

GENERAL ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTHROPOLOGY 100-04 – SPRING 2007

LA 324

WEDNESDAY 6:00 to 8:30

instructor · Benedict J. Colombi, Ph.D.

email · colobene@isu.edu

office · graveley 164

hours · tuesday and thursday 1:00 – 2:00 pm or by appointment

class web site · www.isu.edu/~colobene

required texts (on reserve)

1. Bodley, John H. 2005. Cultural Anthropology: Tribes, States, and the Global System. 4th Edition Mountain View, CA: Mayfield Publishing Company.
2. Feder, Kenneth L. and Michael Alan Park. 2007. Human Antiquity: An Introduction to Physical Anthropology and Archaeology. 5th Edition. Mountain View, CA: Mayfield Publishing Company.
3. Manning, Richard. 2004. Against the Grain: How Agriculture Has Hijacked Civilization. New York, NY: North Point Press.

statement

Anthropology is a subversive science. This course provides you the anthropological tools to question authority and examine your perception of the world. You are invited to ask what is going on in the world around you and in your own culture. The course instruction and readings offer an anthropological critique of firmly-held cultural beliefs and practices that threaten the well-being and continued survival of humanity in the twenty-first century. The global evidence of cultural crisis is overwhelming: billions of people are impoverished, malnourished, and unhealthy; economic and political systems are in turmoil; the world's ecosystems are under attack; and global climate change may ultimately be catastrophic to life as we know it. At the present moment, wealth is being concentrated into fewer and fewer hands, and the tenets of democracy are increasingly realized to only a few. Even the most powerful nation is unable to guarantee employment, education, and health care to its own citizens. As a result, we need to question how this contemporary human problem came to being, and what we can do to ensure greater social well-being and global environmental sustainability.

description

This course is a survey of basic issues and concepts in anthropology, integrating paleontological and evolutionary evidence, the archaeological record, and ethnographic case studies to examine the major varieties of societies and cultures throughout the world. The major theme will be to explore the relationship between growth, scale, and power, and to test the power-elite hypothesis that growth is an elite-directed process that disproportionately concentrates social power and socializes the costs. We will examine the major turning points in human development including the emergence and divergence of culture and the human physical type; the significance of food production; the rise of civilizations; capitalism, industrialization, and the use of fossil fuel energy; and most recently, economic globalization

and the information age. A central issue will be the human significance of differences in culture scale, dominant culture processes, and how people regulate social power, whether domestically by means of kinship, politically by rulers, or commercially by market systems. We will consider specific issues such as: the organization of production and distribution; consumption patterns; household well-being; age and gender relations, family organization, belief systems, and social inequality; cultural sustainability, and the cause of growth and change in culture. Finally, we will evaluate different approaches to understanding cultural diversity and make cross-cultural comparisons to assess the human effectiveness of each major type of culture.

requirements

There will be three 25-point exams, one 50-point book review, and one 50-point final exam. The three exams will include 25 multiple choice questions, worth one-point each. The final exam, however, will include 25 multiple choice questions, worth one-point each, and one long essay worth 25 points. Exam questions will ask you to demonstrate familiarity with basic concepts and specific arguments, and the final exam will be cumulative in the broadest scope only. In addition to the exams students will be required to turn in one book review assignment on Richard Manning's, *Against the Grain: How Agriculture Has Hijacked Civilization*. The book review will be worth 50 points. The text of the reviews must be at least 4 pages in length and include an additional page(s) for references cited. The reviews must be double-spaced, have 1-inch top and bottom margins and 1.25-inch side margins, they must include size 12 font, Times New Roman only, and the reviews must be stapled. Your reviews must be proofread and polished and relatively free from spelling and grammatical errors. Use quotation marks and citations when necessary and please do not lift unattributed materials from the web, or from any other sources. This must be your own work and in your own words. Note: a general summary of the assigned book is unacceptable, and the days before, during, and after the book review is due, you will be required to participate in discussions that focus on your point of view and on your review.

class engagement

Lastly, the remaining 25 points of your final grade is based on class engagement. The “engagement” is measured by regular attendance and by your preparation in required readings, and by demonstrating in-class attentiveness and in-class discussion. The quality of the discourse in this class depends upon your preparation and commitment, and, therefore, students are expected to read extensively from the sources provided in the syllabus.

200 points total

3 exams = 75 points; final exam = 50 points, 1 review = 50 points, class engagement = 25 points

Note: No make-up exams or late book reviews will be accepted or permitted without a documented emergency

grades

The final grade for this course will be assessed according the percentage of points earned from the total points available for the course. The following breakdown of points and grades will be used:

100—90	A	89—80	B	79—70	C	69—60	D	59—0	F
--------	---	-------	---	-------	---	-------	---	------	---

academic integrity

You are expected to uphold the Idaho State University standard of conduct relating to academic integrity. You assume full responsibility for the content and integrity of the academic work you submit. The guiding principle of academic integrity shall be that your submitted work, examinations, reports, and projects must be your own work.

disability accommodations

Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. Please notify the instructor during the first week of class of any accommodations needed for the course. Late notification may cause the requested accommodations to be unavailable.

provisional course schedule

week 1 · jan 10

key topics · introduction to course, anthropological concepts, historical perspectives

- readings: bodley chapter 1; feder & park chapters 1, 2, begin 3

week 2 · jan 17

key topics · evolutionary theory, primates

- readings: feder & park chapters 3, 4, 5

week 3 · jan 24

key topics · material record, emergence of human lineage

- readings: feder & park chapters 6, 7, 8

week 4 · jan 31

key topics · human lineage evolves, evolution and nature of modern humanity, life in the upper paleolithic

- readings: feder & park chapters 9, 10, 11

week 5 · feb 07

key topics · **exam one [feb 07]**

- readings: begin bodley chapter 2, 3

week 6 · feb 14

key topics · tribal world – australian aborigines, native amazonians

- readings: bodley chapter 2, 3

week 7 · feb 21

key topics · tribal world – african cattle peoples, quality of tribal life

- readings: bodley chapter 4, 5

week 8 · feb 28

key topics · imperial world – ranked chiefdoms, origins of agriculture

- readings: bodley chapter 6; feder & park chapter 12
- diamond, jared. 2002. evolution, consequences and future of plant and animal domestication. nature 418:700-707. *on-line

week 9 · mar 07

key topics · origins of agriculture, rise of states

- readings: bodley chapter 7; feder & park chapter 13

week 10 · [no class]

week 11 · mar 21

key topics · **exam two [mar 21]**

- readings: begin bodley chapter 10; feder & park chapter 13

week 12 · mar 28

key topics · concept of collapse and breakdown of states

- readings: bodley chapter 10; feder & park chapter 13

week 13 · apr 04

key topics · commercial world – europe, capitalist global system

- readings: bodley chapter 11

week 14 · apr 11

key topics · **book review due [apr 11]** commercial world – united states, capitalist global system

- readings: bodley chapter 12

week 15 · apr 18

key topics · impoverished world and indigenous peoples

- readings: bodley chapter 13, 14

week 16 · apr 25

key topics · **exam three [apr 25]**

week 17 · may 02

key topics · future in the global greenhouse

- readings: bodley chapter 15

week 18 · final exam (date and time tba)