

San José State University
School/Department
ANTH 191 Frontiers of Anthropology, Spring 2018 (20014)

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Chuck Darrah
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Office Hours:	1200-1300 Mondays & Wednesdays, and 1500-1600 Mondays, and by arrangement
Class Days/Time:	Mondays and Wednesdays 1330-1445
Classroom:	Clark Hall 204
Prerequisites:	ANTH 011. Senior standing and completion of at least four upper division anthropology major classes is strongly recommended.

Course Description

This course is required of anthropology majors but it is also applicable to behavioral science and social science majors with an interest in anthropology. It is designed to provide anthropology students, whose interests may be in cultural anthropology, archaeology, physical anthropology or related social sciences, an opportunity to engage in discussions on critical issues of the day. Such discussions will reveal both the diversity of anthropological perspectives and allow students to discover anew the core perspectives that give the discipline its coherence. In addition, students can reflect on the skills they have gained and develop strategies for utilizing their capabilities as anthropologists throughout their lives. Students will read materials concerning a variety of contemporary issues and participate in class discussions. Students will also reflect on a prepare materials related to the skills they have gained and will develop strategies for utilizing their capabilities as anthropologists throughout their lives.

Learning Outcomes and Course Goals

Course Goals

1. Students will develop an understanding of anthropology as a discipline with a unique perspective that can illuminate contemporary academic and social issues. They will be exposed to the different points of view in these controversies.

Accordingly, a first course goal is to allow you to assess the discipline(s) of anthropology (and, as appropriate, psychology and sociology).

2. Students will make an assessment of the proverbial “real world” in order to 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. The goal here is to develop students’ ability to use anthropology and other social sciences in their careers and as informed citizens.

3. Students will develop well-grounded yet personal syntheses of anthropology and its uses, as well as the ability to present these syntheses to other people. Thus, the course will facilitate and support the students' sense of professionalism and their preparation for careers and community life.

Course Learning Outcomes

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 that can support

Required Texts/Readings

Alan Batteau (2010). *Technology and Culture*. Long Grove, IL: Waveland.

Anna Bellisari (2013). *The Obesity Epidemic in North America*. Long Grove, IL: Waveland.

Erve Chambers (2010). *Native Tours*, 2nd Edition. Long Grove, IL: Waveland.

Roger Trigg (2001). *Understanding Social Science*, 2nd Edition. Oxford, UK: Blackwell.

Library Liaison (Optional)

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

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Trigg Chapter Critiques (1 @ 20%). You will write a paper in which you explore in depth a week's worth of Roger Trigg's book. A complete draft of your paper is due the week *after* we review the topic in class, so you will have the benefit of that discussion. That draft should reflect your best possible effort, but since Trigg's book is difficult, I will allow you to revise your draft repeatedly in order to improve the content.

Reading Quizzes (3 @ 20% total). You will take a quiz on each of the three "umbrella books" read to stimulate your creativity about the applications of anthropology.

Group Presentation (25%). You will work in groups of 3-5 students to develop a presentation about some topic of interest and relevance to society (or some community or organization within it) guided by the three departmental umbrellas and then make that presentation to the class.

Participation (10%). You participate by (1) doing the readings, (2) trying to answer the study questions, and (3) contributing to the small group discussion and seminar. Note that the success of the class is dependent on everyone doing the readings each week and coming to class prepared to discuss them. Individual students may be more or less prepared for those discussions on a given week; I understand that. However, if there is a pattern of not doing the readings then I reserve the right to require you to submit reading notes for grade, something I loathe doing.

Exercises (4 @ 10% total). There are four graded exercises that will ultimately help you develop the content of your portfolio.

Final Portfolio (15%). 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, (2) letter of intent, (3) resume, (4) skills and knowledge overview and an appraisal/synthesis of your major based on the work we do developing the departmental umbrellas. You will submit drafts of various elements of the portfolio throughout the semester. I will give you feedback and you can revise and resubmit as often as you wish, but you will not receive a grade until the final portfolio.

All papers must be typed with 1" margins and numbered pages, and carefully proof read. Accuracy, depth of understanding, and elegance of presentation will be assessed. I suggest reading the draft aloud to catch errors and unwieldy writing. Having a classmate edit your paper is also excellent practice. Note: I will stop reading your paper when I get to the fifth mechanical (spelling, punctuation, grammar) error and return it to you ungraded. You must revise the paper, eliminate such errors (including any beyond where I stopped reading!), and resubmit it for a grade. There will be no penalty for the first revision, but a 5% reduction in grade on any second revisions, and an additional 10% on the third revision. After that? I will not grade the paper. Writing is the single most important skill you should develop in university and I have great faith that you can do so. I am happy to help you meet the standard, but I will not lower it. This policy applies to the Trigg paper and the four graded exercises. You will probably be submitting other materials (e.g. resumes, letter of intent, etc.) throughout the semester for feedback but not a grade. At the fifth mistake I will just return it to you without feedback. You can revise and clean it up, but it goes to the bottom of the grading pile! Late assignments may not be accepted and will be penalized at the discretion of the instructor. Remember that this refers only to mechanical mistakes and not to feedback about the content of the Trigg papers.

