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**ANTH 445 (LEC01)  
Winter 2024  
Ecology and Behaviour of Small-Scale Human Societies  
GFC Hours 3-0**

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**Prerequisite(s):** ANTH 201, ANTH 305, and Permission of Department

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course adopts a biocultural and evolutionary lens to survey the diversity of non-industrialized societies (e.g. hunter-gatherers, horticulturalists, and pastoralists) around the world, during modern and prehistoric times. Topics include energetics and subsistence, social organization and institutions, aggression and warfare, and health and well-being. It will expose students to theoretical frameworks (behavioural ecology and cultural evolution) that are used in cutting-edge research in biological anthropology to understand culture from an evolutionary perspective. The course will adopt a variety of media (film, art, etc.) to complement readings. The course will emphasize implications for modern medicine, politics, and society.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology is committed to student knowledge and skill development. By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Articulate the key theoretical frameworks in the study of human behaviour and their social history.
- Apply biological and cultural evolutionary theory to the analysis of human traits, behaviors, and institutions.
- Critically analyze contemporary societal issues through an evolutionary and anthropological lens.
- Develop an appreciation for and understanding of recent and modern diversity among human small-scale societies.

**READINGS AND TEXTBOOKS:**

There is no textbook. Required readings include a mix of free online resources and articles from scientific journals. You can find these readings and the schedule on D2L.

## **REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY and EQUIPMENT:**

Students will need an internet connection to access course materials on D2L and a computer with a word processor and software to create the presentation.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT**

**Ethnography review - 20%** - 5-page paper due Feb 6. Students will choose to read an ethnography of a small-scale society and write a critical review of the ethnography on a topic that relates to the course material, which should be chosen in consultation with the instructor.

**Midterm test - 25%** - Feb 29 (in class, 75 min). This test will be multiple choice and short answer format and covers classroom and reading material up to the test date. This test is CLOSED BOOK.

**HRAF project - 25%** - 10-page paper due April 12. Students will perform an original research project using the Human Relations Area Files database (HRAF) to investigate some aspect of diversity in human behaviour and ecology. Students should consult with the instructor when choosing their topics.

**Presentations - 15%** - April 2-9. Students will give 10-minute presentations on the results of their HRAF projects to the class.

**Participation - 15%** - Students are expected to regularly attend class, ask questions, and participate in discussions.

Missed tests cannot be made up without the approval of the instructor. Students who miss a test have up to 48 hours to contact the instructor to ask for a makeup test. It is at the instructor's discretion if they will allow a make-up test. Students who do not schedule a makeup test with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled test. Once approved by the instructor a makeup test must be written within one week of the missed test on a day/time scheduled by the instructor. Deferral of the registrar-scheduled final exam requires Registrar approval

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-final-exams>

*For written assignments:* Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day, including holidays and weekends. All assignments must be submitted to the Dropbox on D2L.

*Regarding documentation:* Students may provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request. This may include, but is not limited to, a prolonged absence from a course where participation is required, a missed course assessment, a deferred examination, or an appeal. Students are encouraged to submit documentation that will support their situation. The decision to provide supporting documentation that best suits the situation is at the discretion of the student. Students cannot be required to provide specific supporting documentation, such as a medical note. Falsification of any supporting documentation will be taken very seriously and may result in disciplinary action through the Academic Discipline regulations or the Student Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

**Reappraisal of Graded Term Work:** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

Reappraisal of Final Grade: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

**Department of Anthropology and Archaeology Grading Scheme:**

A+	95 – 100%	B+	80 – 84.9%	C+	67 – 70.9%	D+	55 – 58.9%
A	90 – 94.9%	B	75 – 79.9%	C	63 – 66.9%	D	50 – 54.9%
A-	85 – 89.9%	B-	71 – 74.9%	C-	59 – 62.9%	F	< 50%

***\*\*Please note that no extra credit or ‘make up’ work is available in this class\*\****  
***You do not need to pass each course component to earn a passing grade in the class***

**Land Acknowledgement**

The University of Calgary, located in the heart of Southern Alberta, both acknowledges and pays tribute to the traditional territories of the peoples of Treaty 7, which include the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprised of the Siksika, the Piikani, and the Kainai First Nations), the Tsuut’ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Goodstoney First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to the Métis Nation of Alberta (Districts 5 and 6).

**Acknowledgment and Respect for Diversity**

The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology views diversity of identity as a strength and resource. Your experiences and different perspectives are encouraged and add to a rich learning environment that fosters critical thought through respectful discussion and inclusion.

