

***ANTHROPOLOGY 4360***

***Topics in Anthropology Visual  
Anthropology***

***Spring Semester 2026***

Location: ONLINE, Asynchronous

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**Office Hours**

*Monday and Wednesday 11:00 -12:00 AM and any other time by appointment. You can email for an appointment any time.*

**Course Description:**

Anthropology is the scientific and humanistic study of all aspects of humanity. This course deals with how anthropology uses film and how anthropology is depicted in film. There will be 5 sections in the course, each taking approximately 3 weeks of our 15 week semester. The first module will summarize anthropological concepts for those who have not previously taken courses in the field. The following 4 modules will focus on aspects of the field and how film is visual material is utilized.

**Objectives**

1. Introduce students to the theoretical and historical background of visual anthropology.
2. Introduce students to methodologies of contemporary visual anthropology.
3. To increase students' research and scholarly skills through preparation and presentation of information related to the subject.

**Textbook:** None-All course material will be provided via CANVAS and in class.

**Class:**

Lectures will be provided via CANVAS and will be supplemented by readings, films and discussion. The lectures will complement but not duplicate the readings. In general, I will explain methods in class that are also covered in the text then use case studies to illustrate the utility of the particular methods. In general, 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.

**Grading:** The course grade will be based on 5 *short papers and one research paper*. The short papers will consist of a 2-3 page discussion of a topic to be assigned in class. and the and the highest 5 grades will be

counted towards the final grade. 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 10-page research paper on a subject agreed upon in advance.

DATE	TASK	DETAILS	SLO	POINTS
Feb 2	Choose Topic for Research Paper	1 page discussion of student's planned topic	Become able to conceptualize a theme associated with information from the class	10
Mar 2	List of references for research paper	Students compile lists of 10 peer-reviewed references applicable to the research paper topic	(1) Students learn what peer reviewed sources mean and (2) learn to compile literature applicable for research topic	10
Apr 13	Research Paper	10 pages (double space, 12 pt.) paper with at least 10 references	Students learn to demonstrate their ability to understand what scholarly information is, (1) demonstrate their abilities to command and synthesize information and (3) demonstrate their abilities to conduct scholarly research	30
	5 bi-weekly tests (best 5 are counted)	10 pts each	Students demonstrate grasp of course data and are able to contextualize that information.	50
TOTAL				100 pts

**GRADE SCALE:**

**A= 90-100; B= 80-89; C= 70-79; D= 60-79; F= 1-59**

**The Purposes of research papers include:**

Demonstrate your ability to understand what scholarly information is... and ... what is not.

Demonstrate your ability to command and synthesize scholarly information.

Demonstrate your ability to conduct scholarly research.

**Attendance & Deadlines:** You chose to spend your time and money to take this class. So, I assume you desire to spend them well. Consequently, I will not normally take attendance. Deadlines for all tests and assignments are absolute unless you have conferred with me in advance or have an excuse from the Dean or University. Otherwise, there will be no make-up exams. Written assignments must be turned in by the due date. Unexcused absences for assignment due dates will result in a grade of zero for the assignment.

**Classroom distractions:** Cell phones, text messages and any other contact with people outside of the classroom are considered to be distractions and will not be tolerated. Likewise, inappropriate activity inside the classroom will also not be tolerated.

### **PLAGARISM & CHEATING**

- It is your responsibility to know and understand the university policy on cheating and plagiarism.
- If you plagiarize or cheat, you WILL receive an F for this course.
- If you plagiarize, your case WILL be referred to the Dean for further action. Penalties may include expulsion.

**Make-Up Exams:** You may take a make-up exam only if you have made arrangements prior to the exam to do so. Do not ask for a make-up exam if you missed the exam without prior arrangements or have reason for an official absence.

**Academic Problems:** Feel free to talk with me about any problems you may have with the course. It's usually best to make an appointment to me in my office rather than trying to get an answer to a question or to take care of a problem between classes. Faculty members are expected to provide information at the start of each semester on how the final grade will be determined. I am extremely conscientious about determining student grades, but if you feel that an error has been made, talk with me. If you feel that your concerns have not been addressed, talk with the department chair or the dean of the school in that order.

### **UNIVERSITY POLICIES & STUDENT RESOURCES:**

Here are links to the applicable university policies.

- [University Policy](#)
- [Student Resources](#)

## **TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

### **Module One**

*Weeks of Jan 12- Jan 26*

*Introduction to Anthropology*

Lecture: Introduce students to the fundamentals of anthropological science.

Topics: Philosophy of Science, Cultural Relativity (Historical Particularism/Boas, etc); Cultural Materialism; Cultural Ecology; World Systems Theory

Films: Wade Davis Film –ANTH 101 and Ethnosphere; On Thin Ice (PBS ) – cultural ecology; NWC Case studies – cultural ecology

### **Module Two**

*Weeks of Feb 2- Feb 16*

*Depicting Native Americans*

Films: Yamamomo films, ITC films, Ishi

### **Module Three**

*Weeks of Feb 23-March 2*

*Infrastructure: Economic Anthropology*

Kula Ring videos; NWC Videos (river restorations, potlatch,etc.); Maya Cargo Cult

### **Module Four**

*Weeks of March 16-30*

*Social Structure: Cultural Anthropology*

Theme: Identity

Topics: NAGPRA, Boarding schools, etc

### **Module Five**

*Weeks of April 6 and 13*

Superstructure: Political Anthropology

Theme: Latin America

Voices of a Mountain

**Week of April 20    Review of Course**