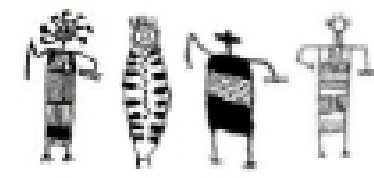


ANTH 103: Introduction to Anthropology
Virginia Commonwealth University, Spring 2024
Location: Harris Hall 101
Time: TR 12:30 – 1:45 pm



Dr. Amy L. Rector

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Office: Lafayette Hall, 104

Student hours: Tuesdays, 2:30-4 pm, or by appointment using calendly.com/alrector

Instructional Assistant: Lauren Volkers

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Course Description and Objectives:

This class is a general introduction to the discipline of anthropology and will survey a variety of anthropological topics. As a broad and diverse discipline, anthropology pursues the development of a holistic and comparative understanding of human similarities and differences by integrating research on the biological, evolutionary, historical, linguistic, social and cultural aspects of our kind. We will examine each of the four sub-fields of anthropology: biological anthropology (the study of human genetics, origins, evolution, and diversity); archaeology (the reconstruction and analysis of past societies through the study of material remains); anthropological linguistics (the study of human language and other communicative behaviors); and socio-cultural anthropology (the study and comparison of culturally variable ways of life in society). Among the aims set for you as students in this course will be: 1. To learn the basic terminology and concepts of all the subfields of anthropology; 2. To consider the history of humans as biological organisms; 3. To acquire a framework for the comparative study of variable human cultures and social structures; 4. To gain a broader cross-cultural lens for viewing our own culture.

I am grateful for the presence of and input from every student in our class, regardless of immigration status, country of origin, race, ethnicity, religious affiliation, gender/sex, sexual orientation, age, or disability/ability. Contributions from a diverse population enrich our world and our academic experience, and bring vibrancy and creativity to our intellectual community. All enrolled students are expected to value and respect the contributions of all participants in our class.

Recommended Materials:

1. OER *Introduction to Anthropology: A Four Field Approach*.

Required Materials:

1. Readings, videos, activities posted on Canvas (canvas.vcu.edu).

Course Grading System:

1. **Exams:** 60% of your final grade will be calculated using scores from four non-cumulative exams. Exams will be given on line and will include true/false, matching, and multiple choice questions. All exams are open note and open book.
2. **Assignments/Quizzes:** 20% of your final grade will be calculated based on weekly assignments and/or quizzes. Most of these assessments will be completed on Canvas, but a few will be in class.
3. **Anthropology Infographics:** 20% of your final grade will be based on scores from two Infographics you will create about Anthropological topics. One will be due mid semester, and one will be due towards the end of class. More directions will be available on Canvas.
4. **Extra Credit:** There will be several opportunities to earn extra credit throughout the semester. These will be described on Canvas, and it is YOUR responsibility to complete the assignments when they are due.
5. **Grade allocation:** A: 90-100; B: 80-89; C: 70-79; D: 60-69, F: <60

Course Policies:

1. **Exams:** You are responsible for all materials covered in readings and in class, and for taking all four exams during their scheduled times. Exams will be online, open note and open book, and you will have a week to complete them. You are encouraged to work together.
2. **Attendance:** Attendance is expected. You are responsible for all material covered in class regardless of whether you were there. If you need to bring your child to class during extenuating circumstances, let me know and we can make arrangements.

Students who consistently miss class may be withdrawn from the course by the instructor, resulting in a 'W' or an 'F' on your transcript. If you are unable to continue the course, you must drop by March 29 to avoid a possible 'F' in the class.

Before withdrawing from classes, students should consult their instructor as well as other appropriate university offices. Withdrawing from classes may negatively impact a student's financial aid award and his or her semester charges. To discuss financial aid and the student bill, visit the Student Services Center at 1015 Floyd Avenue (Harris Hall) and/or contact your financial aid counselor regarding the impact on your financial aid.

