Anthropology I

Anthropology: The Study of Humanity (Module 1)

2019

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Introduction

Welcome to Anthropology 1, 2019. This module introduces you to Anthropology as a social science discipline. Broadly, Anthropology is the study of human societies in all of their complexity and diversity. It involves detailed empirical research into the social, cultural and biological aspects of human existence. Anthropology is thus humanistic in nature, as our primary units of analysis are human beings (past, present and future) as they live and thrive in their socio-cultural and physical environments. Anthropologists are keen to understand not only ‘other’ societies, but also their own. Thus, anthropologists invest large amounts of time in researching contemporary societies and their interconnections.

Aims

The first module provides an initial grounding in Anthropology by introducing you to:

- the discipline of Anthropology – key concepts and anthropological praxis (fieldwork)
- the concepts of culture, ethnocentrism, cultural relativism and globalisation
- a brief history of the discipline of Anthropology
- the potential of anthropology for understanding contemporary societies

Outcomes

By the end of module 1 you will have:

- the ability to define culture, ethnocentrism, cultural relativism and globalisation
- a general understanding of the development of Anthropology since its inception
- a basic understanding of the purpose and practice of anthropological fieldwork
- a general understanding of Anthropology’s contemporary applicability outside of academia

Basic Requirements for and Organisation of the Module

This leaflet should be read in conjunction with the General Guide to Anthropology at Rhodes that are available from Mrs Bekker in the anthropology department. This leaflet contains all you need to know about this module, while the Guide to Anthropology 1 deals with the entire course and the General Guide to Anthropology at Rhodes covers rules and procedures that apply to all the taught courses given by the Anthropology Department, for all years. If you lose any of these guides, copies are available at a cost of R25. (The General Guide and all other guides and leaflets are also available on the RU Anthropology 1 2019 FB site).

Details of the tutorial and lecture topics appear below with a list of required readings. The Harvard referencing system is employed in this leaflet, and you should use it for your tutorial notes and essays – see General Guide for a full explanation of how this referencing system works.
To successfully complete this module, you need to:

1) Attend all lectures and tutorials. Failure to attend a minimum of 80% of tutorials and lectures may result in the loss of your DP (Duly Performed Certificate), which you obtain in June 2019 and again in November 2019.

2) Read at least 2 and preferably 3 readings per week. Remember, ‘if you fail to prepare you are preparing to fail. All the course readings will be available on the RUConnected course site.

3) Write and submit a response of 500 words maximum to the tutorial question/s one week after you have attended the tutorial.

4) Read and prepare BEFORE lectures. This will enable you to follow discussions in the lecture and to respond critically and meaningfully when asked to respond in class.

5) Consult the General Anthropology Guide 2019 that contains information about Anthropology 1 for further detail regarding requirements for Anthropology 1 students – for e.g. the DP system, as well as ‘How to Write Essays’.

6) Additional information regarding this module may be placed on RUConnected and Facebook (RU Anthropology 1 2019). The necessary details will be given to you in class in the first week of this particular module.

Transformation

As far as possible, the course has attempted to draw on and encourages multimedia forms of presentation and learning, and draws on academic case studies based on research and popular culture conducted and practiced in South Africa, southern Africa and South-South axis countries. Spaces for class discussions and feedback are integrated into the course. Students will be introduced to pragmatic aspects of academic life. For example, how to read an academic article, how referencing works and why plagiarism should be avoided from the beginning of university studies.

Assessment

Tutorials:

This course will have three tutorials. Students are required to complete and attach a plagiarism declaration for their first tutorial and this will cover all submissions for the year. “Quacksheets” will be made available in the department for students, these will assist with reading articles and answering tutorials questions.

Tutorial questions can be found under the week that the tutorial is held. Please see the General Guide for information on tutorials, planning and how to read and write for assignments.

A note on writing about articles: Please note that when writing about any academic article it is important to state

- when the research was done,
- where precisely the research took place,
- with which people, ages, genders etc. and
- who did the research.

This is a good lesson to learn for any piece of research or more analytic text you might be reading. This is because research done among a group of people in 1917 will be very different from research done with the same group of people in 2010. This is both because societies change through time, undergoing turbulent processes of social, cultural and environmental change, and because thinking or theoretical/philosophical approaches within the discipline of anthropology also change through time.

