

School of Social Sciences and Humanities

ANTH 140

Introduction to the Fields of Anthropology



Fall 2026

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	10057
SSH School office: Ayamdigut Campus A2501, sssh@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

10 Weekly Discussion Questions/Journaling

Every week students will answer question(s) provided in class. Questions will focus on readings, lectures, films and/or current events. This is an opportunity for students to do some in-class writing/journaling. The books will stay with the instructor. No late responses will be accepted. Please note that you must submit your own original work.

Article Presentation and Summary

Students will choose a short anthropology article and will present a 10-minute summary of the article to the class using PowerPoint slides. They will also hand in a short, written summary of the article. More information will be provided in class.

Assessments

Students will write three assessments throughout the semester. These will be based on your textbook and my lectures and are composed of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions. These will be done online. More information will be provided in class.

*All assignments must be submitted through the course Moodle page.

EVALUATION

In-class Active Participation	10%
Weekly Discussion Questions /Journaling – in class booklet	10%
Article Presentation and Summary	20%
Assessments 1 – 3 (20%, 20%, 20%)	60%
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

All assignments must be completed without the assistance of AI tools such as Grammarly, ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, or any other generative AI systems. By enrolling in this course, you acknowledge that developing your independent critical thinking and problem-solving skills is central to your education. Please contact the instructor if you have any questions about permissible technology usage.

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

Week	Topic	Required Readings	
Week 1 Sep 1 + 3	Course overview/Introductions Welcome to Anthropology 140! / 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 2 Sep 8 +10	Why is the Concept of Culture Important Cont. / 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 3 Sep 15 + 17	What Can the Study of Primates Tell Us about Human Beings? <i>Film: Chimp Empire</i>	Chapter 4 (p. 71-90)	19
Week 4 Sep 22+24	What Can the Fossil Record Tell Us about Human Origins? Early Hominins / Assessment 1 <i>Film: Becoming Human (Nova 51min.)</i>	Chapter 5 (p. 91-114)	23
Week 5 Sep 29 + Oct 1	How Did <i>Homo sapiens</i> Evolve ? / What Can Evolutionary Theory Tell Us About Human Variation?	Chapter 6 (p. 115-136) / Chapter 7 (p. 137-158)	21+21
Week 6 Oct 6 + 8	What Can Evolutionary Theory Tell Us About the Human Past Cont. / How Do We Know About the Human Past?	Chapter 8 (p. 159-189)	30
Week 7 Oct 13+15	Reading Week – No Classes		
Week 8 Oct 20 + 22	Why Did Humans Settle Down, Build Cities, and Establish States?	Chapter 9 (p. 189-220)	31
Week 9 Oct 27 + 29	Assessment 2 / Why Do Anthropologists Study Economic Relations?	Chapter 10 (p. 221-242)	21

Week	Topic	Required Readings	
Week 10 Nov 3 + 5	Where do Our Relatives Come From, and Why Do They Matter	Chapter 12 (273-312)	39
Week 11 Nov 10 + 12	What Can Anthropology Teach Us About Sex, Gender, and Sexuality?	Chapter 13 (p. 313-336)	23
Week 12 Nov 17 + 19	Why is Understanding Human Language Important? <i>Film: The Linguists (64 min.)</i>	Chapter 15 (p. 363-390)	27
Week 13 Nov 24 + 26	How Humans Use Play, Art, Myth, and Ritual as Forms of Metacommunication to Shape Our World	Chapter 16 (p. 391-420)	29
Week 14 Dec 1 + 3	Presentations		
Dec 10	Final Exam – Thursday, December 10 – 9:00 am to 12:00 pm Room A2801		