3. **Conduct:** **Cell phones** should be on silent and should only be seen when using Top Hat. **Laptops** should only be used to take notes during class; if you are using your computer for activities unrelated to class, you will be asked to close your computer or to leave the classroom. Disruptions such as sleeping, texting, talking, etc., may result in you being asked to leave. Weapons of any kind are prohibited.
4. **The Honor System:** The VCU Honor System policy describes the responsibilities of students, faculty and administration in upholding academic integrity. According to this policy, "Members of the academic community are required to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty, ethics and integrity at all times." Students are expected to read the policy in full and learn about requirements here: <http://conduct.students.vcu.edu/vcu-honor-system/>
5. **Email/Canvas:** I will regularly use VCU email and Canvas to communicate about the course. You are responsible for regularly checking your email and Canvas site to keep yourself up-to-date, and for maintaining the correct information so that I can contact you. You might consider signing up for VCU Mobile (<http://mobile.vcu.edu/>).
6. **Religious Observances/Athletics/University Sponsored Events:** To receive an excused absence for any event of this kind (religious, athletic or otherwise), you must contact me at least two weeks in advance of the event date and have proper documentation.
7. **Disabilities:** Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, require that VCU provide "academic adjustments" or "reasonable accommodations" to any student who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity. To receive accommodations, students must register with the [Student Accessibility and Education Office](#) on the Monroe Park Campus (828-2253) or the [Division for Academic Success](#) on the MCV campus (828-9782).

The university recognizes that some students who previously did not need Section 504 Academic Accommodations, and who have a qualifying condition or disability, may need support or assistance during the return to campus process. A modified approach for the temporary and more permanent need for accommodation has been developed and implemented to provide students with full access to programs and activities related to their academic majors. Because every case is different, student requests are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Please share your need for an accommodation with the [Student Accessibility and Education Office](#), or for MCV Campus students, the [Division for Academic Success](#), after you have worked directly with your faculty member.

8. **Managing stress at VCU:** Students may experience situations or challenges that can interfere with learning and interpersonal functioning including stress, anxiety, depression, alcohol and/or other drug use, concern for a friend or family member, loss, sleep difficulties, feeling hopeless or relationship problems. There are numerous campus resources available to students including University Counseling Services which now has after hours support (804-828-6200), University Student Health Services (804-828-8828) and the Wellness Resource Center (804-828-9355). 24 hour emergency mental health support is available by calling 828-6200 or utilizing the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-784-2433).

9. **Safety at VCU:**

- Sign up to receive VCU text messaging alerts (<http://alert.vcu.edu/signup/index.php>)
- Go to <http://www.alert.vcu.edu> for additional emergency information
- Know the emergency phone number for the VCU Police (828-1234)
- Report suspicious activities and objects.
- It is important for students to know that all faculty members are mandated reporters of any incidents of sexual misconduct/violence (e.g., sexual assault, sexual exploitation and partner or relationship violence). This means that faculty cannot keep information about sexual misconduct/violence confidential if you share that information with them and they must report this information immediately to the university's Title IX Coordinator. In addition, department chairs, deans, and other unit administrators are required to report incidents of sex or gender-based discrimination to the university's Title IX Coordinator. Once a report is made, you will receive important information on your reporting options, on campus and off campus resources and remedial measures such as no-contact directives, residence modifications, and academic modifications. If you would prefer to speak with someone confidentially for support and to discuss your options for reporting, contact: VCU's Wellness Resource Center (804.828.9355; myoptions@vcu.edu; thewell.vcu.edu), Greater Richmond Regional Hotline (804.612.6126, 24 hours a day), or VCU's Counseling Services (804-828-6200).

10. **Policy on Children in Class:**

- All exclusively breastfeeding babies are welcome in class as often as is necessary to support the breastfeeding relationship
- For older children and babies, minor illnesses and unforeseen disruptions in childcare require accommodations by parents. While this is not meant to be a long-term childcare solution, occasionally bringing a child to class in order to cover gaps in care is perfectly acceptable.
- I ask that all students work with me to create a welcoming environment that is respectful of all forms of diversity, including diversity in parenting status.
- In all cases where babies and children come to class, I ask that you sit close to the door so that if your little one needs special attention and is disrupting learning for other students, you may step outside until their need has been met. Non-parents in the class, please reserve seats near the door for your parenting classmates.

11. Students should visit <http://go.vcu.edu/syllabus> and review all syllabus statement information. The full university syllabus statement includes information on safety, registration, the VCU Honor Code, student conduct, withdrawal and more.

Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have any questions or concerns about this class or any other situation you may find yourself in at VCU.