

Course Title	LAS101 Introduction to Anthropology	Instructor(s)	Debra Occhi (content) Rebecca Schmidt (language)
		E-mail	docchi@miu.ac.jp rschmidt@miu.ac.jp
Class Style	Lecture	Office Hours	Debra: TBA Rebecca: TBA Please email to make an appointment for all other times. You may email questions anytime.
Track	Basic Education	Mode of Instruction	Team Teaching
Credits	2	Allocated Year	Spring First Year (2026)
Active Learning	Category 4 – (1): Interactive Lectures Category 4 – (7): Spoken and written summaries / paraphrases Category 3- (2): Pause for reflection Category 1 – (1): Self-assessment Category 4 – (9): Pair and group work Category 1 – (5): Journals	Compulsory or Elective	Elective
Course Overview	This course examines modern anthropology as a tool for understanding the relationships between humans and the earth, and between humans in their cultural frameworks. Through anthropological focus on these fundamental issues, students are encouraged to apply critical thinking to the essentials of living and towards sustainable development initiatives.		
Course Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) to develop the student's understanding of anthropology in English. 2) to develop the student's ability to think critically about how human cultures vary based on their physical environments in which they live 3) to develop the students overall proficiency in English through the extensive use of active learning strategies such as interactive lectures, discussions, reflection, and pair and group work. 4) to develop and become more metacognitively aware of mediation skills, such as note-taking, summarizing, paraphrasing and negotiation of meaning. 		
Prerequisite	None		
Course Schedule (This may change)	No	Contents	Homework
	1	Introduction: Class Objectives; What is Anthropology?	Worksheet Readings and Activities; Summaries and Journal Writing
	2	Active Learning Skills, Negotiating Meaning, Summarizing, and Note-taking Skills Survey of Student geographic knowledge Introduction of geography concepts & vocabulary	Worksheet Readings and Activities; Summaries and Journal Writing
	3	What is Anthropology? Rice and Culture	Worksheet Readings and Activities; Summaries and Journal Writing

4	Introduction of geography concepts & vocabulary; Map reading skills: longitude, time zones, & discussion of their cultural relevance	Worksheet Readings and Activities; Summaries and Journal Writing
5	Geographic concepts: case study: Japan's geography and climate	Worksheet Readings and Activities; Summaries and Journal Writing
6	Geography: Reasons for the Seasons	Worksheet Readings and Activities; Summaries and Journal Writing
7	Midterm test: What is Anthropology, Geography, Seasons and Climate	Worksheet Readings and Activities; Summaries and Journal Writing
8	Introduction to "How Geography Defines a Culture" vocabulary and concepts	Worksheet Readings and Activities; Summaries and Journal Writing
9	How Geography Defines a Culture: Adaptation of physical environments – geography and climate	Worksheet Readings and Activities; Summaries and Journal Writing
10	Review and Quiz on "How Geography Defines a Culture"	Worksheet Readings and Activities; Summaries and Journal Writing
11	Introduction to "How Social Organization Defines a Culture" vocabulary and concepts	Worksheet Readings and Activities; Summaries and Journal Writing
12	How Social Organization Defines a Culture - Kinship and other social groups	Worksheet Readings and Activities; Summaries and Journal Writing
13	How Geography and Social Organization Define a Culture- Family structure as adaption to physical environment	Worksheet Readings and Activities; Summaries and Journal Writing
14	Peer Interview Review Project – How geography and social organization define your culture.	Worksheet Readings and Activities; Summaries and Journal Writing
15	Review	Summaries and Journal Writing

Grading	Grades will be determined as follows: Notebooks: Notetaking, Summaries and Journals: 30% Classwork / Participation / Homework 20%; Quizzes: 20% Final Exam: 30%
Textbooks	Materials will be provided by instructor
References	

<p>NOTES</p>	<p>MATERIALS REQUIRED: Please bring to each class</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B5 Notebook (teachers provide) • Folder for handouts • Pens, pencils and highlighters • Smart phone or tablet <p>Course materials and resources will be accessed via Moodle.</p> <p>STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If you do not attend a class during add/drop week for unexcused reasons, your place may be given to a waitlisted student. ● You must do your own work. Copying from classmates will earn an F grade. ● You are expected to inform the instructor in advance if you must miss a class. If you miss a class, you are expected to obtain missing materials and talk to other students or the instructor before the next class.
	<p>Being absent the previous class is not an excuse for not completing assignments. Late homework assignments or missed tests will be deducted 20%. You will have two weeks to complete them. After two weeks the assignment will become a zero.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Excused absence from class (in case of illness or family emergency) requires a written notice from a doctor or other appropriate individuals within 7 days. All other absences from class will be considered “unexcused”. ● If you are not in the classroom when the instructors take attendance, you will be marked as late. 3 late attendances = 1 absence. 30 min late = 1 absence. Sleeping counts as an absence. You will fail the course if you miss more than 5 classes. ● Assignment completion: It is your responsibility to attend all classes, to participate actively as a member of the class, and to complete and hand in all assigned work as required to pass this course. <p>LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We will make efforts to address the different learning styles of students in the class. There will be a combination of whole-class activities, individually based activities, small group work, and lecture. ● Students and instructors will work together to create a safe learning environment for everyone. Harassment or bullying will not be tolerated. ● This course will aim to follow the OECD Learning Compass 2030. <p>REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is our goal that all students have an effective learning environment. Please let us know all necessary accommodations needed to make the class fully accessible. <p>The instructors may to make changes to this syllabus at any time.</p>