

:: Introduction to Anthropology ::

Lauren Visconti
Faculty, Social Sciences
visconl@linnbenton.edu

Ecampus course
Office: SSH 111 + Zoom
Always available by appointment

COVID-19 Adjustments. I will miss you in the classroom. The good news is that I have a lot of experience teaching online. Here are some reminders as we move forward together.

1. Nobody signed up for this.

- Not for the sickness, not for the social distancing, not for the sudden end of our collective lives together on campus
- Not for an online class, not for teaching remotely, not for learning from home, not for mastering new technologies, not for varied access to learning materials
- If you are new to online learning, please do not worry. I have set our course up for you so please follow the directions closely and work through each module like a book (email + video to come on this).

2. An equitable option is the best option.

- We are going to prioritize supporting each other as humans
- We are going to prioritize simple solutions that make sense for the most
- We are going to prioritize sharing resources and communicating clearly
- Anthropology occupies an important perspective on the world and is of utmost importance in a pandemic and the creation of a post-pandemic world
- We all have so much to learn so stay curious and get started!

Course Description:

Located at the intersection of the humanities and the sciences, anthropology strives for a holistic understanding of the human condition. This course introduces students to the basic concepts, theories and methods of anthropology, including its four main subfields: archaeology, biological anthropology, cultural anthropology, and linguistic anthropology. The course is driven by fundamental questions, including: What is culture? How do anthropologists study human populations, both past and present? How can this field help us better understand contemporary human problems? This course fulfills the requirement for the “Social Processes and Institutions” category of the baccalaureate core by equipping students to: use theoretical frameworks to interpret the role of the individual within social processes and

institutions; analyze current social issues and place them in historical context; and critique the nature, value, and limitations of the basic methods of the social sciences.

Course Outcomes and Skills:

Upon completing this course, students will demonstrate the ability to:

- Identify and describe the topics and methods pertaining to each subfield of anthropology
- Recognize how anthropology integrates knowledge from its various subfields in order to holistically understand human behavior and social institutions
- Understand and discuss the practical applications of anthropology in today's world
- Show familiarity with current trends in anthropology by compiling a media portfolio

Required

Texts:

1. Lavenda, Robert H. and Emily A. Schultz. 2014. Anthropology: What Does it Mean to Be Human? 4th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 9780190210847.

2. Engelke, M. (2019) How to Think Like an Anthropologist. Princeton University Press. Our library has a link to this resource online here:

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/linnbenton-ebooks/detail.action?docID=5252859>

Free resource if interested:

Oxford University Press: Companion Website for Anthropology: What Does it Mean to Be Human?

Available free on-line: <http://global.oup.com/us/companion.websites/9780190210847/stud/>

Instructor Philosophy

One of my primary goals in teaching anthropology is to enable my students to develop appropriate tools to be able to engage and employ them both in and out of the classroom. As anthropologists we fully understand that the condition of being a human is that we have to understand the meaning of our experience. In the context of learning anthropology in the classroom, it is vital for students to viscerally learn to make their own interpretations rather than act on the purpose, beliefs, and judgments of others. Facilitating such an understanding is the pinnacle of my teaching philosophy. In other words, it is my hope and expectation that this course will help you recreate your own ideas and opinions about cultural phenomena, particularly about your own culture.

Course Rules and Classroom Culture:

Student Conduct: The discipline of Anthropology requires us to explore the lives of others as well as our own. This means that certain topics can be sensitive at times and we have to act with the utmost respect for one another. The classroom will remain a safe space for us to explore our thoughts and learn. You are expected to conduct yourself in an honest, professional, and ethical manner.

Technology Statement

This course is run asynchronously. In other words, you do not have to log in at a certain time and are free to log in when you can so you can balance the uncertainty that is enveloping our lives. That said, there is a significant amount of work in our course and it is important for you to dedicate a significant amount of time each week for our course.

