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

Orientation to Prehistoric Cultures

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http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anth1602/
Orientation to Prehistoric Cultures
one item you will see often  
(and often repeated)  
is that American Anthropology  
traditionally has a four-fold  
approach to the study of humans  
and closely related species  
these four fields include . . .
American Anthropology

• cultural / social
• physical
• archaeology
• linguistics
so why study
Prehistoric Cultures?
it’s an excellent place to find out about many fascinating aspects relating to humans . . .
and you already know a lot about those sorts of things . . .
just have a look at the little pictures on the course materials, for e.g., . . .
and lots of people find these topics interesting . . .

there have been
almost three million page views of the UMD Prehistoric Cultures WebPages . . .
and lots of people find these topics interesting . . .
there have been
almost three million
page views of the UMD
Prehistoric Cultures WebPages . . .
in the last few years there has been almost three million page visits to the Prehistoric Cultures course pages . . .
but Prehistoric Cultures is also an excellent place to have a look at all four fields of American Anthropology . . .
American Anthropology

- cultural / social
- physical
- archaeology
- linguistics
so . . .

we’re going to have a look at . . .
so . . . we’re going to have a look at . . .

Prehistory and Primates
and their . . .

• cultural / social
• physical
• archaeology
• linguistics
  aspects
and you’ll visit these same fields as you go through your text . . .
and you’ll visit these same fields as you go through your and other class materials . . .
Moodle “Block 1” DAY

Please get acquainted with the course site, review the course information materials and other links.

If you have not used Moodle course management system before, please view the Orientation tutorial.
and you’ll start right off with a look at “What’s New” in anthropology at the Texas A&M Anthropology World News WebPage . . .
Grading and Exams

- Quiz 1 Information
- Quiz 2 Exam Information
- Final Exam Information
- Grading Information and Academic Policies
- Information on Points for Forum Posts
- How to Study for Exams

Case Study

Take a little time the first couple of weeks to check out the Texas A&M site on world news and see "What's New."

- What's New Case Study is Due 21 September 2012

Student Collaboration Space

- Live chat for Project Collaboration
- General Student Discussion Area
Anthropology World News

Displaying 1 - 51 out of 4886 News Stories

Displaying Newest  |  Older

- Vasa - The Lopsided Warship - *Past Horizons* (2012-08-31)

- The Evolution of Fairness - *Pacific Standard* (2012-08-31)
  1 - Fishing Rocks - *Pacific Standard* (2012-08-31)
  2 - The Path to Keslley Creek - *Pacific Standard* (2012-08-31)
  3 - The Pit House - *Pacific Standard* (2012-08-31)
  4 - House Pit Seven - *Pacific Standard* (2012-08-31)
  5 - Artifacts - *Pacific Standard* (2012-08-31)
  6 - Two Paths to Inequality - *Pacific Standard* (2012-08-31)
  7 - How Inequality Began - *Pacific Standard* (2012-08-31)
  8 - Seeing Fairness Evolve - *Pacific Standard* (2012-08-31)

- Genome Brings Ancient Girl to Life - *Science* (2012-08-30)
  1 - New DNA analysis shows ancient humans interbred with Denisovans - *Nature* (2012-08-31)
  2 - DNA unravels enigmatic Denisovans - *Science News* (2012-08-31)
  3 - Scientists reconstruct genetic makeup of 50,000-year-old girl - *Guardian* (2012-08-30)
  4 - Genome of ancient Denisovans may help clarify human evolution - *Los Angeles Times* (2012-08-30)
  5 - DNA of girl from Denisova cave gives up genetic secrets - *BBC News* (2012-08-31)
  6 - Pinky DNA Points To Clues About Ancient Humans - *NPR* (2012-08-30)
more on that later . . .
and to study Prehistoric Cultures
in this tradition there are a few
basic characteristics of
anthropology to keep in mind . . .
Main Characteristics

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

2. **culture** as a primary *concept*

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

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

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

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

2. *culture* as a primary *concept*

3. *comparative method* as major

4. **holism** of the study of “humankind” as a whole, as a *primary theoretical goal*

5. *fieldwork* as a primary research technique, involving “*participant observation*”
finally, to round off our theoretical perspectives, we’ll have a brief look at . . .
a few

“Other Important Terms”
a few
“Other Important Terms”
including . . .

1. ethnocentrism

2. cultural relativism
   • absolute cultural relativism
   • critical cultural relativism

3. “multiple cultural worlds”
a few
“Other Important Terms”
including . . .

1. ethnocentrism

more on this later . . .

• absolute cultural relativism
• critical cultural relativism

3. “multiple cultural worlds”
and

“Units of Analysis”
“units of analysis” may include:

- one person
- the family
- the community
- a region
- a “culture area”
- a culture / “subculture”
- a nation
- an item or action itself
- a “cultural metaphor”
“units of analysis” may include:

- one person
- the family
- the community
- a region
- a culture / “subculture”
- a nation
- an item or action itself
- a “cultural metaphor”
and we’ll have a brief look at
Three Major Perennial Debates
three major contemporary debates

1. Biological Determinism vs. Cultural Constructionism

2. Ideationism vs. Cultural Materialism

3. Individual Agency vs. Structuralism
   (“free will” vs. “power structures”)
three major contemporary debates

1. Biological Determinism vs. Cultural Constructionism

2. Ideationism vs. Cultural Materialism

   more on this later . . .

3. Individual Agency vs. Structuralism

   (“free will” vs. “power structures”)

and so, to study Prehistoric Cultures in the American Anthropological tradition we’ll further consider the items you see listed in the Week 1 “Topics” . . .
Week 1 — Introduction / Orientation

Reminder: All initial introductions should be done by the end of week one. You may reply to each others introductions throughout the course.

Please read the course overview and go through the general course information in the first block.

And if you have not used Moodle before please view the orientation tutorial.

(Please Note: The orientation tutorial is a UM Technology Training Center tutorial. The content of the tutorial has nothing to do with this course. — Tim Roufs)

CE Week 1 Welcome Memo

First-Day Handout

Viewing .PDFs and PowerPoints
Topics for Week 1

Reading Assignment of Week 1

Week 1 Activities

Complete or Update Your Moodle Profile as Part of Your Introduction

Information on Points for Forum Posts

Pre Assessing Yourself (Due by Friday, 14 September 2012)

Forum: Archaeological Ethics (Due by Friday, 14 September 2012)
Week 1 — Introduction to Anthropology
Orientation to Prehistoric Cultures

CE Week 1 Memo

First-Day Handout
(syllabus)

Meet Your Professor
(WebPage)
slides: (.pdf) (.pptx)
(Download PowerPoint Viewer Free)
[see note on slide formats]

Introduction
slides: (.pdf) (.pptx)
(Download PowerPoint Viewer Free)
[see note on slide formats]

handout: Anthropology and its Parts

Orientation
slides: (.pdf) (.pptx)
(Download PowerPoint Viewer Free)
[see note on slide formats]

• Main Characteristics of Anthropology
slides: (.pdf) (.pptx)
• **Main Characteristics of Anthropology**
  
  (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"**

• **Units of Analysis**

• **Three Major Perennial Debates**
we’ll go there and continue our explorations . . .
Moodle “Block 1” DAY

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Our first “field trip” . . .

video:
Yanomamö: A Multidisciplinary Study
(45 min., 1970, VC 1280, F2520.1.Y3 Y36 2004 DVD)

Controversy: Darkness in El Dorado

film HomePage
course viewing guide

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