



## **Anthropology 1010.001 Introduction to Anthropology**

**Spring 2026  
MWF 10:00 – 10:50 A.M.**

**Instructor:** Dr. Kelsey Lee

**Room:** Curry Hall 104 | The University of North Texas at Denton Campus

**Office Hours:** 11:15 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. in Room 124, Anthropology Department, Sycamore Hall

*(Feel free to email me if you would like to make an appointment!)*

**Email:** [kelsey.lee@unt.edu](mailto:kelsey.lee@unt.edu)

**Required textbook:** Lavenda R. & E. Schultz (2021) *Anthropology: What Does it Mean to be Human?* 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Oxford University Press.

*\*Any additional readings are available through Canvas.*

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

#### **Course Content**

This course will serve as an introduction to the social science known as anthropology. Often described as “the study of the human experience,” anthropology explores the past, present, future, biological, linguistic, material, and cultural aspects of the human condition. It is also comparative, meaning it surveys peoples and cultures all around the world in order to explore what makes us the same and what makes us different. This class is intended to familiarize you with the human condition by way of each of anthropology’s four subfields: Physical Anthropology, Archaeology, Linguistic Anthropology, and Cultural Anthropology. By broadly evaluating each of these subfields, you will learn how anthropologists utilize a holistic approach that considers paradigms related to human biology and evolution, history and prehistory, geography and the environment, language, culture, and society in order to understand how we are, who we are, and why we do what we do. With an open mind to learning about others, we can also learn a great deal about ourselves and discover that even amidst such diversity, all human beings are biologically and culturally interlinked.

#### **Objectives**

The objective of the course is to facilitate your development as young scholars, and to inspire your curiosity regarding the discipline of anthropology and its vast breadth of theory. Most essentially, I want you to learn how to think critically about the material we will be covering in the classroom. My hope is that you will feel comfortable exercising yourselves intellectually; this is a classroom in which you will be able to challenge and play with the ideas presented, in a thoughtful, critical, and respectful manner.



### Course Learning Objectives:

- 1) You will learn how to **explain the significance and processes of human origins** using key anthropological terms and theories.
- 2) You will be able to **describe our human past**, from our earliest human ancestors to the development of cities and states.
- 3) You will learn how to evaluate the significance of **key cultural and linguistic concepts**.
- 4) You will be able to **establish connections** between “**meaning making**” in anthropology and contemporary life.

### ASSESSMENTS AND GRADING

- 1) **Unit Assignments (200 points total):** You will be required to complete four primary assignments throughout the course, worth 50 points each. The first assignment will be related to genomics and genetics in anthropology, and the second will be related to primates. The other two will be film responses. A grading rubric and writing guide will be provided for your assignments under each respective module for the week on Canvas.
- 2) **Discussion posts (70 points total).** Students are required to engage in discussion-post conversation with one another (on Canvas) related to 7 total discussion board questions. Each discussion will be scored out of 10 points. The general guideline is that, for each discussion, you will be expected to post one short but substantial paragraph and respond to (at least) one of your classmates’ posts with a substantial response. These discussion posts are designed to demonstrate that you understand and can clearly and effectively articulate anthropological theories and concepts.
- 3) **Unit Tests (115 points each, 345 total).** There will be one Unit 1 test after the first three weeks of class, followed by a Unit 2 Midterm exam before Spring Break, and a Unit 3 test during Week 11. Each test will consist of multiple choice *and* short answer questions over material within the Canvas topics, textbook readings, and films. All of these tests will be available online from Monday – Sunday of the test week.

**IMPORTANT:** *Once you begin a test, you will have 120 minutes to finish it. Do not begin a test unless you are SURE you can finish it! I highly recommend that you do not wait until the last minute, because the test will automatically end at 11:59 p.m. and you will earn the grade received for the answers you have completed up until that point. So be careful and make sure your Internet connection is stable.*

- 4) **Final exam (185 points).**
- 5) **Participation and Attendance (150 points).**



- 6) **Core Assessments (50 points):** This class is part of the UNT “Core,” which means it has a short, required assessment at the end that measures your progress in competency areas that are of importance to UNT, such as critical thinking, empirical skills, and social responsibility.

