

ANTH 1006: Introduction to Anthropology

University of Connecticut
Department of Anthropology
Summer Session 1 2026

Instructor	Dr. Christopher Ball
Email	christopher.ball@uconn.edu
Lectures	Online Asynchronous. Lectures Released Weekly
Office Hours	Mondays & Wednesdays 9am-10am, or by appointment
Course Website	https://huskyct.uconn.edu/

Course Outline:

Anthropology is the study of what makes us human. This course takes a “four-field” (physical/biological, linguistics, archaeology, & socio-cultural) approach to the study of Anthropology, an integrated holistic discipline with both academic and applied dimensions. This course is concerned with the biological and cultural development of humans from their origin millions of years ago to the present. The first half of the course will focus on evolutionary principles, primates, the archaeological record, and hominin evolution. The second half of the course will focus on the emergence and dispersal of modern humans, human variation, emergence of complex societies, and the customs and practices of peoples and cultures from around the world.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students will:

- LO1: Demonstrate a foundational understanding of core anthropological concepts & perspectives.
- LO2: Become knowledgeable of human evolutionary & cultural history, anthropological & archaeological methods, and gain an appreciation for the diversity of contemporary human cultures.
- LO3: Develop their ability to critically engage with important anthropological topics & case studies.
- LO4: Apply an understanding of anthropological perspectives to contemporary issues & current events.
- LO5: Demonstrate an ability to analyze, evaluate, and explain how fundamental cultural, social, political, and familial institutions differ cross culturally.
- LO6: Develop teamwork and communication skills by collaborating in small groups to complete in-class exercises.

Evaluation:

Reading Reflections (4 @ 7.5% each)	30%
Public Engagement Assignment	25%
Exams (3 @ 15% each)	45%

Weekly Reading Responses

Students are required to engage with the assigned readings and course content through short writing tasks (due most Fridays by 10 PM). Each week, you will be expected to complete the assigned readings and then write a short (1-2 paragraph) response for each assigned chapter wherein you identify, summarize, or comment on key points from the assigned readings. Weekly reflections should clearly demonstrate that you have done all the assigned readings and **must be submitted online via HuskyCT by 10pm on Fridays**. This will ensure that students have both read and thought about the material in advance of each lecture. Reading responses are worth 7.5 points each. Students must submit a total of 4 reflections accounting for 30% of their final grade. There is no submission for the first week of the course. Late reflections will not be accepted.

Public Engagement Assignment (Due: June 26th)

For this assignment, you will practice translating some of the core themes and topics of the course into different mediums for public, non-academic audiences. Your task is to choose a topic or concept from the readings or lectures which you will then explain to non-experts through a medium of your choice—TikTok, YouTube, graphic design (infographic), a comic, podcast, etc. Assignments will be assessed for the accuracy of the information that they contain and your skill in making your topic of choice accessible, interesting, and exciting. Presentations should be attention-grabbing, present a fresh/unique way of approaching the subject material and, ideally, incorporate art, graphics, and other visual representations made by the student. The public engagement assignment is worth 25% of the final grade. Please note that text-based mediums, such as twitter, are not permitted as a medium of choice for this assignment.

Exams (June 12th, June 18th, & July 2nd)

Tests are each composed of 25 multiple choice questions and will be held online via HuskyCT from 12:01 am to 11:59 pm on June 12th, June 18th, & July 2nd. Questions will be based on material from designated lectures, readings, and in-class discussions. You may reference your textbook, notes, and other study aids; but you may not seek or receive assistance from anywhere else. You will only be allowed one attempt at each quiz and must complete that attempt in one sitting. Once you begin, you will have 60 minutes to complete the test. Students that miss a test must follow departmental and/or university procedures to request to re-write a quiz.

Course Materials & Required Readings:

For this course, we will be using the following required textbook:

Anthropology: Appreciating Human Diversity by Conrad Kottak & Scott Lukas.

- Please note that this course will not make use of online (Connect) functionality so you may use any recent/used version of the textbook.

All other course materials will be made available online in the “course content” section on HuskyCT.

