

San José State University
Department of Anthropology
Frontiers in Anthropology, ANTH 191, Spring, 2017

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Ana Pitchon
Office Location:	Clark Hall 404N
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Email:	ana.pitchon@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	M/W 3:00 – 4:30 and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	M/W 12:00-1:15
Classroom:	Clark Hall 204
Prerequisites:	ANTH 011 and ANTH 131. Senior standing and completion of at least four upper division anthropology major classes is strongly recommended.

Course Format

This course requires the use of computers and use of word processing software.

Course Description

This course is a capstone course for all Anthropology majors, though its material is relevant across the social sciences. The intent of this course is to engage students in conversations about current issues in all four fields of anthropology, and how the anthropological skills and knowledge acquired throughout their studies to date can be utilized and applied in real-world and/or future academic settings. The seminar format of this course uses reading and class discussions to address critical social issues. This course also covers professional preparation.

Course Goals

1. Students will develop an understanding of anthropology as a discipline with a perspective that can critically assess contemporary academic and social issues.
2. Students will develop an appreciation for where and how anthropology is being used, as well as how it could be used in a variety of settings and applications.
3. Students will develop materials that can be used to further professional and academic careers.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Students who successfully complete the course will be able to:

1. analyze and evaluate various issue-related arguments, discovering and weighing underlying assumptions, and to apply the diverse theories to which they have been exposed to contemporary issues;
2. write logical and well-organized arguments based on anthropological concepts and data;
3. reflect upon their skills and knowledge as social science majors in order to develop a perspective that can be widely applied and articulated to different communities;
4. synthesize the fields of the discipline and use a variety of types of data and information; and
5. develop a sense of themselves as professionals with skills and knowledge

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Harris, Marvin (1990). *Our Kind*. Harper Perennial.

Articles as assigned on CANVAS

Library Liaison

Silke Higgins is our department's library liaison and she can be contacted at silke.higgins@sjsu.edu. She is a graduate of our program and knows the department very well.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

NOTE that [University policy F15-12](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F69-24.pdf> states that "Students should attend all meetings of their classes, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein, but because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the class. Attendance per se shall not be used as a criterion for grading."

1. Harris Readings (2 points each): Each week we will read a series of chapters from Harris. Students are expected to come to class with five questions, comments, and ideas written down to turn in on Wednesdays. Students will work in teams, and will present conclusions to the entire class at the end of discussion. These questions will form the basis of in-class discussion. You are encouraged to think about the readings in terms of what they mean to anthropology, and what they suggest to the meaning of being human. Ideally, you will think about them in contemporary terms: why are we as humans the way we are? Where are we going, what have we done, and how are we shaping our future? What are practical, contemporary solutions to the issues that Harris presents?

2. Resume, skills assessment and cover letter (30 points). These will be prepared and reviewed in peer groups in class.

3. Informational Interview (10 points) – You will conduct at 30-60 minute informational interview with a person working in a field or organization in which you are interested and write a two-page summary of your findings.

4. Case Study - Group Presentation (25 points). You will work in groups of 5-6 students to develop a presentation about a topic of interest and relevance related to anthropology, and in particular to the topics discussed in the Harris book. This will consist of a 20 minute PowerPoint slide presentation.

5. Final Portfolio (20 points). The final “exam” in the class consists of a portfolio that you create over the course of the semester. It will include (1) a cover letter or letter of intent, (2) resume or CV, (3) skills assessment. You will submit drafts of various elements of the portfolio throughout the semester, and these will be reviewed in class.

[University Policy S06-4](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S06-4.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S06-4.pdf>) states that “There shall be an appropriate final examination or evaluation at the scheduled time in every course, unless the course is on the official List of Courses in which a final is optional.”

