

ANTHROPOLOGY 4000.100
APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY

Fall 2026

CLASS TIME: MWF 11:15am-12:05pm CST

LOCATION: WH 217

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Mariela Nuñez-Janes (pronouns: she/her/ella). Please call me Profe (short for Professor in Spanish)

TELEPHONE: 940/369-7663

EMAIL: Mariela.Nunez-Janes@unt.edu

OFFICE HOURS: Mondays 1-3pm CST and by appointment. Sycamore 131. To sign up for office hours or to request appointments outside of office hours please go to the “Introduction” module in Canvas and find the page “meeting with Profe.”

Instructional Assistant: Eric Bridges (pronouns: he/him)

EMAIL: EricBridges@my.unt.edu

OFFICE HOURS: Thursdays 3-4PM PM CST in the Lefties Lounges in Sycamore Hall. Please contact me in advance if you prefer to setup a virtual meetup.

OBJECTIVES: This course has two purposes. First, it introduces you to the history, ethics, and practice of applied anthropology including the varieties of applications of anthropology outside of the academy. We will pay special attention to helping you develop an understanding and appreciation of both the methodological approaches and ethical considerations in applied work. Second, it provides you with tools to examine YOURSELF –your core beliefs, your talents, your skills, and abilities, the knowledge you've gained in classes and in your life beyond the classroom. The readings, written exercises, and classroom activities are designed to help you move forward with your career plans.

REQUIRED READINGS

Available on Canvas

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

- 1) **Vision board** (50 points each, 100 total): See Canvas for instructions
- 2) **Choosing a Domain of Application for the Alumni Career Story Assignment** (20 points): See Canvas for instructions
- 3) **Alumni Career Stories** (100 points): See Canvas for instruction
- 4) **Understanding your personal experiences and educational background** (50). See Canvas for instructions
- 5) **Find a client/community partner and propose an idea** (50): See Canvas for instructions
- 6) **Proposing methodological tools** (50): See Canvas for instructions
- 7) **Portfolio** (100): Must include the following assignments:
 - 1) Understanding your personal experience and educational background
 - 2) Find a client/community partner and propose an idea
 - 3) Proposing Methodological Tools
 - 4) Resume/CV

See Canvas for additional instructions.

- 8) **Portfolio presentation** (100). See Canvas for instructions

Grading:

All grades will be assigned based on the following grading scheme:

100-89% = A

88-79% = B

78-69% = C

68-59% = D

58%- = F

Please let me know if you are having any trouble with the assignments or if you have questions about your grades. Come to office hours and/or make an appointment so that we can talk about your questions and identify strategies to help you succeed in the class.

I will return your graded assignments to you within about a week of their due date.

No late work will be accepted unless you have an excused absence (see attendance)

Contacting me by email

You should expect responses to emails, phone calls, or other inquiries directed to me within 2 business days. Contact me again if you haven't heard from me. I appreciate a gentle reminder. I care about your success yet due to other commitments I cannot always meet with all of you individually. When you have questions about assignments, the course materials or anything else related to the course content please start by looking at the instructions in the syllabus. If you have a general question not specific to you personally ask in class. If this does not help, then come to my office hours or email me to make an appointment if you are unable to make it during the scheduled office hours.

Attendance

Please come to all class meetings and arrive on time. If you have an illness or other personal emergency that can be documented email me to let me know that you won't be in class or that you were not able to come to class and attach a doctor's note or other documentation so that I can mark your absence as excused. Five or more unexcused absences during the semester will lower your total final grade by 20 points.

Use of GenAI

In this course, I want you to engage deeply with the materials and develop your own critical thinking and writing skills. For this reason, the use of Generative AI (GenAI) tools like Claude, ChatGPT, and Gemini is not permitted. While these tools can be helpful in some contexts, they do not align with our goal of fostering the development of your independent thinking. Using GenAI to complete any part of an assignment or coursework will be considered a violation of academic integrity, as it prevents the development of your own skills, and will be addressed according to the [Student Academic Integrity policy](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003) (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>).

Canvas Announcements and Other Class Materials

I will periodically share announcements on Canvas about reminders and updates relevant to the class. Supplementary class materials will be posted on Canvas. These are indicated in the course outline.

A NOTE ABOUT LEARNING DURING UNPRECEDENTED TIMES (adapted from Dr. Jason Tham)

The COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges and suffering of people in our own country and around the world continue. As we try to navigate, manage, and survive during these times of persecution, joblessness, homelessness, sickness, and death we can come together in this class.