Grading Policy

A = 100-90%; B = 89-80%; C = 79-70%; D = 69-60%; and F = below 60%. I do assign plus and minus grades, but not extra credit.

Classroom Protocol

This class is a mixture of lecture, seminar, and in-class group activities, and students should be aware of their own roles and that of the instructor. Regarding the former, students are expected to be present and prepared for class discussions. This means that you have completed the assigned readings, taken notes or underlined as appropriate, and thought about what you have read. In other words, mastery of the material is assumed. Being prepared means that you submit materials as per the class calendar, and that those materials reflect professional standards of writing and presentation. Sloppy work will not be taken seriously. The professor's role is to develop the structure for the class, to ensure that we conform to it, and to modify it if necessary. The instructor will also raise questions and encourage the active participation of students as discussants.

Rather than being organized class by class, it's best to think of ANTH 191 as being organized week by week. During much of the semester, we will take on a chapter of Trigg each week. We will begin on Mondays with group discussions of the weekly chapter; you will be provided with a study guide. The focus will be on comprehending Trigg's argument and that can be challenging since he is a philosopher of the social sciences and not an anthropologist. Then we will collectively read through the chapter in order to extract the relevance of the argument for anthropology and its broader importance to the social sciences. This collective reading may not conclude until the Wednesday class meeting. The week's remaining time will be spent on preparing to use anthropology in a career, regardless of what form it takes. Along the way, we will also be reading three brief anthropology books that reflect the department's three "umbrellas" and then during the final quarter of the semester you will work in groups to develop and extend one of those umbrellas and present your findings to the class.

There are a few expectations I have regarding technology use during class. First, cell phones should be shut off and placed in book bags at all times and not allowed to ring. Second, laptops and tablets may be used for taking notes, but if they become distracting in any way then they will be banned in class. Considerable research demonstrates that students learn more by jotting notes on paper and then revising them as they enter them later on a keyboard. Third, the internet has become both a tool for research and for cheating, especially plagiarism. This is a senior class, so there are no excuses for failing to understand integrity in general and academic integrity in particular. If you are caught plagiarizing or otherwise cheating you should expect to fail the course, which will delay your graduation.

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

We will follow the schedule provided below and I will try to minimize any changes to it. However, sometimes changes are required and if they are to be made they will be discussed in class, often to get your input, and also announced by email to the entire class. This is a non-Canvas class and you are responsible for all announcements made in class.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	January 24	Introduction to course requirements and format; instructor and student introductions. Begin reading <i>North American Obesity</i>
2	January 29	Topic: Science Reading: Trigg Ch. 1

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		EXERCISE # 1 DISTRIBUTED
2	January 31	Topic: Science
3	February 5	Topic: Sociology of Knowledge Reading: Trigg Ch. 2 Professionalism: Discuss portfolio process
3	February 7	Topic: Sociology of Knowledge Reading: Trigg Chapter 2
4	February 12	Topic: Individuals and Society Reading: Trigg Ch. 3 EXERCISE #1 DUE EXERCISE #2 DISTRIBUTED
4	February 14	Topic: Individuals and Society
5	February 19	Topic: The Problem of Knowing Other Societies Reading: Trigg Ch. 4 QUIZ #1: <i>North American Obesity</i>
5	February 21	Topic: The Problem of Knowing Other Societies Reading: Begin reading <i>Technology and Culture</i>
6	February 26	Topic: Rationality Reading: Trigg Ch. 5 Professionalism: CVs and Resumes
6	February 28	Topic: Rationality
7	March 5	Topic: Facts and Values Reading: Trigg Ch. 6 Professionalism: CVs and Resumes
7	March 7	Topic: Facts and Values
8	March 12	Topic: Economics and Society Reading: Trigg Ch. 7 Professionalism: Generalizable Skills EXERCISE #2 DUE
8	March 14	Topic: Economics and Society Reading: Trigg Chapter 9
9	March 19	Topic: Culture Reading: Trigg Ch. 8 QUIZ #2: <i>Technology and Culture</i> EXERCISE #3 DISTRIBUTED
9	March 21	Topic: Culture
10	March 26	NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
10	March 28	NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK
11	April 2	Topic: Sociobiology Reading: Ch. 9 Professionalism: Career Navigation and Umbrellas
11	April 4	Topic: Sociobiology Professionalism: Brainstorming Projects and Forming Teams EXERCISE #3 DUE EXERCISE #4 DISTRIBUTED
12	April 9	Topic: Markets and Social Institutions Reading: Trigg Ch. 10
12	April 11	Topic: Markets and Institutions
13	April 16	Topic: Trigg's Way Ahead and the World of Umbrellas
13	April 18	Topic: Project Brainstorm and Teaming Up
14	April 23	Umbrella Project: Stakeholder Analysis EXERCISE #4 DUE
14	April 25	Umbrella Project: Research
15	April 30	Umbrella Project: Designing
15	May 2	Professionalism: Assembling the Portfolio
16	May 7	Trials Without Tribulations: Presentations
16	May 9	Trials Without Tribulations: Presentations
17	May 14	Semester Summary
Final Exam	May 22	Final Project Presentations 1215-1445 in Clark Hall 204