ANTH 1500 - Introduction to Anthropology

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 03, CRN 41087,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Matt O'Mansky

Email: meomansky@ysu.edu

Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Dr. Matt O'Mansky
Instructor Professional Qualifications: Ph.D., Anthropology, Vanderbilt University, 2007
Bachelor's, Anthropology, Indiana University, 1991
Instructor Office Location: DeBartolo Hall 444b
Instructor Office Phone: 330-941-1688

Course Description

1500. Introduction to Anthropology. An exploration of what it means to be human from a biological and cultural perspective using archaeology, bioanthropology, and ethnography to trace over four million years of human development. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Anthropology: Appreciating Human Diversity, 19th edition	Conrad Phillip Kottak	9781266603914

Additional Course Materials

At times throughout the semester readings from other sources may be assigned. These readings will be made available on Blackboard and are listed below in the course schedule.

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	Miner, Horace Mitchell (1956) "Body Ritual among the Nacirema" (on Blackboard); try to read by class on Thur, 8/27 Kottak ch. 1 (pp. 1-17), ch. 2 (pp. 18-23), ch. 3 (pp. 37-41); SKIM pp. 41-55	Introduction to the professor and the course Getting your hands dirty: The college experience and opportunities Introduction to the course and the curious case of the Nacirema What is Anthropology? – The four fields Anthropology as a science The Role of Anthropology	None
8/31	Kottak ch. 5 (pp. 74-93)	Part I: Biological Anthropology Evolution and Genetics (simplified!) Mechanisms of Evolution	Discussion post 1 ("Introduce Yourself") due Sunday, 9/6, 11:59 PM Quiz 1 due Sunday 9/6, 11:59 PM Quiz 2 due Sunday 9/6, 11:59 PM
9/7	Kottak ch. 7 (pp. 111-131)	A Brief Introduction to the Primates and the First Hominins On the Road to Becoming Us	Discussion Post 2 ("Anthropology and You") due Sunday, 9/13, 11:59 PM Quiz 3 due Sunday 9/13, 11:59 PM
9/14	Kottak ch. 8 (pp. 132-150)	The Australopithecines	Quiz 4 due Sunday 9/20, 11:59 PM

9/21	Kottak ch. 9 (pp. 151-161)	The Appearance and Early History of Genus Homo	Quiz 5 due Sunday 9/27, 11:59 PM
9/28	Kottak ch. 9 (pp. 162-173), ch. 10 (pp. 174-179)	Archaic Homo sapiens, The Neandertals, and Anatomically Modern Humans	Exam 1 Thursday 10/1 (in class) Quiz 6 due Sunday 10/4, 11:59 PM
10/5	Kottak ch. 10 (pp. 179-194)	Part II: Archaeology The Roots of Human Culture: Upper Paleolithic Cave Paintings and Culture	Quiz 7 due Sunday 10/11, 11:59 PM
10/12	Kottak ch. 4 (pp. 56-73)	The Nature of Archaeological Inquiry: How do we know the past?	Quiz 8 due Sunday 10/18, 11:59 PM
10/19	Kottak ch. 17 (pp. 333-354), ch. 11 (pp. 195-215)	Political Organization: From Bands to States The Neolithic Revolution	Quiz 9 due Sunday 10/25, 11:59 PM NOTE: Last day to withdraw with a grade of "W" – Sunday, 10/25
10/26	Kottak ch. 12 (pp. 216-240)	The Neolithic Revolution (continued) The Development of Cities and Civilization: How Do States Develop?	Quiz 10 due Sunday 11/1, 11:59 PM
11/2	None	Case Study: Tikal Comparing Hunter-Gatherers and Civilization: Advantages and Problems	Exam 2 Thursday 11/5 [in class] No quiz this week!
11/9	Kottak ch. 2 (pp. 20-22 [review]), ch. 13 (pp. 241-265)	Part III: Cultural Anthropology Doing Ethnographic Fieldwork Ethics and Ethnographic Research	Quiz 11 due Sunday 11/15, 11:59 PM
11/16	Kottak ch. 16 (pp. 310-332)	Making a Living – Adaptive Strategies	Quiz 12 due Sunday 11/22, 11:59 PM
11/23	Kottak ch. 19 (pp. 377-395); Kottak ch. 20 (pp. 396-414)	Families, Kinship, and Marriage (No classes Thurs. 11/26 Thanksgiving!)	Quiz 13 due Sunday 11/29, 11:59 PM
11/30	Kottak ch. 3 (pp. 50 ["Anthropology and Business"] -55), ch. 24 (pp. 481-500)	Us and "The Other" Wrap up and conclusions: What can you do with anthropology, anyway?	Quiz 14 due Sunday 12/6, 11:59 PM
12/7			Exam 3 (Date, time, and location of exam to be determined later in consultation with the class due to conflict of scheduled time with Central America faculty-led study abroad trip)

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.