

# ANTH 1010.200

## Introduction to Anthropology

### Fall 2023

**“The purpose of anthropology is to make the world safe for human difference.” -Ruth Benedict**

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#### Course Information

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##### Course Description:

Anthropology 1010 is an online introduction to the social science known as Anthropology. The course is divided into **4 Units** which will familiarize you with the human condition by way of each of the discipline’s four subfields: biology, archaeology, language, and culture. By participating in each of these Units, you will learn how *all* anthropologists utilize a **holistic approach** that considers human biology and evolution, history and prehistory, geography and the environment, language, culture, and society, in order to understand how we are who we are and why we do what we do.

With an open mind to learning about others, we can also learn a great deal about ourselves and discover that even amidst such diversity, all human beings are biologically and culturally interlinked. This course introduces you to how people are the same everywhere – except when we’re different! And as Ruth Benedict’s quote above demonstrates – those similarities and differences are what this course all about.

##### What is Anthropology and What do Anthropologists DO?

Matt Elam, Glenn Close, George Lucas, Ashley Judd, Dax Shepard, Tracy Chapman, Jeff Corwin, Ursula Le Guin, Kurt Vonnegut, Michael Crichton, Zora Neale Hurston... any ideas as to what they have in common? ALL of them studied anthropology in college!

Anthropology is often referred to as the *study of the human experience* — the past, present, and future; biological, linguistic, material, and cultural aspects of the human condition. It is holistic and also comparative, because it surveys peoples and cultures all around the world to explain the differences and similarities in humans – their appearances, languages, beliefs, values, and customs. As Lavenda and Schultz – the anthropologists who wrote your textbook – state, anthropology addresses the fundamental question: **“What does it mean to be human?”**

##### Course-level Learning Objectives:

- Explain the significance & processes of human origins using key anthropological terms and theories.
- Describe our human past, from our earliest human ancestors to the development of cities and states.
- Evaluate the significance of key cultural and linguistic concepts.
- Establish connections between "meaning-making" in anthropology and contemporary life.

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#### Requirements

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**Textbook:** Lavenda R. and E. Schultz (2021) *Anthropology: What Does it Mean to be Human?* 5<sup>th</sup> edition. New York: Oxford University Press. ISBN **paperback:** 9780197534434. ISBN **eBook:** 9780197534465.

The course is delivered 100% remotely through Canvas, but the textbook is separate, and is **required**. There are a lot of ways you can get it – 1) buy a physical copy at the UNT Barnes and Noble, 2) rent a physical copy, or 3) rent the e-book on “RedShelf.” [https://www.redshelf.com/book/1697044/anthropology-1697044-9780197534465-robert-h-lavenda-](https://www.redshelf.com/book/1697044/anthropology-1697044-9780197534465-robert-h-lavenda)

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[emily-a-schultz](#). Because it's easy to get this edition, and it's the least expensive anthropology textbook on the market (believe me, I checked!) you **MUST** obtain the **5th edition**.

**Canvas:** You will need to check Canvas regularly for course announcements, schedule updates, additional readings, extra credit offerings and supplemental material!

**Troubleshooting:** If you run into technical issues with Canvas, follow the procedures outlined under **Technical Issues** in the Student Success Guide on Canvas. Take a screenshot before proceeding. Once you have a ticket number from the HelpDesk, email your IA, and cc Dr. Lee. If you contact your Instructional Assistant and/or Dr. Lee without **FIRST** completing this procedure, we'll likely just redirect to this section of the syllabus.

**Minimum technical requirements:** Digital literacy is here defined as the ability to use technology to find, evaluate, and communicate information. Your successful completion of this course requires a basic digital literacy, where you must either know, or be able to learn, how to navigate UNT's Canvas system, including posting discussion and assignments, or linking out the course to readings, watch required videos posted, or view films through the UNT Media Library.

**Prerequisites:** There are no prerequisites for this course. ANTH 1010 satisfies a CORE curriculum requirement.

## Your Teaching Team

**Course Instructor:** Dr. Kelsey Lee, Adjunct Professor, Department of Anthropology

**Office:** Office 124, Sycamore Hall | University of North Texas

**Office Hours:** Monday and Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (either in the office or via Zoom, though I am also able to schedule Zoom meetings outside of office hours). **Please email to schedule an appointment!**

**Email:** [kelsey.lee@unt.edu](mailto:kelsey.lee@unt.edu)

### Instructional Assistants:

The instructional assistants will be grading your work; as such, they are your first point of contact. Course Instructional Assistant (IA) contact information will be available online. Make sure to find out who your IA is!