**Calculating your grade:**

Points Possible	Letter Grade
900-1000 points	A
800-899 points	B
700-799 points	C
600-699 points	D
0-599 points	F

**ATTENDANCE POLICY/LATE WORK**

I expect you to **attend class regularly**, and **late work is not routinely accepted**. If you believe you will have difficulty attending classes, turning in assignments, or generally making progress in the course, please contact me in advance and we can discuss any challenges you might be experiencing in this regard. As was previously mentioned, I do not regularly accept late assignments, but I do have an emergency policy that can apply for up to two of your assignments, allowing you a **48-hour extension**. If you encounter circumstances that necessitate your need to utilize this policy, contact me ASAP and we can work it out together.

A **University-excused absence** for this course includes:

1. Legitimate **illness**, including concerns about mental health.
2. Legitimate **personal or family emergency**.
3. **Religious observance** (in which case students may be allowed to test or submit assignments early).
4. Other University-excused **academic or athletic event**.
5. **Work-related absences** that have been discussed with the professor and IA prior to the due date.

**CLASSROOM COMMUNITY**

This is a relatively large class, but I often like to employ a more seminar-like style, meaning that I want to incorporate group discussion as much as possible. There will be a fair amount of lecturing on my part, but I also want my students to be engaged and participatory. In order for discussions to be most productive and interesting, it would behoove you to **complete the reading assignments before class**. These reading assignments are not intended to be busywork – they are meant to help you conceptualize the ideas presented in class and prepare you for participation in the classroom.

I expect my students to be **courteous to each other**. However, this does not mean you can’t respectfully disagree with other students in the classroom! In fact, I want you to feel comfortable voicing your



opinion if you disagree with *me* as well. As long as you are thoughtful and your points are well-supported, there is nothing wrong with a healthy divergence of opinions in the classroom.

While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal, or state law will not be tolerated.

## **CLASS TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNICATIONS GUIDELINES**

**Canvas:** You will need to check Canvas regularly for class announcements, course updates, additional readings, and supplemental material.

**Troubleshooting:** If you run into technical issues with Canvas, be sure you have covered the Basics for Students New to Canvas and then either contact the Help Desk using the Help tab on the left-hand navigation panel and selecting “Technical Support” to link to the DSI support hub, calling 940-565-2324, or emailing [helpdesk@unt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@unt.edu).

### **Communication Guidelines:**

- Use your **Canvas** or **UNT email account** to contact me and to schedule appointments.
- Please allow **24 hours** for a response. If you send an email and have not received a response after 24 hours, please resend your email.
- Set your **Canvas notifications** to receive course announcements. Check your UNT email frequently!

## **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

For papers and assignments, cite your sources and do original work. This cannot be stressed enough. Students found plagiarizing their own or others’ material (including Canvas, the textbook, journal articles, online resources, etc.) will first be given the opportunity to explain themselves. If it is determined that the student unknowingly copied work without giving proper credit, that student will be given the opportunity to re-write their assignment. All make-up work deadlines apply. If it is determined that the student knowingly copied work without giving proper credit, that student will be given a “0” (F) for that assignment and their previous/future work may be subject to additional scrutiny.

## **SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY**

This syllabus may be subject to change if the need arises. Any updates to due dates or other schedule changes will be announced in class, posted as an Announcement on Canvas, and changed in the latest online version of the class syllabus.



## **15-Week Course Schedule**

### **Week 1 (January 12 – January 16)**

#### ***Introduction to Anthropology***

##### **Required reading for Friday:**

Lavenda & Schultz Ch. 1: *What is Anthropology?*

**NO CLASS ON FRIDAY (DR. LEE HAS JURY DUTY)**

### **Week 2 (January 19 – January 23)**

#### ***Physical Anthropology: Evolve or Disappear***

**NO CLASS ON MONDAY (MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY)!**

##### **Required reading:**

Lavenda & Schultz Ch. 2: *Why is Evolution Important to Anthropologists?*

**Discussion #1:** Practical Applications of Anthropology (due on Canvas by Sunday, January 25 at 11:59 p.m.)

### **Week 3 (January 26 – January 30)**

#### ***Physical Anthropology: Evolution (cont.) and Primates***

##### **Required reading:**

Lavenda & Schultz Ch. 5: *How Does the Evolutionary Study of Human Variation Undermine Notions of Biological Race?*

Lavenda & Schultz Ch. 3: *What can the Study of Primates Tell Us About Human Beings?*

