**Introduction to Anthropology Siad Darwish**

**Anthropology 100 (01:070:100) Summer 2016**

**Session 1:** 31 May 2016 – 24 June 2016

**Meeting times:** Online 10:50-1:45 Monday and Tuesday; in class**:** 10:50-1:45 Wednesday and Thursday

**Classroom:** Scott Hall 214

**Instructor:** Siad Darwish is socio-cultural anthropologist and graduate student at Rutgers with training in classics, physical and biological anthropology. He specializes in authoritarianism, revolutions and environmental pollution with an areal focus on the Middle East and North Africa region. He has worked extensively in international development and in peacebuilding.

**Contact information:** siad.darwish@rutgers.edu **Office location:** to be announced

**Office hours:** by appointment

**Course description:** Why do we do the things we do? And why do different human groups have come to do them differently? Why have we evolved to walk upright on two legs? Why do we communicate primarily through language? Why do we have art, different fashions, foods and traditions?Anthropology is attempting to answer these and many different questions holistically**.** In the American tradition, Anthropology, the study of humanity, is composed of four subfields: Archeology, Physical or Biological Anthropology, Linguistics and Socio-cultural Anthropology. Taken together, these very diverse subfields with different histories, scientific tools and traditions attempt to understand what it means to be human in different times and places. On a most basic level the course therefore explores the relationship between human bodies, environments and culture. After introducing the students to core concepts in each of the subfields we will use a topical approach, in which we will bring insights from each of the subfields together to illuminate the phenomena of: sex and gender and race.

**Course objectives:**

* Students will familiarize themselves with basic anthropological concepts such as: evolution, culture, ethnicity, symbolism, etc.
* Students will learn to interpret human behavior from various different methodological perspectives.
* Students will be introduced to the history of anthropological theory.
* Students will comprehend the basic methodologies anthropologists’ employ.
* Students will have a basic idea of the human evolution and different hominin types.
* Students will learn to critically assess literature and communicate complicated ideas.
* Students will improve their essay writing and planning skills.

**Required texts:**

All readings for this course will be made available on Sakai (**http://sakai.rutgers.edu**).

**Academic integrity:** <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>

You are responsible for knowing this information. Please come speak with me if you have any questions about what this policy entails.

**Course format:** This course is in a hybrid format, meaning half of it is in person and the other half virtual facilitated through the Sakai website.

**Grades**

**Grading scale:** A: 90-100; B+: 85-89; B: 80-84; C+: 75-79; C: 70-74; D: 60-69; F: 0-59.

I will round up any final grades that are less than half a point from the next letter grade. For example, a final grade of 84.8 will be rounded up to a B+; a final grade of 84.4 will be a B.

**Assignments and evaluation:** Grading breakdown will be as follows:

Final paper: 35%

Draft of paper: 5%

Response papers 30%

Exam: 20%

Participation 10%

Total: 100%

All work will be handed in and graded through Sakai. Please familiarize yourself with Sakai if you have not used it before. “Sakai wouldn’t let me submit” is not a valid excuse for late work. If you are unable to submit work through Sakai, you must email it to me before the deadline.

**Research paper:** The topic of your research paper is your choice, but you will have to discuss the topic with me by Class 5 (June 7). As we won’t have covered much ground by then, I encourage you to think broadly about anthropology and the way we will have introduced it in the first two sessions. A draft paper of six pages at least will be due by Class 11 (16 June) and the date for the final paper is to be announced. Please refer to the paper, “How to Plan and Write an Academic Essay” in Sakai Resources.

**Response Papers:** See “How to Write A Précis- A Rough Guide” by Prof. Ghassem Fachandi in Resources on Sakai. Response papers will be due at 6:00pm the evening before class.

**Exams:** There will be one exam that will consist of open book essay questions.

**Online work:** Please check Sakai regularly. You will have assignments due multiple times a week. Assignments are due by 5pm on the date listed on the syllabus, unless otherwise noted. The lowest grade will be dropped.