We are a learning community and as part of this community our engagement as individuals in this collective space should be guided by the following principles:

People are the priority. Educational institutions claim that students and teachers are their top priority, yet the holistic wellbeing of students and educators is ultimately demonstrated by actions and practices that clearly and uncompromisingly prioritize the people most impacted by them. As participants in the process of teaching and learning we should remember to put people first by practicing the ideas we will learn about in this class with empathy and compassion. We must remember to engage each other with our minds as well as our hearts as *sentipensantes*, human beings whose humanity is deeply connected to our ability to think and feel.

Stay informed. We will seek reliable sources of information to stay informed about developments that affect us all individually and collectively. We will use this to make informed personal and professional decisions.

Celebrate accomplishments. We will celebrate and mark our collective class accomplishments and the individual accomplishments significant to you. Any kind of achievement during an uncertain time is a testament to your ability to persevere and our collective ability to do it together.

Take time to thrive. It is important that individually and collectively we take time to take care of our minds, bodies, and spirits. If you are not feeling well and are struggling to do the work for this class, tell me so we can come up with alternatives. Do not push yourself beyond your limits; invest in self-care and self-preservation. Take time to do things that nurture your body, mind, and soul.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Withdrawal: Withdrawing from a course is a formal procedure which YOU must initiate (for a “W” or “WF,” as determined by the instructor, with instructor approval). If you simply stop attending and do not withdraw, you will receive a performance grade, usually an “F.”

Department Policy on Student Academic Integrity: The Department of Anthropology expects its students to abide by the high ethical standards of practicing professionals within the field of anthropology. The Department 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 additional resources to help with paper writing, including how to avoid plagiarism and how to use citations, see the [Department of Anthropology Writing Guide](#). For information on the University’s policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and dishonesty, see the UNT [Student Academic Integrity policy](#).

Course Policy and Procedures on Student Academic Integrity: Any work not meeting the standards included in the Department of Anthropology’s Policy on Student Academic Integrity will be evaluated and subject to either a re-write for partial credit, if the instructor concludes that the assignment was unintentionally plagiarized, or a zero for the assignment will be given. Egregious forms of academic conduct are subject to formal review.

Academic Resources: UNT strives to offer a high-quality education in a supportive environment where you can learn, grow, and thrive. As a faculty member, I am committed to supporting you, and I want to remind you that UNT offers a range of mental health and wellness services to help maintain balance and well-being. Utilizing these resources is a proactive way to support your academic and personal success. To explore campus resources designed to support you, check out [mental health services](#) (<https://clear.unt.edu/student-support-services-policies>), visit unt.edu/success, and explore unt.edu/wellness. To get all your enrollment and student financial-related questions answered, go to scrappysays.unt.edu.

ADA Policy: The University of North Texas makes reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. To request accommodations, you must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) by completing an application for services and providing documentation to verify your eligibility each semester. Once your eligibility is confirmed, you may request your letter of accommodation. ODA will then email your faculty a letter of reasonable accommodation, initiating a private discussion about your specific needs in the course. You can request accommodations at any time, but it’s important to provide ODA notice to your faculty as early as possible in the semester to avoid delays in implementation. Keep in mind that you must obtain a new letter of accommodation for each semester and meet with each faculty member before accommodations can be implemented in each class. You are strongly encouraged to meet with faculty regarding your accommodations during office hours or by appointment. Faculty have the authority to ask you to discuss your letter during their designated office hours to protect your privacy. For more information and to access resources that can support your needs, refer to the [Office of Disability Access](#) website (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>).

Texas Senate Bill 17, the recent law that prohibits certain programs at public colleges and universities in Texas, does not in any way affect content, instruction or discussion in a course at public colleges and universities in Texas. Expectations and academic freedom for teaching and class discussion have not been altered post SB 17. See the [UNT System Senate Bill 17 Guidance](#) for additional information.

Other Help: The anthropology department's undergraduate adviser is Melissa Nelson. If you have any problems or questions related to academic advising, please email her at: Melissa.Nelson@unt.edu

Note: The instructor reserves the right to add, delete, or revise segments of this course or syllabus.

