

ANTH 100

INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Erin McGuire

Course Description and Objectives

This course is an introductory survey of the sub-fields of anthropology: archaeology, biological anthropology, cultural anthropology, and linguistic anthropology. Two broad principles underlie our understanding of human complexity: First, all individuals and groups possess certain commonalities - in particular, genetic and other biological traits, sociality, language, and a powerful symbolising capability; and second, human culture is incredibly diverse and ever-changing. We will explore the sub-fields of anthropology through a range of themes including, but not limited to: evolution, early humans and human ancestors, culture, food-getting strategies, political organisation, families, race, and gender.

By the end of the course students should be able to:

1. identify and explain the sub-fields and specializations of anthropology;
2. critically discuss a range of key themes relevant to the study of anthropology;
3. identify and evaluate factors that influence our interpretation and understanding of anthropology;
4. exhibit research and writing skills required in anthropology and in many other disciplines and employment situations

Skills Development

Skills introduced/developed in this course include: critical reading, writing, citation practices, anthropological terminology and concepts, ethical issues, and cultural adeptness. This course actively uses technology, so students will become familiar with CourseSpaces, Summon, i>clickers, internet searches, Youtube, etc.