Our library is here to help you with any access issues you may be experiencing. Please email them and let me know as soon as possible so I am able to help facilitate. libref@linnbenton.edu

Here is your access to our course this term: <https://canvas.instructure.com/enroll/P9TMPM>

This has also been sent to your email. **You must use your LBCC email.** Contact your Instructor as soon as possible if you are having any issues getting into Canvas. I am your point of contact for any help with this site.

Late work policy = Communicate and be honest. It goes a long way, especially in a pandemic.

- ❖ Additionally, the last day to submit any late assignments is the last day of class (see course calendar here or in the online module). No assignments will be accepted after this date.

Absences

Attending all classes is correlated to student success. The films, lectures, and discussions we engage with in class are crucial to your participation in the course as well. I assure you that there are no surveillance mechanisms in our class, but please note that the instructor can see when and how long you are logged in. Please know that communicating with your instructor is important.

*Missing the equivalent of three weeks in this course results in not being able to pass.

Statement on Academic Dishonesty: As a college student you will be held to the highest standards regarding academic integrity. Academic dishonesty includes: cheating (the intentional use of unauthorized materials, information, or study aids); fabrication (falsification or invention of any information); assisting (helping another commit an act of academic dishonesty); tampering (altering or interfering with evaluation instruments and documents); and plagiarism (intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another person as one's own). At the discretion of the instructor, engaging in academic dishonesty risks will absolutely result in a zero on the dishonest assignment and risks failing the entire course

Students needing accommodations: Accommodations are a collaborative effort between students, faculty, and staff. You should meet with your instructor during the first week of class if you have a documented disability and need accommodations. Your instructor needs to know this from you in order for you to best be accommodated. If you think you may need accommodation services please contact Center for Accessibility Resources (CFAR): 541-917-4789. <https://www.linnbenton.edu/cfar>

Basic Needs Statement:

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Roadrunner Resource Center for support (resources@linnbenton.edu , or visit us on the web www.linnbenton.edu/RRC under Student Support for Current Students). Our office can help students get connected to resources to help. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources that they may possess.

Requirements for success in this course

- 1) Be prepared
- 2) Access required texts asap
- 3) Complete your work on time
- 4) Participate and engage respectfully with your classmates
- 5) Access and use CANVAS course online

Course Requirements & Grades ~ *All of these are outlined and gone over together in our course. Nothing to get overwhelmed with now, but also good to know.*

Media Portfolios (MP): Each week throughout the term, students will follow current media stories pertaining to anthropology. There are many Web-based news services that you can use, some of which include: *The New York Times, CNN, BBC News, National Public Radio, The Economist, National Geographic, The Guardian, The Smithsonian, The Washington Post, etc.* We will host a “discussion section” every Friday of each week, you will hand in a one-page (approximately 300-word) report on a

media story of your choosing related to any of the course themes. You choose what you want! In each report, you should briefly summarize the story, explain its significance to anthropology, and comment on which subfield it best represents. These short reports will be turned in each week during your Friday discussion section. You will have ten of them (one for each unit) by the end of the term.

1.5 points per each report and 1.5 points for being a participatory educator. In other words, if you hand in your Media Portfolio and were not in class to contribute, you receive half credit for that week's portfolio. The way we do this is through the “peer-review” function, but this is not really a “peer-review”, but rather a way to read others' work and engage by commenting on their portfolios.

The last portfolio is a reflection. I will provide a few examples from previous students on Canvas.

Teaching Projects (20 points)

In an effort to cover critical and relevant knowledge from our TEXTbook in our short 10 week course, you will be assigned one of the following articles:

- Chapter 2: Why Is Evolution Important to Anthropologists?
- Chapter 3: What Can the Study of Primates Tell Us about Human Beings?
- Chapter 13: What Can Anthropology Tell Us about Sex, Gender, and Sexuality?
- Chapter 16: How is Anthropology Applied in the Field of Medicine?