**COURSE POLICIES**

**Classroom Regulations and Expectations**

- Try to arrive on time to prevent disruption to the class. If you are late, please take a seat near the door to minimize disruption. Likewise, please stay seated until the lecture is finished.
- Please do not converse with classmates during lectures. This is unfair to students sitting nearby who may miss lecture material that will subsequently appear on exams. If you are discussing lecture material please raise your hand to share the comment or question as that will benefit the whole class. Relevant interruptions are always welcome. You may also email questions to me which will be answered at the next class (the questioner will remain anonymous). Likewise, all e-mail enquiries about tests may be answered in class.
- Please turn phones off during class.

**Communication guidelines – we offer you this advice to help you have more successful communication in this course and in your professional life in general:**

- You are welcome to communicate with the Professor and TA by email or in person before and after class, during office hours, or by appointment.
- Use a professional email address (such as your ucalgary address or a yourname@gmail.com) for professional correspondence (such as messages to your Professor or TA).
- Use a clear subject line such as “Anth 505 Question” or “Anth 505 Student”.

- Use an appropriate greeting to start your email, such as “Dear Dr. Venkataraman”, and sign off with your full name and UCID number. It is always a good idea to err on the side of formality in professional correspondence.
- Do not skip a greeting altogether, or open with, for example, “Hey there”, “What up?” or “Yo!” If you don’t know the name of the Professor or TA start with “Dear Professor or Dear TA”, although taking a peek at the course outline is not a bad idea, rather than advertising that you don’t know the name of the person you are about to ask for something.
- Check the course outline and materials posted on D2L before asking for information that may have already been provided. Again, just to avoid advertising that you don’t come to class or consult the materials that have been provided to you. For example, no need to send an email asking if the final exam is cumulative when this is clearly stated above.
- Use complete sentences and proof-read and spell check your messages.
- We will respond as soon as possible but to be safe please allow 48 hours for a response, excluding weekends and holidays.

## **UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit <https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/student-services/access>. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor or the Department Head. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure>.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

Academic integrity is the foundation of the development and acquisition of knowledge and is based on values of honesty, trust, responsibility, and respect. We expect members of our community to act with integrity. The University Calendar includes a statement on the principles of conduct expected of all members of the university community (including students, faculty, administrators, any category of staff, practicum supervisors, and volunteers), whether on or off university property. This statement applies in all situations where members of the university community are acting in their university capacities. All members of the university community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the principles of conduct statement, which is available at: [www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html).

### **ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

The University of Calgary is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect.

Academic dishonesty is not an acceptable activity at the University of Calgary, and students are **strongly advised** to read the Student Misconduct section in the University Calendar at: [www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html). Often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are (1) presenting another student’s work as your own, (2) presenting an author’s work or ideas as your own without adequate citation, and (3) using work completed for another course. Such activities will not be

tolerated in this course, and students suspected of academic misconduct will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the calendar at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/student-academic-misconduct-procedure>

For students wishing to know more about what constitutes plagiarism and how to properly cite the work of others, the Department of Geography recommends that they attend Academic Integrity workshops offered through the Student Success Centre: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>

### **INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing. Information on Instructor Intellectual Property can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/intellectual-property-policy>

### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT**

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

### **COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION**

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks, etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

### **SUPPORTS FOR STUDENT LEARNING, SUCCESS, AND SAFETY**

Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success Centre
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

## TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

T Jan 9	Introduction
R Jan 11	What are small-scale societies?
T Jan 16	Subsistence and life history
R Jan 18	Energetics
T Jan 23	Time and labour
R Jan 25	Scale and cooperation
T Jan 30	Mobility patterns and group size
R Feb 1	Division of labour
T Feb 6	Food sharing; <b>Ethnography paper due</b>
R Feb 8	Egalitarianism
T Feb 13	Group dynamics
R Feb 15	Metabolic disease and physical activity
Feb 18-24	Reading week - no classes
T Feb 27	HRAF project discussion and tutorial
R Feb 29	<b>Midterm</b>
T Mar 5	Other small-scale societies
R Mar 7	Future of small-scale societies
T Mar 12	Scaling up societies
R Mar 14	How we got WEIRD
T Mar 19	In-class HRAF project day
R Mar 21	In-class HRAF project day
T Mar 26	Sleep
R Mar 28	Warfare
T Apr 2	Presentations
R Apr 4	Presentations
T Apr 9	Presentations; <b>Final paper due April 12</b>

## IMPORTANT DATES

M Jan 8	Start of Classes
R Jan 18	Last day to drop a class without a financial penalty
F Jan 19	Last day to add or swap a course
F Jan 26	Fee payment deadline for Fall Term full and half courses.
M Feb 19	Alberta Family Day No Classes.
Feb 18-24	Reading Break. No classes.
F Mar 29	Good Friday no classes
M Apr 1	Easter Monday no classes
T Apr 9	End of classes Last day to withdraw from half courses.
Apr 12-23	Fall Final Exam Period.
May 20-25	Exam period for Registrar deferred final exams

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html#fall2017>