Note that all written assignments must be presented with a Turn It In report attached to the document to check for plagiarism.

Evaluation

You will have the opportunity to evaluate this module and the one that follows at the end of the term.

Introduction to anthropology (module 1)

<table>
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<th>Week One: Introducing anthropology, the study of humanity</th>
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**Lecture One:** What is anthropology and what are its different branches of study?

**Lecture Two:** Cultural and social anthropology. We will answer the following questions:

What is culture? What is cultural hybridity? How do culture and social relations operate within a globalising world?

Video clip: Johnny Clegg speaking about migrant workers as *bricoleurs*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ThYiyF-DMJg

Class discussion on what students have noticed from watching the Johnny Clegg video clip

**Lecture Three:** Ethnocentrism and Cultural relativism

The purpose of anthropology is to make the world a safe place for human differences. Ruth Benedict (1887 1948)

**Lecture Four:**

Video clip: MIT Doing Anthropology https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BhCruPBvSjQ (8.16 minutes).

**NO TUTORIAL THIS WEEK**

**Readings**


**Week Two: What do Anthropologists do?**

**February – 22nd February**

**Lecture One:** How to read and think about an academic article. How to write an assessment of an article.

**Lecture Two:** Introducing fieldwork: Approach, methods, records.

**Lecture Three:** making sense of fieldwork: analysis, ethnography, comparison.

**Lecture Four:** What can fieldwork teach us about our own societies/social niche and/or identities?

**Readings**


Note: Students will use this reading for two tutorials in a row in the second and third week of the course to practice how to read and to write about an academic article.

**Tutorial One:**

For this first tutorial you are required to do a number of things. You must firstly have read the Lee (1979) article and bring planning to the tutorial to discuss. You will need to read the guide on how to write essays, specifically how to structure a paragraph which will be workshoped with you in your tutorial.

You are expected to read through the General Guide and Course Guide and your tutor will answer any questions that you have about the semester.
In the first tutorial, come to class with an answer to the question, “What have I learnt from reading this article?” Be sure to include when the research was done, where it was done, with whom and by whom.

Due: 25th and 26th February (in your tutorial)

Discuss this in your first tutorial and hand in a written piece of work, a paragraph (500 words) on this topic at the beginning of your second tutorial.

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**Week Three: Ethnographic case studies in a globalising world**

**25th February – 1st March**

**Lecture One:** Introduction to multi-sited research.

**Film clip:** Watch *Unravel* an ethnographic film on the international journey of clothing: 

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bOOl5LbQ9B8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bOOl5LbQ9B8)

Class discussion on the themes emerging the small documentary. Views of western people, power dynamics underlying the journeys of cloth, different cultural views of clothing, clothing from elsewhere giving rise to imagining the other, to dreaming.

**Lecture Two:**

Hybridity in Music > global connections and being cultural *bricoleurs*.

**Film clips:**

*Introduction to isicathamiya*  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8wO2hlsbE24](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8wO2hlsbE24)

*The Bergville Green Lovers*  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pwy13PvYLJo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pwy13PvYLJo)

**Lecture Three:** Tradition and modernity

Video clip: Hugh Masekela on Heritage: reclaiming, reinvigorating culture because of power imbalances in the world. Ethics, the quest to see one another, respect appreciation of cultural diversity.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Qx7R43-LQM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Qx7R43-LQM)

**Lecture Four: Summing up**

**Readings:**


History and case study on *isicathamiya* music


**Tutorial Two:**

Answer the following questions about Lee’s article:

1. What is Lee’s main argument and what analytic point is he making through writing the article?
2. What evidence or ethnographic story does he tell to back up his main argument in the article?
3. Why is it important in anthropology for researchers to sometimes make mistakes in doing fieldwork?

These questions must be answered in three separate paragraphs and you need to use the structure of the paragraph that you have been learning.

Due Date: 4th and 5th March (in your tutorial period).

**Tutorial Three:**

Please note that tutorial three will take place in the first week of Prof Aswani’s course.


Use the quacksheet to interrogate the reading. This tutorial is discussion based as students will use the article to engage with concepts of ethnocentrism and cultural relativism and the viewing of the other.