use your up/down arrow keys and/or your space bar to advance the slides

Prehistoric Cultures

University of Minnesota Duluth
Tim Roufs  © 2010-2013
http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth1602/

"Selam" aka "Lucy's Baby"
Main Characteristics of Anthropology

Prehistoric Cultures

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"Selam" aka "Lucy's Baby"
you’ve seen these listed in the Week 1 “Topics” . . .

- **Main Characteristics of Anthropology**
  - Slides: (.pdf) (.ppt)
  - (Download PowerPoint Viewer Free) (Download Adobe PDF Reader Free)
  - [see note on slide format]

  (NOTE: This is a long slide set as it covers some very important background information that will be referred to often as we go through the semester. Please bear with it to the end. And it will take a little longer to load, so please bear with that also. There is no video presentation scheduled for this and next week as the base slide sets tend to be a little longer than “normal.”)
  - the four fields or general anthropology
  - culture as a primary concept
  - comparative method as major approach
  - holism as a primary theoretical goal
  - fieldwork as a primary research technique

- "Other Important Terms"
  - Slides: (.pdf) (.ppt)
  - (Download PowerPoint Viewer Free) (Download Adobe PDF Reader Free)
  - [see note on slide format]

- **Units of Analysis**
  - Slides: (.pdf) (.ppt)
  - (Download PowerPoint Viewer Free) (Download Adobe PDF Reader Free)
  - [see note on slide format]

- **Three Major Perennial Debates**
  - Slides: (.pdf) (.ppt)
  - (Download PowerPoint Viewer Free) (Download Adobe PDF Reader Free)
  - [see note on slide format] (NOTE: This is a long slide set as it covers more than 2000 + years. Please bear with it to the end. Please bear with it to the end. And it will take a little longer to load, so please bear with that also. There is no video presentation scheduled for this and next week as the base slide sets tend to be a little longer than “normal.”)
you’ve seen these listed in the Week 1 “Topics” . . .

- Main Characteristics of Anthropology
  slides: (.pdf) (.pptx)
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  [see note on slide formats]

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  - the **four fields** of general anthropology
  - **culture** as a primary concept
  - **comparative method** as major approach
  - **holism** as a primary theoretical goal
  - **fieldwork** as a primary research technique

WebPage Summary
"Anthropology and . . . It's Parts" chart
you’ve seen these listed in the Week 1 “Topics” . . .

- **Main Characteristics of Anthropology**
  - slides: (.pdf) (.pptx)
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  - [see note on slide formats]

**let’s have a closer look . . .**

- **the four fields** of general anthropology
- **culture** as a primary concept
- **comparative method** as major approach
- **holism** as a primary theoretical goal
- **fieldwork** as a primary research technique

WebPage Summary
"Anthropology and . . . It’s Parts" chart
Main Characteristics of Anthropology

1. the **four fields** of general anthropology
2. **culture** as a primary concept
3. **comparative method** as major approach
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Main Characteristics of Anthropology

1. **the four fields**
   of general anthropology

2. **culture** as a primary concept
3. **comparative method** as major approach
4. **holism** as a primary theoretical goal
5. **fieldwork** as a primary research technique
you’ve already seen the fourfold approach of American Anthropology . . .

American Anthropology

- cultural / social
- physical
- archaeology
- linguistics
we’re going to have a closer look at . . .

Prehistoric Cultures
and its . . .