**Assignment #1:** Genetics & Genomics (due on Canvas by Friday, January 30 at 11:59 p.m.)

**UNIT 1 TEST DUE FOR COMPLETION BY SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1 AT 11:59 P.M**

### **Week 4 (February 2 – February 6)**

#### ***Physical Anthropology: Early Human Ancestors***

##### **Required reading:**



Lavenda & Schultz Ch. 4: *What can the Fossil Record Tell Us About Human Origins?*

**Film:** NOVA: *Becoming Human*

Episode 1: "First Steps"

Episode 2: "The Birth of Humanity"

**Assignment #2:** Primates (due via Canvas by Friday, February 6 at 11:59 p.m.)

**Assignment #3:** Begin working on Film Response (***not due until the following Sunday, February 15 at 11:59 p.m.***)

#### **Week 5 (February 9 – February 13)**

##### ***Archaeology: Ancestors & the Past***

##### **Required Reading:**

Lavenda & Schultz Ch. 6: *How do we know about the human past?*

**Assignment #3:** Film Response (due by Sunday, February 15 at 11:59 p.m.)

#### **Week 6 (February 16 – February 20)**

##### ***Archaeology: Excavating and Understanding the Past***

##### **Required reading:**

Lavenda and Schultz Ch. 7: *Why Did Humans Settle Down, Build Cities, and Establish States?*

**UNIT 2 TEST DUE FOR COMPLETION BY SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22 AT 11:59 P.M**

#### **Week 7 (February 23 – February 27)**

##### ***Cultural Anthropology: An Introduction to Culture***

##### **Required reading:**

Lavenda & Schultz Ch. 8: *Why is the Concept of Culture So Important?*

Lavenda & Schultz Module 3: *On Ethnographic Methods*

Miner H. (1956) Body Ritual Among the Nacirema. *American Anthropologist*, 58(3): 503-07.

**Discussion #2:** Participation-Observation and Response Effects (due on Canvas by Sunday, March 1 at 11:59 p.m.)



### Week 8 (March 3 – March 7)

#### ***Linguistic Anthropology: Culture, Language & Communication***

##### **Required reading:**

Lavenda and Schultz Ch. 9: *Why is Understanding Human Language Important?*

**Film:** *The Linguists*

**Discussion #3:** Language, Culture & Society (due on Canvas by Friday, March 13 at 11:59 p.m.)

**Assignment #4:** Film Response (due by Sunday, March 8 at 11:59 p.m.)

### Week 9 (March 9 – March 13)

#### **SPRING BREAK!**

### Week 10 (March 16 – March 20)

#### ***Economics & Politics: Making a Living and Keeping Order in Society***

##### **Required reading:**

Lavenda and Schultz Ch. 11: *Why do Anthropologists Study Economic Relations?*

...And the first part of Ch. 12: *How do Anthropologists Study Political Relations?*

**Discussion #5:** Keeping Order (due on Canvas by Sunday, March 22 at 11:59 p.m.)

### Week 11 (March 24 – March 28)

#### ***Gender, Families & Kin: Male, Female, and Everyone in Between***

##### **Required reading:**

Lavenda & Schultz Ch. 13: *What Can Anthropology Teach us about Sex, Gender, and Sexuality?*

Lavenda & Schultz Ch. 14: *Where Do Our Relatives Come from and Why Do They Matter?*

**Film:** Choose either “Miss Representation” for a film on the creation of/conceptualizations of femininity, or “The Mask You Live In” for a film on the creation of/conceptualizations of masculinity.

**Assignment #4:** Film Response (due by Friday, March 27 at 11:59 p.m.)

**UNIT 3 TEST DUE FOR COMPLETION BY SUNDAY, MARCH 29 AT 11:59 P.M.**



**Week 12 (March 30 – April 3)**

***Cultural Anthropology: Art, Religion & “Meaning Making”***

**Required reading:**

Lavenda and Schultz Ch. 10: *How Do We Make Meaning?*

**Discussion #6:** Learning Gender (due on Canvas by Sunday, April 5 at 11:59 p.m.)

**Week 13 (April 6 – April 10)**

***Culture Change & Social Inequality in the Modern World***

**Required reading:**

Lavenda and Schultz Ch. 14: *What Can Anthropology Tell us about Social Inequality?*

**Discussion #7:** The Function of Religion (due on Canvas by Sunday, April 12 at 11:59 p.m.)

**Week 14 (April 14 – April 18)**

***Applied Anthropology & Applied Ethics***

**Required reading:**

Lavenda & Schultz Ch. 16: *What is Applied Anthropology?*

**Week 15 (April 21 – April 25)**

***Wrap-up and Review***

**Week 16 (April 28 – May 2) NO CLASS!**

**FINAL EXAM DUE FOR COMPLETION BY THURSDAY, MAY 7 AT 11:59 P.M.**





## ***Appendix 1: UNT Policies***

### **Academic Integrity Policy**

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

### **ADA Policy**

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable 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 reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website at <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>. You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

### **Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004)**

The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

### **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 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 Educational 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://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>) to learn more.