You will become an expert on this topic and teach it to your group members who have read a different article than you. You will receive your article assignment in Week 2 and teach on Friday of Week 4. This will be peer-reviewed and you will upload a copy of your presentation/notes/lesson plan on Canvas for your instructor as well. This will be discussed at length in class. You will also have some examples to guide you as well as a detailed explanation from your instructor.

Research Teaching Project ~ Similar to the Teaching Project; however, for this one you get to choose your own research question, find answers to it, and develop a creative way to teach it to your group. These projects are explained in detail .

Reflective Review Questions

These mainly concern the Engelke book, “How to Think Like an Anthropologist” and are designed to keep you up to date on these readings each week.

Final

We will have a review on the last day of class and discuss this at length. If you would like to prepare for your final all term, you can! Your final exam will ask you the question “what did you learn” in each module and you will write a minimum of a paragraph for each module answering this question with providing evidence using three resources from the week. If you keep a journal or document each week as we continue through this course, your final exam will be done!

Course Calendar Summer 2020

*Note: This course does not meet synchronously. It is set up for you to log in and everything is recorded for you so you can do things on your own time and balance your life. However, I created this calendar for you below to think about time management as if this course were meeting face to face. It is just a reference to help you manage your time. **These dates do not reflect actual due dates.***

Engelke = How to think like an Anthropologist

TEXT = Anthropology: What Does it Mean to Be Human?

MP = Media Portfolio

	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
Week 1: June 29th Anthropology: The Familiar and the Strange	Introductions & Syllabus & Learning Management System (LMS)	Engelke - Introduction due	Media Portfolio (MP) #1 due TEXT Ch. 1 What is Anthropology
Week 2: July 6th Culture & VALUES	TEXT Ch. 8 “Why is the Concept of Culture Important” p. 237-256	Ch. 1 Engelke - Culture Ch. 3 Engelke -Values	TEXT: Module 3 Ethnographic Methods p. 257-271 MP # 2 due Receive assigned chapter for Teaching Project for Week 4

<p>Week 3: July 13th</p> <p>CIVILIZATION: Why did Humans Settle Down?</p>	<p>TEXT Ch. 7</p> <p>Why did humans settle down, build cities, and establish states?</p>	<p>Ch. 2 Engelke - Civilization</p>	<p>MP # 3 due</p>
<p>Week 4: July 20th</p> <p>VALUE: Economic Anthropology</p>	<p>MP # 4 due</p>	<p>Ch. 4 Engelke - Value</p>	<p>Teaching Project due</p>
<p>Week 5: July 27th</p> <p>BLOOD & Human Variation</p>	<p>TEXT Ch. 5</p> <p>What Can Evolutionary Theory Tell Us about Human Beings?</p>	<p>Ch. 5 Blood</p>	<p>MP # 5 due</p> <p>The Human Family Tree</p>
<p>Week 6: Aug 3rd</p> <p>IDENTITY & Language</p>	<p>TEXT Ch. 9: Why Understanding Human Language is Important?</p>	<p>Ch. 6 Engelke -Identity</p>	<p>MP # 6 due</p>
<p>Week 7: Aug 10th</p> <p>AUTHORITY</p>	<p>Research Proposal due</p>	<p>Ch. 7 Engelke - Authority</p>	<p>MP # 7 due</p>
<p>Week 8: Aug 17th</p> <p>REASON + Ways of Being and Knowing</p>	<p>TEXT Ch. 10 How do we make meaning?</p>	<p>Ch. 8 Engelke -Reason</p>	<p>MP # 8 due</p> <p>Research Teaching Project due</p>

Week 9: Aug 24th NATURE, its Limits & a Biocultural Approach	Ch. 9 Engelke -Nature		MP # 9: Final Media Portfolio due
Week 10: Aug 31st Applying Anthropology in Everyday Life	Read Engelke Conclusion.		Last day of class = last day to hand in assignments.