**Policies**

**Attendance:** Because summer courses are shorter than those held during the regular academic year, we will be condensing a significant amount of material into only four weeks. Missing a single day is equivalent to missing an entire week’s worth of classes during the Fall or Spring semesters. Please refer to Rutgers University policy for what specifically qualifies as a excused absence. Unexcused absences will be penalized. After two (2) absences, your final grade will be reduced by a letter value. After three (3) absences, you will automatically fail the course.

The Office of Academic Services (http://sasundergrad.rutgers.edu) is an excellent resource and will be able to help you with any personal difficulties—please do not hesitate to get in touch with them.

**Participation:** If you want to succeed in this class and get a good grade, doing the readings is absolutely essential. If you have trouble with the reading load please talk to me and I will give you some advice. Refer to, “How to Read an Academic Text” in Sakai Resources.

**Make-ups:** I will not accept any late work or allow any make-ups without a note from a Dean.

If you know **in advance** that you will have a conflict with completing work or attending class, please let me know as soon as possible.

**Extra credit:** There is no extra credit.

**Grading transparency:** I will post all grades on Sakai throughout the semester. There should be no surprises as to final grades. If you think that an assignment has been graded unfairly, speak with me within **one week** of receiving the grade in question.

Please do not email me at the end of the semester to request a higher grade. If you need a certain grade for whatever reason, start working towards that at the start of the semester.

**Email:** I will reply to email within 24 hours during the week, or within 48 over the weekend. If more than that time has passed and you have not heard from me, please re-send your email—they sometimes go astray.

If you think that your question is one that other students may also have, please post it on Sakai instead of emailing it to me personally. I will answer it there so that everyone can benefit.

**Course Schedule**

**Class 1 online (31 May): Listening to Anthropology**

Listen to the complete BBC 4 podcast series From Savage to Self. You can do that via the webpage (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b06zjhfx/episodes/player>) using a smartphone, tablet or computer. Or via your preferred podcast client. Write a one page response paper (double spaced) on what you think Anthropology is.

**Class 2 in person (1 June): What is Anthropology: The Four Field Approach?**

Response paper due 6:00pm on the evening before class

Essential Reading:

Anderson, E. N.

2003 Four-Field Anthropology. Anthropology News, 44: 3

Kottak, Conrad Phillip

2012 Chapter 1: What is Anthropology? *In* Window on humanity : a concise introduction to anthropology. 5th edition. Pp. xxvii, 523 p. New York: McGraw-Hill.

Park, M. A.

2010 Chapter 1: Doing Anthropology. *In* Introducing Anthropology: An Integrated Appraoch, fifth edition. New York, NY: McGraw Hill.

Additional Reading:

Borofsky, R.

2002 The Four Subfields: Anthropologists as Mythmakers. American Anthropologist, 104: 463–480.

Barth, Fredrik

2005 One discipline, four ways British, German, French, and American anthropology. *In* The Halle lectures. Pp. 1 online resource (ix, 406 p.). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

**Class 3 in person (2 June): Anthropological Methodologies**

Eriksen, Thomas Hylland

2004 Chapters 1 & 2 *in* What is anthropology? London ; Ann Arbor, MI: Pluto Press.

Kottak, Conrad Phillip

2012 Chapter 3: Ethics and Methods *In* Window on humanity : a concise introduction to anthropology. 5th edition. Pp. xxvii, 523 p. New York: McGraw-Hill.

Park, M. A.

2010 Chapter 2: How Anthropology Works: Methods of Inquery. *In* Introducing Anthropology: An Integrated Apraoch, fifth edition. New York, NY: McGraw Hill.

**Class 4 online (6 June): Evolution**

Essential Reading:

Gould, SJ

1982 Darwinism and the expansion of evolutionary theory. Science 216(4544):380-387.

Lewin, Roger, and Robert Foley

2004 Chapter 2: The Principles of Evolutionary Theory *in* Principles of human evolution. Malden, MA: Blackwell Pub.

Watch: Charles Darwin and the Tree of Life

**Class 5 online (7 June): Human Evolution**

Essential Reading:

Stringer, Christopher

2011 Rethinking "Out of Africa". Edge. (Watch interview and read article)

Lewin, Roger, and Robert Foley

2004 Chapter 1: The Framework of Human Evolution

Chapter 8: Apes, hominins, and humans: morphology, molecules, and fossils *in* Principles of human evolution. Malden, MA: Blackwell Pub.