Lecture Schedule and Assigned Readings:

Week	Date	Lecture Topics	Readings
Week 1	June 1 - 5	Introduction to Anthropology Genetics, Evolution, & Primates	Review the syllabus and course policies Chapters 1, 5, & 7
Week 2	June 8 – 12	Early Hominin Evolution & The Genus Homo Early States & Civilizations	Chapters 9 & 12
	June 12	Quiz 1	
Week 3	June 15 - 19	Method & Theory in Cultural Anthropology Language & Communication Family, Kinship, Descent, & Marriage	Chapters 13, 14, & 19
	June 18	Quiz 2	
Week 4	June 22 - 26	Race & Ethnicity Sex & Gender	Chapters 6 & 18
	June 26	Public Engagement Assignment Due	
Week 5	June 29 - July 2	Class & Inequality Political Systems & Social Control Medical Anthropology	Chapters 23 & 3
	July 2	Quiz 3	

Course Policies:

Accessibility Accommodations

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you require academic accommodation or modifications to course procedures due to a documented learning disability, please notify me early in the term. I am available after class, during office hours, by email, and/or by appointment. If you require specific accommodation and have not yet contacted the Center for Students with Disabilities, please do so as soon as possible so that they can facilitate support for your learning. The Center can provide a range of assistive technologies and low-distraction rooms for examinations. For more information, please visit <http://csd.uconn.edu/>.

Equity and Diversity

The University is committed to maintaining an environment free of discrimination or discriminatory harassment directed toward any person or group within its community, including students, employees, or visitors. Academic and professional excellence can only flourish when each member of our community is assured an atmosphere of safety and mutual respect. All members of the University community are responsible for the maintenance of an academic and work environment in which people are free to learn and work without fear of discrimination, discriminatory harassment, or interpersonal violence. Any behavior that undermines the dignity or self-esteem of any individual in this course will not be tolerated. Please alert the course instructor to any attempt to undermine the dignity of another student or to create an intimidating or hostile environment. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please contact me immediately at christopher.ball@uconn.edu.

Personal Pronouns and Identity

Everyone deserves to be referred to and addressed in accordance with their personal identity. As a faculty member, I am committed to ensuring that my classroom affirms people of all gender expressions and gender identities. In this course, we will use the names and pronouns of each individual's choosing. Please share with the professor, teaching assistants, and/or the class (as you feel comfortable) the name(s) and/or pronouns that you would like us to use for you, if they ever differ from information shared on the first day of class.

Title IX Statement

As a faculty member, I am deeply invested in the well-being of each student I teach. I am here to assist you with your work in this course. If you come to me with other non-course-related concerns, I will do my best to help. It is important for you to know that all faculty members are required to report any incidents of gender-based discrimination, including discrimination based on gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation. This means that I cannot keep information confidential about sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, or other forms of gender-based discrimination, and that I will report that information to the Office of Institutional Equity, if it is shared with me. The University takes all reports with the utmost seriousness. Please be aware that while the information you provide will remain private, it will not be confidential and will be shared with university officials who can help. More information is available at equity.uconn.edu and titleix.uconn.edu.

Academic Integrity

All students are expected to adhere to the student code for academic integrity in undergraduate education and research (for more information, please visit <http://www.community.uconn.edu>). Academic dishonesty, including any form of plagiarism or cheating, will not be tolerated and will result in both a failing grade for the course and a referral to the Deans' Office for a hearing on academic conduct. In brief, the Student Code states that:

“A fundamental tenet of all educational institutions is academic honesty; academic work depends upon respect for and acknowledgement of the research and ideas of others. Misrepresenting someone else’s work as one’s own is a serious offense in any academic setting and it will not be condoned.”

You are encouraged to build on the ideas and texts of others; however, you are also obligated to document every occasion when you use someone else’s ideas, language, or syntax. Copying from a book, article, website, or another student without proper citation of the source is not acceptable. Violators will, at a minimum, receive an automatic zero on their assignment and will be referred to the Dean of the College for a hearing on academic misconduct. Serious offenses may also result in failure of the course. If you have questions about academic integrity or intellectual property, please consult with me and/or the University of Connecticut’s guidelines for academic integrity.