### **Access to Information - Eagle Connect**

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: [my.unt.edu](https://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 [Eagle Connect](https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect) (<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 weeks 13, 14 and 15 [April 5-April 22, 2022] of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" ([no-reply@iasystem.org](mailto: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/) (<http://spot.unt.edu/>) or email [spot@unt.edu](mailto:spot@unt.edu).

### **Survivor Advocacy**

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as 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. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at [SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu](mailto:SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu) or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-5652648.



## **University of North Texas Compliance**

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

- (1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
- (2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, s/he should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940- 565-2195 or email [internationaladvising@unt.edu](mailto:internationaladvising@unt.edu)) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

## **Student Verification**

UNT takes measures to protect the integrity of educational credentials awarded to students enrolled in distance education courses by verifying student identity, protecting student privacy, and notifying students of any special meeting times/locations or additional charges associated with student identity verification in distance education courses.

See [UNT Policy 07-002 Student Identity Verification, Privacy, and Notification and Distance Education Courses](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002) (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002>).

## **Use of Student Work**

A student owns the copyright for all work (e.g. software, photographs, reports, presentations, and email postings) he or she creates within a class and the University is not entitled to use any student work without the student's permission unless all of the following criteria are met:

- The work is used only once.
- The work is not used in its entirety.
- Use of the work does not affect any potential profits from the work.
- The student is not identified.
- The work is identified as student work.

If the use of the work does not meet all of the above criteria, then the University office or department using the work must obtain the student's written permission.



## ***Appendix 2: Academic Support & Student Services***

### **Student Support Services**

#### *Mental Health*

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- [Student Health and Wellness Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center>)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)
- [UNT Care Team](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care>)
- [UNT Psychiatric Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry>)
- [Individual Counseling](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling>)

#### *Chosen Names*

A chosen name is a name that a person goes by that may or may not match their legal name. If you have a chosen name that is different from your legal name and would like that to be used in class, please let the instructor know. Below is a list of resources for updating your chosen name at UNT.

- [UNT Records](#)
- [UNT ID Card](#)
- [UNT Email Address](#)
- [Legal Name](#)

*\*UNT eulDs cannot be changed at this time. The collaborating offices are working on a process to make this option accessible to UNT community members.*

#### *Pronouns*

Pronouns (she/her, they/them, he/him, etc.) are a public way for people to address you, much like your name, and can be shared with a name when making an introduction, both virtually and in-person. Just as we ask and don't assume someone's name, we should also ask and not assume someone's pronouns.

You can [add your pronouns to your Canvas account](#) so that they follow your name when posting to discussion boards, submitting assignments, etc.

Below is a list of additional resources regarding pronouns and their usage:

- o [What are pronouns and why are they important?](#)



- o How do I use pronouns?
- o How do I share my pronouns?
- o How do I ask for another person's pronouns?
- o How do I correct myself or others when the wrong pronoun is used?

#### *Additional Student Support Services*

- [Registrar](https://registrar.unt.edu/registration) (<https://registrar.unt.edu/registration>)
  - [Financial Aid](https://financialaid.unt.edu/) (<https://financialaid.unt.edu/>)
  - [Student Legal Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services>)
  - [Career Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center>)
  - [Multicultural Center](https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center) (<https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center>)
  - [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)
  - [Pride Alliance](https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance) (<https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance>)
  - [UNT Food Pantry](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry) (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry>)
- Academic Support Services
- [Academic Resource Center](https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources) (<https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources>)
  - [Academic Success Center](https://success.unt.edu/asc) (<https://success.unt.edu/asc>)
  - [UNT Libraries](https://library.unt.edu/) (<https://library.unt.edu/>)
  - [Writing Lab](http://writingcenter.unt.edu/) (<http://writingcenter.unt.edu/>)