### Communication:

- Use your Canvas or UNT email account to contact us and to schedule appointments.
- Include "ANTH 1010" in the subject line.
- Set your Canvas notifications to receive course announcements. Check your UNT email account frequently!

### Who to email:

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| ○ QUESTIONS ABOUT ASSIGNMENTS:                        | <b>Instructional Assistant, and cc: Dr. Lee</b> |
| ○ QUESTIONS ABOUT GRADES:                             | <b>Instructional Assistant, and cc: Dr. Lee</b> |
| ○ MISSED ASSIGNMENTS:                                 | <b>Instructional Assistant, and cc: Dr. Lee</b> |
| ○ MISSED TESTS/GRADE APPEALS:                         | <b>Dr. Lee, cc: Instructional Assistant</b>     |
| ○ QUESTIONS ABOUT MATERIAL:                           | <b>Dr. Lee and/or Instructional Assistant</b>   |
| ○ ODA, personal or sensitive matters:                 | <b>Dr. Lee</b>                                  |
| ○ PROBLEMS WITH CANVAS (Broken links, Films, Canvas): | <b>Dr. Lee</b>                                  |
| ○ TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES                              | <b>Student IT Helpdesk, and cc: IA/Dr. Lee</b>  |

**Both your instructor and Instructional Assistant will be active participants themselves in the course!**

## Assessments & Grading

**Course Assignments, Discussions, and Tests:** This class will require you to complete two (2) first week assignments, four (4) short written assignments, seven (7) short discussion activities, and four (4) Unit tests. We also offer an additional, **optional** Final Exam that you can choose to take to replace your lowest (or missed) test grade.

1. **Discussion Board Topics:** Depending on the class size, you may be assigned to a discussion group of 25 – 30 students. Group members are required to engage in discussion-post conversation with one another, regarding **eight (8) discussion board questions** which are presented throughout the course. Each discussion will be scored out of 10 points. There are **specific rubrics** in the discussions themselves detailing the point breakdown.

The general guideline is that, for each discussion, you will be expected to post one short but substantial paragraph, and respond to (at least) one of your classmates' posts with a substantial response. If you **ONLY** submit your post, then your discussion grade will come out to be 70% (7/10 = C). If you follow instructions and respond to someone else's post in each of the exercises, then your Discussion grade will go up to between an 80% (8/10 = B) and 100% (10/10 = A). By substantial we mean that you say more than just "I agree" or "great article". You must explain yourself by referring back to the corresponding topic. You will receive feedback from IAs on these assignments to help you improve the content and analysis of your work.

**NOTE ABOUT DISCUSSIONS:** Discussions are not political/religious platforms. They are designed to demonstrate that you understand and can clearly and effectively articulate **anthropological theories and concepts**. You may certainly incorporate outside reading material or anecdotal information provided it is relevant to the topic, just make sure to cite your sources.

2. **Unit Assignments:** You will be required to write **three (3) unit assignments** throughout the course, worth 10 points each. The first assignment will be a written "debate" about genetics, due the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of class. The other three will be film responses. Please read and follow instructions carefully. A **grading rubric** and **writing guide** will be provided under the Assignments tab. You will receive feedback from IAs on these assignments. For help with writing, contact Dr. Lee, your IA, and/or the [UNT Writing Center](#). All work must be original. See course policies for details.
3. **Unit Tests:** Throughout the semester, there will be **four (4) unit tests** which you will have 90 min each to complete. Each Unit Test consists of multiple choice and short answer questions over material within the Canvas topics, textbook readings, and films and is worth **up to 70 pts**. You will receive feedback from IAs and the Professor on the short answer responses. There is also an **OPTIONAL** final.

**Test Guidelines:** Tests are timed but are *open note*. You may not consult other resources (including peers) while testing. **Please test with integrity**. Once you begin a test, you have 90 minutes to complete it. Do not begin a test unless you're SURE you can finish it. If you choose to wait until Sunday night, the test will automatically end at 11:59 PM and you will earn the grade you received for the answers you have completed up to that point. Similarly, if you begin your test after 10:30 p.m., and your computer happens to crash, plan on taking the Optional Final Exam to replace the grade you receive for that Test. Students are responsible for securing a stable Internet connection prior to beginning any Unit Test. I do not recommend testing from any mobile device!

