



School of Liberal Arts

ANTH 140

Introduction to the Fields of Anthropology

Fall 2025

3 Credits

Course Outline

INSTRUCTOR	Dr. Victoria Castillo	OFFICE HOURS	Wednesday 2:30 – 3:30 pm
OFFICE	A2505	CLASSROOM	A2801
E-MAIL	vcastillo@yukonu.ca	CLASS TIME	T/Th 10:30 – 11:50 am
TELEPHONE	867 456 8615	CRN	10060

Liberal Arts office: Ayamdigut Campus A2501, liberalarts@yukonu.ca, 867-668-8770

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the four central sub-disciplines of anthropology including: physical anthropology, linguistic anthropology, cultural anthropology, and archaeology. Central themes of the course will consider human evolution, the appearance of culture, social organization, culture change and domestication. Students will further explore issues around gender, socioeconomic stratification, theoretical approaches in cultural anthropology, and the application and relevance of anthropological studies within academia and in real-world applications. When possible, examples will be obtained from the western subarctic region. Yukon First Nation pre-contact cultures, historic adaptations, and contemporary lifeways will be explored.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisite(s): None

EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

Find course transfer at <https://www.bctransferguide.ca/>

Students are reminded that it is always the receiving institution that determines whether a course is acceptable as an applicable, equivalent course or if it may be transferred to their program for credit. Find further information at: <https://www.yukonu.ca/admissions/transfer-credit>

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Understand the basic concepts and methods of anthropology
- Understand the nature of human biological and cultural diversity

- Identify the sub-disciplines of anthropology and understand the goals and objectives of each
- Be familiar with a variety of cross-cultural expressions of societies and cultures
- Be able to critically apply the anthropological perspective on one's own society and culture

YUKON FIRST NATIONS CORE COMPETENCY

Students who successfully complete this course will have achieved core competency in knowledge of Yukon First Nations. By the end of this course, students will have greater understanding and awareness of Yukon First Nations history, culture, and journey towards self-determination. For details, please see www.yukonu.ca/yfnccr

COURSE FORMAT

Delivery format

This is an in-class course. The course is delivered in person.

Expected Weekly Workload

Students will be expected to attend three hours of lecture per week. They will spend six to nine hours per week doing their readings, writing assignments, and engaging with the course Moodle page.

ASSESSMENTS

In-class Active Participation

Students will gain active participation marks by coming to class prepared, having read the week's readings ahead of time and actively engaging in discussions when prompted. Attending class does not guarantee full participation marks. Students are expected to arrive on time and not walk in and out of class as this is disruptive to the classroom environment. Once the door is shut, late students will not be let in.

Article Presentation and Essay

Students will choose a short research paper and will present a 5-minute summary of the paper to the class using PowerPoint slides. They will also hand in a written essay. More information will be provided in class. **Use of AI is prohibited for this assignment.** You must submit your own work. It cannot be copy or pasted from a website, course notes, Chat GPT, AI, etc.

Assessments

Students will write two midterms and one final exam. These will be based on your textbook chapters and lecture notes and are composed of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions. More information will be provided in class.

*All assignments must be submitted through the course Moodle page. **An automatic penalty of 20% will be added to any late assignment.**

EVALUATION

In-class Active Participation	10%
Power Point Presentation + Essay	20%
Midterms 1 & 2 (20% x 2)	40%
Final Exam	30%
Total	100%

TEXTBOOKS & LEARNING MATERIALS

Lavenda, R., Schultz, E. & C. Zutter (2024). *Anthropology: What Does it Mean to Be Human?* (3rd Canadian ed). Don Mills: Oxford University Press.

COURSE WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION

Students may officially withdraw from a course or program without academic penalty up until two-thirds of the course contact hours have been completed. Specific withdrawal dates vary, and students should become familiar with the withdrawal dates of their program. See withdrawal information at www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters

Refer to the YukonU website for important dates: www.yukonu.ca/admissions/important-dates

Refunds may be available. See the Refund policy and procedures at www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to contribute toward a positive and supportive environment and are required to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Academic misconduct includes all forms of academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, fraud, deceit, using the work of others without their permission, aiding other students in committing academic offences, misrepresenting academic assignments prepared by others as one's own, or any other forms of academic dishonesty including falsification of any information on any Yukon University document.

Please refer to Academic Regulations & Procedures (updated bi-annually) for further details about academic standing, and student rights and responsibilities: www.yukonu.ca/policies/academic-regulations

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Yukon University is committed to providing a positive, supportive, and barrier-free academic environment for all its students. Students experiencing barriers to full participation due to a visible or hidden disability (including hearing, vision, mobility, learning disability, mental health, chronic or temporary medical condition), should contact Accessibility Services for resources or to arrange academic accommodations: access@yukonu.ca.

TOPIC OUTLINE

*additional readings may be added or substituted at the instructor's discretion

Week	Topic	Required Readings	
Week 1 Sep 4	Course overview/Introductions Welcome to Anthropology 140!		
Week 2 Sep 8 + 11	What is anthropology? / Why is the Concept of Culture Important?	Chapter 1 (p. 1-24); Chapter 2 (p. 25-44) Miner 1956: 503-507;	24 + 19
Week 3 Sep 16 + 18	Why is Evolution Important to Anthropologists? Evolution and Genetics <i>Video: Rethink Everything We Know About Genes and Identity Politics TEDxGlasgow</i> <i>Film: The Human Family Tree Cont.</i>	Chapter 3 (p. 45-70)	25
Week 4 Sep 23 + 25	What Can the Study of Primates Tell Us about Human Beings? <i>Film: Chimp Empire</i>	Chapter 4 (p. 71-90)	19
Week 5 Sep 30 + Oct 2	National Day of Truth and Reconciliation – No Classes / What Can the Fossil Record Tell Us about Human Origins? Early Hominins <i>Film: Becoming Human (Nova 51min.)</i>	Chapter 5 (p. 91-114)	23
Week 6 Oct 7 + 9	Assessment 1 / How Did <i>Homo sapiens</i> Evolve?	Chapter 6 (p. 115-136)	21
Week 7 Oct 14 + 16	Reading Week – No Classes		
Week 8 Oct 21 + 23	What Can Evolutionary Theory Tell Us About Human Variation? /	Chapter 7 (p. 137-158)	21
Week 9 Oct 28 + 30	How Do We Know About the Human Past?	Chapter 8 (p. 159-189)	30
Week 10 Nov 4 + 6	Why Did Humans Settle Down, Build Cities, and Establish States? / Assessment 2	Chapter 9 (p. 189-220)	31
Week 11 Nov 11 + 13	Remembrance Day – No Classes / Why Do Anthropologists Study Economic Relations?	Chapter 10 (p. 221-242)	21

Week 12 Nov 18 + 20	Where Do Our Relatives Come From, and Why Do They Matter?	Chapter 12 (273-312)	39
Week 13 Nov 25 + 27	What Can Anthropology Teach Us About Sex, Gender, and Sexuality?	Chapter 13 (p. 313-336)	23
Week 14 Dec 2 + 4	Why is Understanding Human Language Important? <i>Film: The Linguists (64 min.)</i>	Chapter 15 (p. 363-390)	27
Week 15 Dec 9	How Humans Use Play, Art, Myth, and Ritual as Forms of Metacommunication to Shape Our World	Chapter 16 (p. 391-420)	29
Week 16 Dec 16	Final Exam – A2801 – 1:00 – 4:00 pm		