• cultural / social
• physical
• archaeology
• linguistics

aspects
Main Characteristics of Anthropology

1. the **four fields** of general anthropology

2. **culture** as a primary concept

3. **comparative method** as major approach

4. **holism** as a primary theoretical goal

5. **fieldwork** as a primary research technique
Main Characteristics

• “culture” is
  – learned
  – shared
  – transmitted from generation to generation
  – based on symbols
  – integrated
Main Characteristics

- "culture"

some anthropologists focus on the idea that culture involves "shared understanding"
Main Characteristics

• “culture”
  • is *not* inherited
    \((i.e., \text{is not biological})\)
  • is *not* “instinct”
Main Characteristics

• “cultures”
  • are groups of people sharing a common heritage (and usually a common language)
for e.g.,

**Aztec**

**Maya**

**Inca**

Sophie D. Coe

*America's First Cuisines*


[www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anthfood/aftexts.html#title](http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anthfood/aftexts.html#title)
for e.g.,
for e.g.,

**Mexico (6th ed.)**

Michael D. Coe and Rex Koontz

(NY: Thames and Hudson, 2008)

- "A pioneering synthesis." -- *Antiquity*
- "Fascinating reading . . . an accessible, informed and extremely well illustrated introductory book." -- *Popular Archaeology*

"Michael D. Coe's Mexico has long been recognized as the
but “Mexico” includes many cultures . . .

Aztec
Toltec
Mixtec
Totonac
Tarascan
Zapotec
Olmec
Yaqui
and others
for e.g.,

Mexico (6th ed.)

more about this with “local cultures” (“microcultures”) below
Main Characteristics

• “cultures”
  • are “integrated”
  -- an idea that was pioneered and emphasized by the “pioneer” anthropologist Ruth Benedict
Ruth Fulton Benedict
1887-1948
Patterns of Culture
1934
Main Characteristics

• “cultures”

• are integrated

• Interact and change
  – the idea that some cultures (like “hunting and gathering” cultures, or the Amish) do not change is not correct
The Concept of Culture

• **Microculture**

  – are smaller groups with distinct pattern of learned and shared behavior and thinking found within larger cultures such as ethnic groups in localized regions

  – some people like to think of these as “local cultures”
The Concept of Culture

• Microculture
  – are smaller groups with distinct pattern of learned and shared behavior and thinking found within larger cultures such as ethnic groups in localized regions
  – some people like to think of these as "local cultures"
every region has its own local cultures, or microcultures . . .
“units of analysis” may include:

- one person
- the family
- the community
- a region
- “culture area”
- a culture / “subculture”

for e.g., Prehistoric Middle America has all of these cultures . . . and more . . .

- Ancient Middle America
  - Chamula
  - Lancandon
  - Tzotzil
  - Tzeltal
  - Zoque
- Yaqui
- Otomi
- Tarascan
- Mixtec
- Zapotec
- Olmec
- Toltec
- Aztec
- Teotihuacanos
- Tarahumara
indigenous groups with a population of more than 100,000
indigenous groups with a population of more than 100,000

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indigenous_peoples_of_Mexico#Indigenous_groups_with_a_population_of_more_than_100,2C000
Aztec “Triple Alliance” . . .
“units of analysis” may include:

- one person
- the family
- the community
- a region
- “culture area”
- a culture / “subculture”
  - Maya
    - Chamula
    - Lancandon
    - Tzotzil
    - Tzeltal
    - Zoque

and just the Maya include all of these subcultures . . . and more . . .
every region has its own local cultures, or microcultures . . .
even Minnesota . . .
even in places like Minnesota there are many “microcultures” . . .
even in places like Minnesota there are many “microcultures” . . .

for e.g., *Anishinabe*

(known less appropriately as “The Ojibwa,” and “The Chippewa”) . . .

. . . and many groups have been in or near their present locality since prehistoric times
The Concept of Culture

- microcultures can include ethnic groups *within* nations
  - e.g., *Anishinabe* (Chippewa; Ojibwa)
  - e.g., Irish “Travellers”

local groups generally strive to preserve their cultural identity . . .
The Concept of Culture

- microcultures can include ethnic groups within nations

  local groups generally strive to preserve their cultural identity with . . .
  
  language
  food
  religion
  clothing
  cultural symbols
Tribal college seeks to strengthen its Indian identity

Jana Hollingsworth Duluth News Tribune
Published Thursday, September

The pipe ceremony Wednesday at the Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College acknowledged and honored the four directions, the elements and the Creator.

