

ANTH 4021.100

Development of Anthropological Thought

Fall 2026

Course Description:

An overview of the history of anthropological thought from its origins to the contemporary schools of anthropology, with emphasis on the scientific, intellectual, and sociopolitical causes and consequences of changes in major conceptual orientations to society and culture.

Instructor

Dr. Nelson
andrew.nelson@unt.edu
PH: 940-369-7854

Office Hours

*Wednesdays, 10-12, or by
appointment*

[Virtual]
ZOOM: [4224073118](https://unt.zoom.us/j/4224073118)

[In-Person]
Sycamore 104C

Meetings

Mondays,
Wednesdays 2:20-
3:40
Gateway 049

Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of the course, the learner will be able to:

- Locate the development of anthropological theory in intellectual and political history.
- Articulate what anthropological theory reveals about culture and society.
- Identify how anthropological theory helps us imagine better social futures.
- Analyze how theory has been applied for the social good.

Required Materials

All course readings/materials will be accessible via Canvas.

Grade Breakdown

Assessments:

Attendance & Reading Passes (x29) **20%**
Reframing popular discourse (x9) **20%**
Bios **10%**
Unit Essays (x3) **50%**

Grading Scale (%):

A 90-100
B 80-89
C 70-79
D 60-69
F <60

Assessments

Attendance & Reading Pass (20%)

Come to class. Communicate what you think. Bring a reading pass to each class: one quotation / one question. One freebie class.

Reframing Popular Discourse (20%)

At the end of application days, groups will submit a short statement about how the given theory reframes an example from popular discourse.

Essays (50%)

At the end of each unit, students will submit “choose your own adventure” assignments in which they will apply the unit’s questions to a particular prompt/challenge/story. You will have one complete class period to prepare for this assignment.

Bios (10%)

Each student will sign up for a particular anthropologist not covered in the class. In partnerships of two, you will identify the theorist’s main questions and social context.

Course Policies

Assignment Policy

All work submitted for credit must be **original work** created by the student uniquely for this ANTH 4021.100 course during the Fall 2026 semester. Work must be submitted via Canvas.

Late Policy

Late work will not be accepted without proper documentation of an excused period of absence. Proper documentation of a [university approved absence](#) must be emailed to the instructor within 24 hours of the missed assignment. In cases where proper documentation is approved, the instructor will communicate make-up credit options to the student, or in the case of quizzes/discussions, the student may be excused from those assignments.

Extension Policy

While late work without proper documentation will not be accepted, we do offer students the opportunity to request extensions for a wide variety of reasons. Please email instructor 24 hours prior to the original due date.

Technical Difficulties

If a student is experiencing personal technical difficulties that prohibit them from uploading their assignment to Canvas, the instructor will consider accepting it only if the student attaches the assignment to an email to the professor **within an hour** of the elapsed deadline **AND** includes a Help Desk receipt, or dated/timed screenshot of the student’s email to the Help Desk.

Student Helpdesk:

Sage Hall 130

940-565-2324

Academic Support Services

- Academic Resource Center (<https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources>)
- Academic Success Center (<https://success.unt.edu/asc>)
- University Libraries (<https://library.unt.edu/>)
- Writing Lab (<http://writingcenter.unt.edu/>)
- Math Lab (<https://math.unt.edu/mathlab>)

Server Unavailability or Other Technical Difficulties

The University of North Texas is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and also contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu or 940- 565-2324. The instructor and the UNT Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time. The student is responsible for submitting a “ticket” to the instructor, issued by the UNT Help Desk documenting the time and nature of the problem in order for the instructor to consider accommodations.

UNT Policies

Academic Integrity Policy

(Policy and Procedures number 06.003)

Academic Misconduct: “Academic Misconduct,” in this policy, means the intentional or unintentional action by a student to engage in behavior in the academic setting including, but not limited to: cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic misconduct, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage.

- A. **Cheating**: “Cheating,” in this policy, means the use of unauthorized assistance in an academic exercise, including but not limited to: 1. use of any unauthorized assistance to take exams, tests, quizzes, or other assessments; 2. use of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; 3. use, without permission, of tests, notes, or other academic materials belonging to instructors, staff members, or other students of the University; 4. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor; 5. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage on an academic assignment.
- B. **Fabrication**: “Fabrication,” in this policy, means falsifying or inventing any information, data, or research outside of a defined academic exercise.
- C. **Facilitating Academic Dishonesty** (*i.e. collusion*): “Facilitating academic dishonesty,” in this policy, means helping or assisting another in the commission of academic dishonesty.
- D. **Forgery**: “Forgery,” in this policy, means intentionally falsifying or altering a score, grade, or official academic University record or the signature of another.
- E. **Plagiarism**: “Plagiarism,” in this policy, means use of another’s thoughts or words without proper attribution in any academic exercise, regardless of the

student’s intent, including but not limited to: 1. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment or citation, or 2. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in selling term papers or other academic materials.

- F. **Sabotage**: “Sabotage,” in this policy, means acting to prevent others from completing their work or willfully disrupting the academic work of others.

Program Policy on Student Academic Integrity:

The Program of Anthropology expects its students to abide by the high ethical standards of practicing professionals within the field of anthropology. The Program does not tolerate cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, or sabotage. This includes the use of unauthorized professional writing/editing services and generative AI for assignments. Students are expected to follow the [American Anthropological Association’s code of ethics](#): “In their capacity as researchers, anthropologists are subject to the ethical principles guiding all scientific and scholarly conduct. They must not plagiarize, nor fabricate or falsify evidence, or knowingly misrepresent information or its source” (<http://ethics.americananthro.org/category/statement/>).

Students are encouraged to use the [UNT Writing Center](#). For information on the University’s policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and dishonesty, see

the UNT [Student Academic Integrity policy](#).

ADA Policy

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. 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 a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at anytime, 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 [ODA website \(https://disability.unt.edu/\)](https://disability.unt.edu/).

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 CANVAS for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Retention of Student Records

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the CANVAS online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT's Code of Student Conduct (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/dean-of-students>) to learn more.

Access to Information-Eagle Connect

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail: <https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect>

Student Evaluation Administration Dates

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during the final week to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IA System Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT Website: <http://spot.unt.edu/> or email spot@unt.edu.

Sexual Assault Prevention

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at

survivoradvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565-2759.