Date	Topic	Readings (read before class)	Assignment	Speaker
8/17	Welcome			
8/19	Introduction to the Discipline of Anthropology	Colwell, "What do Anthropologists Do?"	Be prepared to discuss in class	
8/21	Introduction to Applied Anthropology and Domains of Application	Matt Artz, "What is Applied Anthropology?"	Be prepared to discuss in class	
8/24	Continue discussion of Applied Anth and Domains of Application		Be prepared to discuss in class Choosing a Domain of Application for Alumni Career Story Assignment Due	
8/26	Applied Anthropology in the 21 st Century	Lamphere, "The Convergence of Applied, Practicing, and Public Anthropology in the 21 st Century"	Be prepared to discuss in class	
8/28	Anthropology at UNT	Henry et. Al, "Synonyms for Engagement"	Be prepared to discuss in class Vision Board Due	
8/31-9/2	Vision Board Presentations		Be ready to share your vision board in class	
9/4	Vision Board Presentations		Be ready to share your vision board in class	

9/7	No Class-Labor Day			
9/9	Professional Organizations and Ethics Discussion of “Understanding Your Personal Experiences Assignment”	AAA, SfAA, NAPA statements on ethics	Be prepared to discuss in class	
9/11	Questioning ideas and moving towards action	Savage Minds, “Decolonizing Anthropology”	Be prepared to discuss in class	
9/14	Praxis and intersectionality	McClaurin, “Black Feminist Anthropology”	Be prepared to discuss in class Understanding your Personal Experiences Due	
9/16	Skills	Bring your laptop or phone and your current resume or a list of your jobs		
9/18	Environment	McGuire, “The Domain of the Environment”	Be prepared to discuss in class	
9/21	Environment		Present alumni portrait in class Submit alumni portrait to canvas	
9/23	Policy	Van Willigen, “Anthropology as Policy Research”	Be prepared to discuss in class	
9/25	Policy		Present alumni portrait in class Submit alumni portrait to canvas	

9/28	Health and Medical Anthropology	Whiteford and Bennett, "Applied Anthropology and Health and Medicine"	Be prepared to discuss in class	
9/30	Health and Medical Anthropology		Present alumni portrait in class Submit alumni portrait to canvas	
10/2	UX/Design	Hale, "People are Not Users"	Be prepared to discuss in class Present alumni portrait in class Submit alumni portrait to canvas	
10/7	The job search made easy			Career Center
10/9	Business	Baba, "Anthropological Practice in Business and Industry"	Be prepared to discuss in class Present alumni portrait in class Submit alumni portrait to canvas	
10/12	Communicate the value of your degree			Career Center
10/14	Migration	Yarris, "Introduction: Accompaniment as Ethnographic Engagement"	Be prepared to discuss in class Present alumni portrait in class	

		<u>Anthropologist Action Network for Immigrants and Refugees</u>	Submit alumni portrait to canvas	
10/16	Education	Barlett, "What Anthropology Contributes to the Study of Education"	Be prepared to discuss in class	
10/19	Education		Present alumni portrait in class Submit alumni portrait to canvas	
10/21	Development and NGOs	Little, "Anthropology and Development"	Be prepared to discuss in class Present alumni portrait in class Submit alumni portrait to canvas	
10/23	Discussion of "Finding a Client/Community Partner and Propose an Idea"		Present alumni portrait in class Submit alumni portrait to canvas	
10/26	Museums	Chantataphonh, "Museum Anthropology as Applied Anthropology"	Be prepared to discuss in class Present alumni portrait in class Submit alumni portrait to canvas	

10/28	Action Research and Participatory Action Research	Hemment, "Public Anthropology and the Paradoxes of Participation"	Be prepared to discuss in class	
10/30	Building your Professional Resume			Career Center
11/2	Discussion of "Proposing Methodological Tools and Drafting a Resume/CV"		Finding a Client/Community Partner and Propose an Idea	
11/4	Activist Research	Hale "Activist Research v. Cultural Critique"	Be prepared to discuss in class	
11/6	Conducting Ethnographic Interviews			
11/9	Conducting Participant Observation			
11/11	Being A Professional/Career Paths	Van Willigen, "Making a Living"	Be prepared to discuss in class Proposing Methodological Tools and Drafting a Resume/CV Due	
11/13	Career Planning	Nolan, "Career Planning"	Be prepared to discuss in class	
11/16	Acing the Interview			Career Center
11/18	Job interviews and pitching			
11/20	No class, Profe at AAA			
11/23-11/29	No class Thanksgiving Break			

12/1	Portfolio Presentations			
12/3*Last day of class	Portfolio Presentations			
12/7			Portfolio due 12/7	