It also signaled a new beginning for the college and the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

By law, both the state and the band run the college. But in recent years, the band has felt its role diminish — a trend that community college officials say they want to reverse.
The Concept of Culture

• microcultures can include ethnic groups within nations
  - e.g., Anishinabe (Chippewa; Ojibwa)
  - e.g., Irish “Travellers”

local groups generally strive to preserve their cultural identity . . .

and you can often see that in the artifacts that they produce
you can probably see signs of this in your area . . .

www.worldlicenceplates.com/usa/US_MNXX.html
these have prehistoric counterparts
Pictograph from Hegman Lake, Minnesota
and prehistoric items sometimes have modern counterparts

Molinillo
Ancient Mexican Hot Chocolate Frother

but context is always important
but context is always important

What is this, for e.g.?
it’s a “spurtle”

for stirring oatmeal and soups (in Scotland)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spurtle
The Concept of Culture

- microcultures can include ethnic groups *within* nations
  - e.g., *Anishinabe* (Chippewa; Ojibwa)
  - e.g., Irish "Travellers" - sometimes incorrectly called "Gypsies"
  - e.g., Basques
  - e.g., Kurds
  - e.g., Australian Aboriginals

...some areas of human activity tell us more than others...
The Concept of Culture

• microcultures can include ethnic groups within nations
  – e.g., Anishinabe (Chippewa; Ojibwa)
  – e.g., Irish “Travellers” – e.g., Rom (Gypsies)
  – e.g., Basques
  – e.g., Kurds
  – e.g., Australian Aboriginals

. . . food, for e.g., is almost always a key part of peoples’ cultural identity, often dating back to their prehistoric past, and defining their history . . .
The Concept of Culture

• microcultures can include ethnic groups *within* nations
  - e.g., *Anishinabe* (Chippewa; Ojibwa)
  - e.g., Irish “Travellers”
    • sometimes incorrectly called “Gypsies”

and this often shows up in the archeological record . . .
Indians harvesting wild rice near Brainerd, 1905
Minnesota Historical Society
Wild Rice

Wild rice
Zizania aquatica
wikipedia

http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anthfood/afwildrice.html#title
Maple Sugar

Day’s Place, Frozen Sap, Lake Mille Lacs
Minnesota Historical Society
Indians making maple sugar, Cass Lake.

Photograph Collection, Postcard, 1903
Visual Resources Database
Minnesota Historical Society
Location No. ES7 3280 04 Negative No. 49125
Woman and Blueberries.
Patrick DesJarlait (1912-1972)
Minnesota Historical Society
Bannock / Frybread

Wikimedia
and this is the case for almost every group . . .
Main Characteristics of Anthropology

1. **the four fields** of general anthropology

2. **culture** as a primary concept

3. **comparative method** as a major approach development and structure

4. **holism** as a primary theoretical goal

5. **fieldwork** as a primary research technique
Main Characteristics

• comparative method
  – as a major approach to the study of human behavior
  – the comparative method compares things
Main Characteristics

• comparative method
  – One form of comparative method was pioneered by Fred Eggan (University of Chicago)

“Social anthropology and the method of controlled comparison”

Main Characteristics

• comparative method
  – One form of comparative method was pioneered by Fred Eggan (University of Chicago)

“Social anthropology and the method of controlled comparison”

*American Anthropologist, 56:743-61 (1954)*
Main Characteristics

- The comparative method compares things for e.g. . . .
Aztec

Maya

Inca

Sophie D. Coe

*America's First Cuisines*

Main Characteristics

- **comparative method**
  - Other methods . . .

compare things regionally

in an attempt to understand **process**
Comparative method

Other methods . . . compare things regionally in an attempt to understand process.

