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

### **Social Security and FERPA Statement**

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

### **Emergency Exits and Evacuation**

Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor's directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

### **Student Standards of Academic Conduct**

Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

i. **“Cheating” includes, but is not limited to:**

- copying from another student's test paper;
- using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- failure to comply with instructions given by the person administering the test;
- possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed “crib notes”. The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
- using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
- collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
- discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;

- divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructors has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
  - substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
  - paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program or information about an unadministered test, test key, home solution or computer program;
  - falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
  - taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of The University of Texas at Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and
  - misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.
- ii. “Plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the submission of it as one’s own academic work offered for credit.
- iii. “Collusion” includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.
- iv. All written work that is submitted will be subject to review by plagiarism software.
- v. If you have read this syllabus, please email your professor (see page one for the correct email address) a picture of a dog by the census date and you will receive a five point bonus on the first exam.

## **Recording of Class Sessions**

Class sessions may be recorded by the instructor for use by students enrolled in this course. Recordings that contain personally identifiable information or other information subject to FERPA shall not be shared with individuals not enrolled in this course unless appropriate consent is obtained from all relevant students. Class recordings are reserved only for the use of students enrolled in the course and only for educational purposes. Course recordings should not be shared outside of the course in any form without express permission.

## **UT Tyler Resources for Students**

- [UT Tyler Writing Center](mailto:writingcenter@uttyler.edu) 903.565.5995, [writingcenter@uttyler.edu](mailto:writingcenter@uttyler.edu)
- [UT Tyler Tutoring Center](mailto:tutoring@uttyler.edu) 903.565.5964, [tutoring@uttyler.edu](mailto:tutoring@uttyler.edu)
- [UT Tyler Counseling Center](mailto:counselingandwellness@uttyler.edu) 903.566.7254, [counselingandwellness@uttyler.edu](mailto:counselingandwellness@uttyler.edu)



- [UT Tyler Food Bank](#): Located in Library 223, this is a free service to all enrolled UTT students.  
See <https://www.uttyler.edu/service/food-pantry.php>
- UT Tyler Clinic: 903.939.7870 <https://www.uttyler.edu/clinic/>