

the anthropology of stuff and things

Course
Overview

Assignments

ANTH 4701.039 | 5700.039

FALL 2019 MWF 2:00-2:50P

Objective

EXPLORE HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS IN AND WITH THE MATERIAL WORLD USING AN ARRAY OF ANTHROPOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES.

ENGAGE AND APPLY PROVOCATIVE THEORY AND METHODS TO CONSIDER AT AN INTELLECTUAL AND VISCERAL LEVEL HUMANITY'S ENTANGLEMENT WITH MATERIAL(S) RANGING FROM ARTS AND ARCHITECTURE, INDUSTRY AND INFRASTRUCTURE, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORTATION.

OUR LOCUS OF STUDY CONCERNS HOW HUMAN CONSIDER, CREATE, CONSUME, CONTEST, DWELL AND DISCARD IN A WORLD OF STUFF AND THINGS.

Meetings

Req's

Meetings

Hybrid meeting times:

MWF 2:00 - 2:50pm

Monday and Wednesday class
meets on-campus

Friday class meets ON CAMPUS
except when noted in Course
Schedule by "ZOOM LAB" icon:



Zoom Lab
Dates

Zoom Lab dates:

9/13

9/27

10/11

10/25

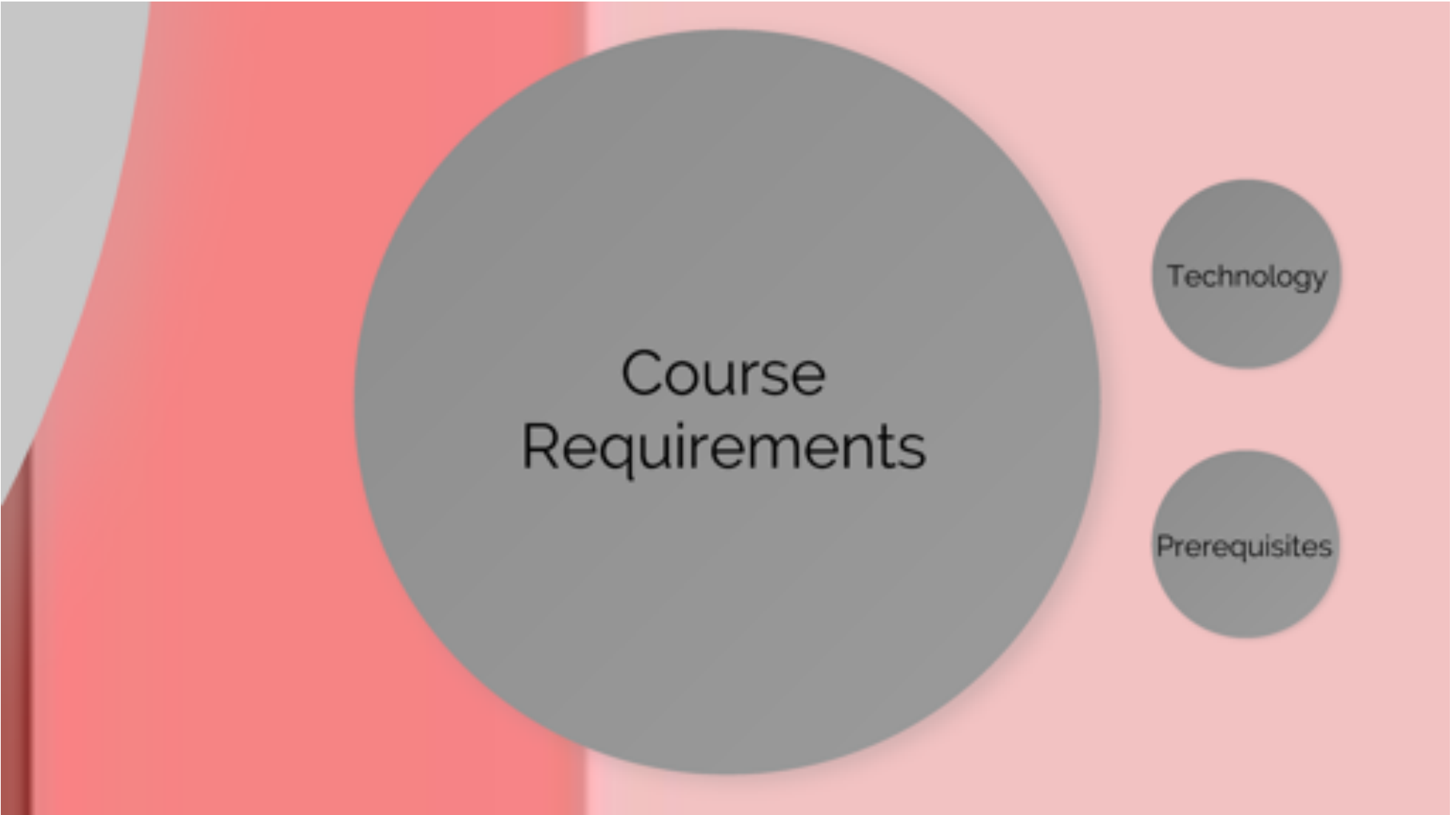
11/1

11/15

11/22

11/27

TBA 12/2 & 12/4



Course Requirements

Technology

Prerequisites

Technology Req's

- Regular access to webcam-enabled PC, laptop, or mobile device + secured, reliable internet connection on Fridays;
- Familiarity with Zoom videoconferencing software, including screenshare features;
- Proficiency using MS Office (Word, Ppt. etc.) and familiarity with basic Adobe Acrobat (pdf);
- Proficiency using UNT's Canvas platform to submit assignments.

Prerequisites

College Writing I & II, or equivalent

Language, Philosophy and Culture

Communication &/or Digital Skills

Life &/or Physical Science

History &/or Political Science

Creative Arts (recommended)

Time management skills

This course satisfies the UNT CORE

CORE

UNT CORE

Critical Thinking Skills, including creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information

Communication Skills, including effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication

Empirical and Quantitative Skills, including the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions

Teamwork, including the ability to consider different points of view and to work effectively with others to support a shared purpose or goal

Personal Responsibility, including the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making

Social Responsibility, including intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

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Assignments and Grades

Observation	-	34.024	points
Guest Speaker Reflection 1	-	11.341.33333	points
Observation and Interview	-	45.365	points
Construction Project	-	39.064.03703	points
Guest Speaker Reflection 2	-	11.341.33333	points
Repair Cafe	-	39.064.03703	points
Guest Speaker Reflection 3	-	11.341.33333	points
My Favorite Thing Project	-	74.048	points
Attendance and Stuff	-	26.932	points

Total Points: 292,521.0740*

*all grades will be assigned on a +/- A, B, C, D or F scale and will be weighted accordingly. rubrics will be provided.



Proprioception Observation Exercise