Main Characteristics

process essentially refers to how things change or how things came to be the way they are now.
Main Characteristics

• comparative method
  - Other methods...

anthropologists for e.g., compare things regionally in an attempt to understand process
the comparative method compares things, for e.g., process of domestication / civilization
Main Characteristics

• the comparative method compares things, for e.g., process of domestication / civilization
• the comparative method compares things, for e.g., process of domestication / civilization

maize – Mexico
wheat – Turkey
rice – China
manioc – Brazil
millet – Africa
the comparative method compares things, for e.g., process of domestication / civilization

- maize – Mexico
- wheat – Turkey
- rice – China
- manioc – Brazil
- millet – Africa
Origin of Domestication for Selected Plants

- **rice**: 7,000 ybp
- **manioc**: 4,200 ybp
- **maize**: 4,200 ybp
- **wheat**: 10,500 ybp
- **millet**: 4,000 ybp

Compare . . .
Chapter 14

Understanding Physical Anthropology and Archaeology, 9th Ed.

“Food Production”

A Biocultural Revolution

Time line for Ch. 14 Food Production

Understanding Physical Anthropology and Archaeology, 9th Ed., p. 333
one of the best places in the world to look at the process of plant domestication
Compare . . .

- Tehuacán Valley, Puebla, Mexico

maize

4,200 ybp
Tehuacán

Teopihuatl
Tenochtitlán

Tehuacán slides

Tehuacán -- Wikipedia

Search Tehuacán on JSTOR
## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE FROM TEHUACÁN, MEXICO
11,000 B.C. to A.D. 1500

(Tehuacán Page)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PHASE</th>
<th>COMMUNITY PATTERN</th>
<th>SUBSISTENCE</th>
<th>TEHUACÁN VALLEY POPULATION ESTIMATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Venta Salada phase (A.D. 700 - 1520)</td>
<td>Secular cities or towns with religiously, politically, and economically affiliated centers</td>
<td>Full-time agriculture and irrigation as well as commerce</td>
<td>Five thousand times original population (60,000 - 120,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palo Blanco (200 B.C. - A.D. 700)</td>
<td>Sacred or ceremonial centers</td>
<td>Full-time agriculture with irrigation</td>
<td>One thousand times the original population (12,000 - 24,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ajalpán and St. Maria (1500 - 200 B.C.)</td>
<td>Ceremonial centers or villages with temples with ceremonially affiliated villages (100-300 village population)</td>
<td>Full-time agriculture using many hybrid domesticates; irrigation (?)</td>
<td>One hundred fifty times original population (1800 - 3600)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Abejas, Pasací, and others</td>
<td>Semipermanent villages</td>
<td>Full-time agriculture planting or increasing</td>
<td>Forty times original population (480 - 960)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Time line for Ch. 14  Food Production

Understanding Physical Anthropology and Archaeology, 9th Ed., p. 333
“The Neolithic Revolution”
“The New Stone Age”

in Prehistoric Middle America this is known as
The “Archaic”

and sometimes they’re all referred to as
“The Agriculture Revolution”

Time line for Ch. 14  Food Production.

Understanding Physical Anthropology and Archaeology, 9th Ed., p. 333
• Early Neolithic sites
REM:

“The Neolithic Revolution”
“The New Stone Age”

in Prehistoric Middle America this is known as The “Archaic”

and sometimes they’re all referred to as “The Agriculture Revolution”
Time line for Ch. 14  Food Production

Understanding Physical Anthropology and Archaeology, 9th Ed., p. 333
Mehrgarh
One of the earliest Neolithic settlements of southern Asia, Pakistan

Compare . . .
Main Characteristics of Anthropology

1. the **four fields** of general anthropology
2. **culture** as a primary concept

3. **comparative method** as major approach
development and structure

another e.g. . . . .
Compare . . .