**Trouble?** Take a screenshot. If you have an IT issue, you must contact the Student IT Help Desk before contacting the Instructional Assistant and/or Dr. Lee. See **Technical Issues** in the Student Success Guide. Questions about the test material – including grade appeals – must be presented to Dr. Lee within 3 days following the test. If you miss a test without a legitimate University excuse, plan to take the Optional Final Exam. All make-up tests must be completed within 1 week of the due date. **If you have a problem the day of the test, you can email me to “reset” the Canvas test, but you also need to include a screenshot of the problem you experienced, and attach that to your email.**

4. **Optional Final Exam:** The Final Exam is an optional, comprehensive exam worth up to 70 pts —you DO NOT have to take it. The exam will be scored a “zero” until you take it – or not. Should you score higher on the Final Exam than any previous test, then the Final Exam score will replace your lowest test score in the final grade calculations. If you score lower on the final than any of the four previous tests, then the Final Exam grade won’t count against you. In other words, it can’t hurt you, it can only help!
5. **Core Evaluations:** This class is part of the UNT “Core,” which means it has a short, **required** assessment at the end that measures your progress in “competency areas” that UNT figures are important (e.g.- “critical thinking,” “empirical skills,” “social responsibility,” etc.). These assessments are worth 8 points each.
6. **Extra Credit Assignments:** The last opportunity will be the SPOT evaluation for this course. But there will be many other Extra Credit opportunities made available periodically throughout the semester. **Check course announcements frequently to learn more!**

**Points Distribution and Grading Scale:**

Assignments and Discussions	Possible Points
Unit Assignments	30 (3 x 10)
Topic Discussions	80 (8 x 10)
Unit Tests	280 (4 x 70)
Core Assessment	24
<b>Total: 414 points</b>	

**Calculating your grade:**

Point Conversion to a Letter Grade
372 – 414 points (90-100%) = A
331 – 371 points (80-89%) = B
289 – 330 points (70-79%) = C
248– 288 points (60-69%) = D
0 – 247 points ( < 59%) = F

## Course Policies

**Academic Honesty:** For papers and assignments, cite your sources, and do original work! This cannot be stressed enough. Students found plagiarizing their own or others' materials (incl. Canvas, the textbook, other books, journal articles, online resources, etc.), will first be given an opportunity to explain themselves. If it is determined that the student unknowingly copied work without giving proper credit, that student will be given the opportunity to re-write their assignment. All make-up work deadlines apply. If it is determined that the student knowingly copied work without giving proper credit, that student will be given a '0' ('F') for that assignment and their previous/future work may be subject to additional scrutiny.

**Assignments and Tests:** Complete your work with integrity. ONLINE ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE ORIGINAL. AND TESTS MUST BE COMPLETED ALONE. The Department of Anthropology does not tolerate plagiarism, cheating, or collusion (helping others to cheat). This includes hiring someone or a service to write or edit your paper. Students suspected of any of these will be provided the opportunity for a hearing; a guilty finding will merit an automatic "0" for the assignment and could result in an "F" in the course. For information on the University's policies regarding academic integrity and dishonesty, see the UNT Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities, and especially the [UNT Student Code of Conduct](#).

**Late Assignments and Make-up Work:** Because all student work is submitted through Canvas, only students with University-excused absences are able to make-up missed work without penalty.

**A University-excused missed assignment for this course includes:**

- 1) Contagious or potentially contagious illness
- 2) Lasting illness or physical limitation, including concerns about mental health
- 3) Personal or family emergency, accompanied by reasonable documentation
- 4) Religious observance (in which case students may be allowed to test or submit assignments early)
- 5) Other University-excused academic or athletic event, accompanied by official documentation

**An Unexcused missed assignment for this course includes:**

- 1) Missing an assignment or test without emailing the professor in advance of the due date
- 2) Confusion about assignment due dates
- 3) Waiting until the last minute to submit an assignment or test
- 4) Personal travel-related absences

IF you miss a deadline for any reason other than those which are excused, you may submit late assignments or tests up to one week after the deadline at the discretion of the professor *and* your Instructional Assistant.

## How to be successful in this course:

### 1. **Manage Your Time Wisely**

You must stay up-to-date in this course! I recommend scheduling designated times to read and work on the assigned topics and textbook readings, assignments, discussions and tests – and sticking to them. The course is structured so that everyone is looking at the same Topic and participating in the same discussions, every week. Each week, you should review the Schedule, read the Topic and Textbook materials, then complete the corresponding Assignment, Discussion, or Test. In particular, I recommend printing out the schedule so you can carry around an easy-to-find reference.