9/13 - Zoom Lab

What's that?

Proprioception, or kinesthesia, is the sense that lets us perceive the location, movement, and action of parts of the body. It encompasses a complex of sensations, including perception of joint position and movement, muscle force, and effort.
<https://www.sciencedirect.com>



Guest Speaker Reflection 350-500 words due 10/4

The first guest speaker, builder and designer, Phillipa Sullivan, will be live streamed from her workshop on 9/27. As she works, she will talk us through the construction of a chair made from recycled deck wood. Your reflection will incorporate at least two of the readings to date in order to discuss what you learned from an anthropological perspective.



Meet the Maker Observation and Interview due 10/11 in zoom lab & canvas

You will select an expert "maker" to observe and conduct an informal interview with that person. Your interview will be adapted into a 350-500 word richly descriptive narrative, in which you will utilize at least two key concepts from the readings to nuance your understanding of the observation and interview.



Construction Project due 10/25 zoom lab

You will conceptualize, design, and create a "thing."

Using the elements from your proprioception observation, you will present to your classmates a description of the manufacturing process, with a focus on your sensory interaction with the chosen materials.



Guest Speaker 2
zoom lab 11/1
due 11/8

TBA!

Repair Cafe
(date TBA)
due either 11/25 & 11/27
or 12/2 & 12/4
zoom lab

This assignment is designed to **collectively** repair objects and restore them to a functional state. Like the construction project, you will present to your classmates a description of the repair process, focusing not only on your sensory interaction with the chosen materials, but also upon the agency of objects, your reliance on others' knowledge, and the entanglement of humans and things.



**Guest Speaker
Reflection 3
350-500 words
due 11/22**

Industrial Archaeologist
Gideon Singer, PhD
Candidate - Perdue, will
be speaking about his
recent doctoral fieldwork
excavating e-waste in
Adelaide, Australia



**My Favorite Thing Final
Research Project
due 12/9
presentations in zoom lab
12/2 & 12/4**

Objectives: 1) Examine the human relations involved in the production, exchange, and consumption of material culture, 2) Reflect on the symbolic processes of making meaning in a material world.

Considerations: Material culture is broadly defined. To satisfy the objectives of your assignment, the item you choose must be a commodity.

Activities: This project will consist of the following activities: 1) assigned course readings, 2) an initial reflection, 2) an initial observation, 3) production, exchange and consumption research, 4) a final observation 5) a final reflection.

Deliverables: The finished product will be typed and submitted in Canvas and will also be presented in Zoom Lab during the last two weeks of the semester.



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