Out of the Past:
"The Collapse"

60 min., 1993, VC 2135

Abstract Terms / Notes Concepts

Comparing the "fall of civilization" around the world

The Fall of Civilizations -- Wikipedia

www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth3618/video/Collapse.html#title
"The mystery of the Maya civilization is explained through the archaeological findings of the ancient city of Copán in the Honduras' jungle."

"Until 1965, the ancient Maya were thought to have been a mysterious but peaceful people governed by astronomer-priests. But then Russian linguist Yuri Knorosov cracked the phonetic code of Maya hieroglyphics. Today, researchers are revealing stories of Maya blood sacrifice, uncovering a world far different from their expectations. This program shows how, from excavations deep in the Honduran jungle to the most recently interpreted hieroglyphic writings, the story is being..."
Main Characteristics of Anthropology

1. the **four fields** of general anthropology
2. **culture** as a primary concept
3. **comparative method** as major approach
4. **holism**
   or the study of "humankind" as a whole, as a primary theoretical goal
5. **fieldwork** as a primary research technique
Holism tries to put all of the pieces together . . .

American Anthropology

- cultural / social
- physical (bio-physical)
- archaeology
- linguistics
let’s have a look at that on the “Anthropology and . . . Its Parts” chart . . .
NOTE:

usually anthropologists read charts from the bottom up

that has to do with the fact that in archaeology the oldest layers are at the bottom of a site and the newer ones are on top
## Anthropology and ... Its Parts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level 4: Integrative Science of Humans (Holism)</th>
<th>Anthropology</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Level 1: Empirical Observation and Gross Classification</td>
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NOTE:
there are four levels . . .

(REM: read from the bottom up)
# Anthropology and ... Its Parts

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## Anthropology

### Physical Anthropology
- Human Morphology
- Human Biology
- Human Paleontology

### Cultural Anthropology (Ethnology)
- Technology
- Arts and Literature
- Social Anthropology
- Linguistics

- Archaeology
- Ethnography

---

# Anthropology and ... Its Parts

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Anthropology

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Cultural Anthropology (Ethnology)

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HOLISM involves all four levels and all of the physical and cultural components combined.
Anthropology and . . . Its Parts

Anthropology and . . . Its Parts

holism

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### Physical Anthropology
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### Cultural Anthropology (Ethnology)
- Technology
- Arts and Literature
- Social Anthropology
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### Anthropometry
- Archaeology
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and the two main divisions of Anthropology are bio-physical and socio-cultural . . .
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### Anthropology

- **Bio-physical**
  - Human Morphology
  - Human Biology
  - Human Paleontology
  - Technology
  - Arts and Literature
  - Social Anthropology
  - Linguistics

- **Cultural Anthropology** (Ethnology)
  - Anthropometry
  - Archaeology
  - Ethnography

---

Anthropology and ... Its Parts

Anthropology

Bio-physical | Socio-cultural

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and ultimately studies involve lots of subdisciplines and interdisciplinary studies
Anthropology and . . . Its Parts

Anthropology

Bio-physical | Socio-cultural

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level 4</th>
<th>Integrative Science of Humans (Holism)</th>
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<td>Level 3</td>
<td>Generalized Analysis of Biological and Cultural Systems</td>
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<td>Level 2</td>
<td>of Subsystems</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level 1</td>
<td>Empirical Observation and Gross Classification</td>
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- measuring
- excavating
- participant / observation

in some ways this chart business is all about Theory and that is important to the understanding of many aspects of Prehistoric Cultures
Anthropology and . . . Its Parts

theory

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<th>Physical Anthropology</th>
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Anthropology and . . . Its Parts

and the theory ultimately also includes the results of interdisciplinary study

and finally, we have the last main characteristic of anthropology . . .
Main Characteristics of Anthropology

1. the **four fields** of general anthropology
2. **culture** as a primary concept
3. **comparative method** as major approach
4. **holism** as a primary theoretical goal

5. **fieldwork**
   as a primary research technique -- involving “participant observation”
note two terms in the “major characteristics of anthropology” listing . . .
Main Characteristics

1. *culture* as a primary concept

2. *comparative method* as major approach to the study of human behavior

3. *holism* or the study of "humankind" as a whole, as a primary theoretical goal

4. *fieldwork* as a primary research technique, involving “participant observation”
Main Characteristics

1. *culture* as a primary concept

2. *comparative method* as major approach to the study of human behavior

what’s the difference?