### 2. **Read the Required Textbook**

If you're uncomfortable learning from a physical book, purchase or rent the online version. See pg. 1 for details.

### 3. **View the Required Films**

In addition to reading the online Topics and textbook content, you will be required to view three films. ALL links to the films can be found both in the individual **Topics** themselves. First you login with your EUID and password, then the video will pop up. The [UNT Media Library's](#) Video-On-Demand page will also open in the background and display all the films that are available to you through in the Video-on-demand system. After viewing each film, you will complete the corresponding assignment or discussion.

### 4. **Check Course Announcements Frequently**

Set your Canvas notifications so you get assignment due dates, course announcements and emails through your UNT email account.

### 5. **Stay in touch with your Instructor and Instructional Assistant.**

If you encounter a problem with getting things done or keeping up with the due dates, it's imperative that you stay in touch with us. Don't wait until you're in crisis mode to reach out for help!

## **Always remember the core rules of "netiquette:"**

Rule 1. Remember the human. Never forget that the person reading your mail or posting is, indeed, a person, with feelings that can be hurt.

Rule 2. Adhere to the same standards of behavior online that you follow in real life.

*Corollary 1: Be ethical. Don't google answers, cheat, or collude (help others cheat). This goes for behavior on any course-related Group Me App.*

Rule 3. Know where you are in cyberspace.

*Corollary 1: Netiquette varies from domain to domain, and even class to class.*

Rule 4. Respect other people's time and bandwidth.

*(Abstracted from Albion.com <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/book/0963702513p32.html>)*

## University Policies

**Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences:** According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. See course policies.

**Emergency Notification & Procedures.** UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

**Important Notice for F-1 Students Taking Distance Education Courses:** For F–1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken online or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination, or other purposes integral to completion of the class. Current policies and guidelines [are available here](#).

**ADA/ ODA Accommodation Policy:** The University of North Texas and the Department of Anthropology makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. I personally go out of my way for physically and neuro-diverse students. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the [Office of Disability Accommodation website](#). You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

**Sexual Discrimination, Harassment and Assault:** UNT is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. I will not tolerate microaggressions in my class. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these acts of aggression, please let me know. The federal Title IX law makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses. UNT has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more. UNT's Dean of Students' website offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors, depending on their unique needs. This includes a Survivor Advocate. You can contact me, or contact them [through this link](#), or by calling the Dean of Students' office at 940-565-2648. You are not alone. We are here to help.

### UNT Anthropology Cares!

#### A NOTE ABOUT LEARNING DURING UNPRECEDENTED TIMES

(adapted from Dr. Jason Tham)

The pandemic, the recession, and the war on Ukraine continue to affect lives, exacerbating the challenges and suffering of people in our own country and around the world. As we try to navigate, manage, and survive during these times of injustice, joblessness, homelessness, persecution, sickness and death we have the opportunity to come together in this class. We are a learning community and as part of this community our engagement as individuals who are part of this collective space should be guided by the following principles:

**People are the priority.** Educational institutions claim that students and teachers are their top priority, yet the holistic wellbeing of students and educators is ultimately demonstrated not by words alone, but by **actions** and **practices** that clearly and uncompromisingly prioritize the people most impacted by them.

As participants in the process of teaching and learning we should remember to **put people first** by practicing the ideas we will learn about in this class with empathy and compassion. We must remember to engage each other with our minds as well as our hearts as *sentipensantes*, human beings whose humanity is deeply connected to our ability to think and feel.

**Stay informed.** In this class, we will **seek reliable sources of information** to stay informed about developments related not only to the pandemic, but to local and global social and environmental injustices. We will use this to make informed personal and professional decisions.

**Communicate and connect.** We will communicate with each other often and will remain connected. Please reach out when you have questions about the class and **when you need support**.

**Celebrate accomplishments.** We will **take time to celebrate** and mark our collective class accomplishments and the individual accomplishments that are significant to you. Any kind of achievement during an uncertain time is a testament to your ability to persevere and our collective ability to do it together.

**Take time to thrive.** It is important that individually and collectively we take time to take care of our minds, bodies, and spirits. If you are not feeling well and are struggling to do the work for this class, let me know so that we can come up with alternatives. Do not push yourself beyond your limits; invest in self-care and self-preservation. **Take time to do things that nurture your body, mind, and soul.**

## HAVE A GREAT SEMESTER!