Grading Policy

A: 95-100 A-: 90-94 B+: 86-89 B: 82-85 B-: 78-81 C+: 74-77 C: 70-73 C-: 67-69 D: 60-66 F:0-59	A: Reserved for exceptional scholarship and understanding that reaches beyond minimum course requirements. B: Excellent above average work that exceeds minimum course requirements. C: Satisfactory completion of course requirements. D: Fails to address course requirements satisfactorily.
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In the calculation of the final grade of borderline cases, improvement and dynamic class participation will be decisive factors. I consider all students equally capable of successfully completing the requirements for this class with an above average grade, which does not mean you will receive a B for mediocre work.

Come to class prepared. Read the assignments carefully and take notes in class. Write down any questions you might have about the readings and raise them in class. Do not hesitate to participate actively in class and engage other students or the instructor in class discussions. Pose questions, make comments and *think critically!*

All assignments are due on the specified due dates. Late assignments will only be considered in the event of compelling evidence as to why you have missed class and were unable to submit the assignment.

Note that “All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades.” See [University Policy F13-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details.

Classroom Protocol

This class is a mixture of lecture, seminar and in-class group activities. Students are expected to be present and prepared for class discussions. This means that you have completed the assigned readings, taken notes and thought critically about the material, with comments and questions noted. Sloppy work will not be taken seriously.

Attendance:

Arrive on time and be in attendance for the entire class period. Class lectures cover important information not found in assigned readings. If you arrive late for class, please move to your seat without disturbing other class members. Frequent absences and late arrivals will result in poor performance and grades. The use of electronic devices such as cell phones and tablets will not be tolerated. Video recording is strictly prohibited.

Laptop computers and tablets:

Laptop computers and tablets may be used in class only for note-taking.

A student who is doing non-class related activities on his or her computer is not only hurting his or her own education, but possibly the educational experience of many others in the class: research has shown that a game or a picture on a laptop distracts not only the student using the computer but also those students nearby (Yamamoto 2007, Fried 2008). Therefore the use of laptops for non-class activity (e.g. email, games, web-surfing) is prohibited. Students using their laptop for non-class activity will be asked to turn off their laptop and leave the class. In addition, the use of cell phones in class will result in the student being asked to leave.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>

Course Number / Title, Semester, Course Schedule

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	1-30	Course introduction, requirements, assignments, and introduction.
1	2-1	Jobs and Careers
2	2-6	What is Anthropology? Two-minute "elevator speech" Workshop: teams will work on developing a two-minute elevator speech.
2	2-8	Reading: Harris pp 1-21
3	2-13	Skills Assessment: Workshop
3	2-15	Reading: Harris pp 21-61
4	2-20	CVs and Resumes Draft of skills assessment due
4	2-22	Reading: Harris pp 61-85

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
5	2-27	Skills Assessment: Workshop and peer review
5	3-1	Reading: Harris pp 85-125
6	3-6	Graduate School – Cover letters and the application process Draft of Resume/CV due
6	3-8	Peer review of CV/Resume in class
7	3-13	Informational interview workshop
7	3-15	Reading: Harris pp 125-271
8	3-20	Developing hypotheses and thesis topics
8	3-22	Reading: Harris pp 271 - 301
9	3-27	SPRING BREAK
9	3-29	SPRING BREAK
10	4-3	Collecting data and designing research
10	4-5	Reading Harris pp 317-343
11	4-10	NO CLASS
11	4-12	Team work day – research design
12	4-17	Workshop – team research activities
12	4-19	Reading Harris pp 343-397
13	4-24	Informational Interview Due Peer review of informational interviews
13	4-26	Reading Harris pp 397-503
14	5-1	Interpreting data workshop
14	5-3	Reading Harris pp 487-503
15	5-8	Designing slide presentations workshop
15	5-10	Presentations
16	5-15	Presentations
Final Exam	5-23	Final portfolios due 9:45 – 12:00 Clark Hall 404N

Weekly activities and assignments are subject to change at the instructor’s discretion. Students will be notified of all changes through Canvas.