4. *fieldwork* as a primary research technique, involving “*participant observation*”
Main Characteristics

1. **culture** as a primary concept
2. **comparative method** as major approach to the study of human behavior
3. **holism** or the study of "humankind" as a whole, as a primary theoretical goal
4. fieldwork as a primary research technique, involving "participant observation" = how you get information
Main Characteristics

1. **culture** as a primary concept

   **data gathering technique** — **participant observation**
   (fieldwork)

   **technique** = **tool** “**participant observation**” = how you get information
Main Characteristics

Anthropologists use other tools . . . like questionnaires, interview schedules, psychological tests, documentary filming . . . but “participant observation” is a characteristic technique use by anthropologists, especially cultural anthropologists (ethnologists).

“participant observation” = how you get information
Main Characteristics

Anthropologists use other tools . . . like questionnaires, interview schedules, psychological tests, documentary filming . . . but “participant observation” is a characteristic technique used by anthropologists. Specifically, cultural anthropologists are also ethnologists.

NOTE: “participant observation” = how you get information
Main Characteristics

1. *culture* as a primary concept

2. *comparative method* as major approach to the study of human behavior

3. *holism* or the study of "humankind" as a whole, as a primary theoretical goal

4. fieldwork as a primary research technique, involving "participant observation" = how you get information
Main Characteristics

1. culture as a primary concept

2. comparative method as major approach to the study

3. holism or the whole, as a primary theoretical goal

4. fieldwork as a primary research technique, involving "participant observation" = how you get information
Main Characteristics

1. **culture** as a primary concept

2. **comparative method** as major approach to the study of human behavior

3. **holism** or the study of "humankind" as a whole, as a primary theoretical goal

4. fieldwork as a primary research technique, involving "participant observation" = how you get information
Main Characteristics

1. **culture** as a primary concept

Other tools include things like . . .

**technique**, = **tool** "**participant observation**" = how you get information
Main Characteristics

- surveys and questionnaires
- various laboratory analyses of a variety of artifacts
- ethological research techniques (animal studies in the field)

*technique* = *tool*  
“*participant observation*” = how you get information

after Marion Nestle, *Food Politics, Rev. Ed.*, 2007, pp. 401-405
• various studies of laboratory animals

• biochemical research ("test tube")

• epidemiological research (populations)

• clinical studies (medical)

• and others
Anthropologists often like to use a research “technique” based on “unobtrusive measures” . . .

(either in the field or elsewhere)
“unobtrusive measures”

- analysis of available data
- analysis of artifacts
- simply observing
- still and video photography
  and analysis of films and images
- and others
but most of all (generally) Anthropologists LOVE . . .
Main Characteristics of Anthropology

1. the **four fields** of general anthropology
2. **culture** as a primary concept
3. **comparative method** as major approach
4. **holism** as a primary theoretical goal
5. **fieldwork** as a primary research technique -- involving "**participant observation**"
and as I mentioned in the “. . . Note on Videos and Visual Anthropology”, we would LOVE to take you along with us around the world, but the next best thing we can do is bring the world to you in the form of films and videos. And we’ll do a lot of that (starting Week 1)
our first “field trip” . . .

video:
Yanomamö: A Multidisciplinary Study
(45 min., 1870, VC 1280, F2520 1.V3 Y36 2004 DVD)

Controversy: Darkness in El Dorado

film HomePage
course viewing guide

YANOMAMO INTERACTIVE CD/ROM
(Peter Biella, Napoleon A. Chagnon and Gary Seaman)
our first “field trip”...