**Class 6 in person (8 June): Human Evolution**

**Response paper due 6:00pm on the evening before class**

**Class 7 in person (9 June): Human Evolution Continued: The Great Leap**

Essential Reading:

Klein, Richard G., and Blake Edgar

2002 Chapter 1& 2 *in* The dawn of human culture. New York: Wiley.

Cronk, Lee

2007 [1999]. “Gardening Tips.” The Complex Whole: Culture and the Evolution of Human Behavior. Westview Press. Reprinted in Anthropology 07/08. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill. Pps. 29-37.

Movie: Cave of Forgotten Dreams, Werner Herzog

**Class 8 Online (13 June): Exam**

**Class 9 Online (14 June) : From Culture to Cultures**

Essential Reading:

Kottak, Conrad Phillip

2012 Chapter 2: Culture *In* Window on humanity : a concise introduction to anthropology. 5th edition. Pp. xxvii, 523 p. New York: McGraw-Hill

Listen to In Our Time: Social Darwinism (http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03vgq1q)

**Class 10 in person (15 June): From Social Evolutionism to Cultural Relativism**

Response paper due 6:00pm on the evening before class

Essential Reading:

Lewis Henry Morgan.

1877. “Ancient Society.”

Herbert Spencer.

1897. “The Evolution of Society.”

George W. Stocking.

1987. “The Idea of Civilization Before the Crystal Palace (1750-1850)”

**Class 11 in person (16 June): Boas and Cultural Relativism**

Boas, Franz

1920. “The Methods of Ethnology.”

Bunzl, Matti

1996. “Franz Boas and the Humboldtian Tradition: From Volksgeist and National Character to an Anthropological Concept of Culture.”

Stocking, George W.

1974. “The Basic Assumptions of Boasian Anthropology.”

**Class 12 online (20 June): Linguistics and Symbolic Anthropology**

Essential readings:

Ferdinand de Saussure.

1959. Course in General Linguistics (excerpt).

Claude Levi-Strauss.

1958. “Structural Analysis in Linguistics and Anthropology.” In Structural Anthropology

Whorf, Benjamin Lee

1956 [1939]. “The Relation of Habitual Thought and Behavior to

Language.” In J. B. Carroll (ed.), Language, Thought, and Reality: Selected Writings of

Benjamin Lee Whorf. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, p. 134-159.Violence

LA Chapter 7, “Speaking as Social Action.” P. 218-244 ONLY.

**Class 13 online (21 June): Semiotic Analysis of Video and Response paper**

**Class 14 in person (June 22): Sex and Gender in a Comparative Perspective**

Response paper due 6:00pm on the evening before class

Essential readings:

MacCormack, Carol

1980. “Nature, Culture and Gender: A Critique.” In Carol MacCormack and Marilyn Strathern, eds. *Nature, Culture and Gender*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pps. 1-24.

Ochs, Elinor

1992 “Indexing Gender.” In A. Duranti and C. Goodwin (eds.), Rethinking

Context: Language as an Interactive Phenomenon. New York: Cambridge University

Press.

Ortner, Sherry

2006. [1974]. “Is Female to Male as Nature is to Culture?” In *Feminist Anthropology: A Reader*, pps. 72-86.

**Class 15 in Person (June 23): Race and Ethnicity in a Comparative Perspective**

Essential readings:

Gravlee, Clarence C.

2009 How race becomes biology: Embodiment of social inequality. American Journal of Physical Anthropology 139(1):47-57

Hill, Jane H. (1998). “Language, Race, and White Public Sphere.” American Anthropologist

100(3):680-689

Relethford, John H.

2009 Race and global patterns of phenotypic variation. American Journal of Physical Anthropology 139(1):16-22.

BD., Smedley A and Smedley

2005 Race as biology is fiction, racism as a social problem is real: Anthropological and historical perspectives on the social construction of race. American Psychology 60(1):16-26.