Academic Integrity and ChatGPT

Many of you may also be aware of the recent release of ChatGPT, a Large Language artificial intelligence (AI) model that has the capacity to quickly produce text on a range of topics. ChatGPT aggregates the ideas and insights of many researchers without giving them credit. Submitting ChatGPT-generated text as your own work would be an act of plagiarism insofar as it would involve passing off the work of others as your own. For these reasons, you are not allowed to use ChatGPT, GPT-3 or other similar tools to produce essays or other academic work for this class, unless otherwise explicitly permitted to do so.

University Writing Center

All UConn students are invited to visit the University Writing Center for individualized tutorials. The Writing Center staff includes talented and welcoming graduate and undergraduate students from across the humanities, social sciences, and sciences. They work with writers at any stage of the writing process, from exploring ideas to polishing final drafts. Their priority is guiding each student's revisions, so they frequently provide a sounding board for a writer's ideas, arguments, analytical moves, and uses of evidence. They can also work with you on sentence-level concerns, but please note that they will not proofread for you; instead, they will help you become a better editor of your own work. You should come with a copy of the assignment you are working on, a current draft (or notes if you are not yet at the draft stage), and ideas about what you want out of a session. Tutorials run for 45 minutes and are free. You can drop in or make an appointment. For hours, locations, and more information, please go to writingcenter.uconn.edu.

Document Formatting

All assignments for the course must be double-spaced and typed in 12-point, Times font, with 1-inch margins. All assignments must be submitted in either .doc or .docx format. Assignment references may adhere to any format with in-text citations but must be applied consistently throughout each assignment.

Additionally, any student who thoroughly reads this syllabus and contacts the course instructor prior to the first day of class will be awarded an additional 1% towards their final grade. Student emails must indicate that they have read the syllabus and may include a fun fact that you know, a funny joke (please keep it clean), a picture of your favorite animal (it doesn't have to be yours), a question about the course, or a brief mention of what you're hoping to learn this year.

Assignment Submission Policy

Except for practical assignments, all other assignments, including the essay proposal, annotated bibliography, and final paper will be submitted electronically **via HuskyCT**.

Students are responsible for ensuring that all assignments are submitted correctly and in an accessible format.

Late Assignments

This course employs late work policies that offer some degree of flexibility for students. Late public engagement assignments will not be assigned late penalties for one week beyond their due date, but students will not receive feedback on late assignments. **Assignments will not be accepted after 7 days (including weekends) beyond their initial due date without an approved accommodation request from Student Accessibility Services.** Late weekly submissions will not be accepted.

Communication Policy

The course instructor will be available for consultation primarily by appointment and via email. I will strive to reply to student email inquiries within 2 days, weekends excepted. Please ensure that you use your uconn.edu email account when contacting the instructor. Inquiries from other email services (Gmail, Hotmail, etc.) will be discarded. If you do not receive a reply within two days, please follow up with the instructor. Each email message must include the course identifier in the subject line and a clear, concise statement of purpose; otherwise, it is more likely to be missed, deleted, or filtered alongside miscellaneous spam. **Please ensure that you consult the course syllabus, other handouts, and the course website before sending inquiries by email.** Email is intended to address short inquiries only. Inquiries that cannot be addressed briefly should be brought to the instructor during office hours.

Note on Posting Course Materials Online

Except for required readings, all materials presented in this course (including presentations, handouts, quizzes and exams) are copyrighted by the instructor. Please do not post any course material online without the permission of the instructor. Violators will be investigated and, where relevant, referred to the Dean of the College for a hearing on academic misconduct.

Grading Policy

There are no opportunities for extra credit in this class. Grades will be based on a 100-point score and will be converted to letter grades as indicated in the table below. A great deal of care is taken in grading your work. Occasionally, however, instructors make an error when grading exams or assignments. If you feel that an error has been made, please bring this to the attention of your TA. In order to ensure fairness and equity in grading, the entire assignment will be re-graded and any errors (including those that may have falsely elevated your score) will be corrected. Requests for the re-evaluation of submitted work must be made within 7 days of the assignment/examination being returned to you.

Grading Scale

Grade	%	Grade	%	Grade	%	Grade	%
A	93 - 100	B+	87 - 89	C+	77 - 79	D+	67 - 69
A-	90 - 92	B	83 - 86	C	73 - 76	D	60 - 66
		B-	80 - 82	C-	70 - 72	F	Below 60