ANTH 410: Ethics in Anthropology

CRN: 89616  
Semester: Spring 2018  
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Course Description

Humans – their origins, evolution, behavior, and institutions – form the focus of anthropological research. Professional ethics is essential to our field, because anthropologists engage closely with people’s lives, bodies, histories, and beliefs. Participants in this course will examine what “Anthropological Ethics” means and focusing on historical examples across several subfields (cultural anthropology, archaeology and biological/physical anthropology), and how our colleagues handled them. Ishi’s brain, Greenland Inuits at the American Museum of Natural History, anthropologists in the Vietnam War, biomedicine, ethnopharmacology, repatriation, and the Human Terrain System are just a few issues that offer ethical challenges to responsible anthropologists. Reading and thinking about situations that anthropologists face helps us to recognize our own ethical dilemmas and to make sensitive and informed decisions.

We begin the course with an historic overview of ethical issues within anthropology. We will then discuss how the actions of the past have led to changes in current practice, including the implementation of laws, ethical guidelines, principles and codes. The course will conclude with a discussion on how a more ‘collaborative anthropology’ could help to reduce ethical dilemmas, especially those involving descendant communities Be prepared to participate actively as we explore problems, issues, and questions surrounding ethics in Anthropology.

ANTH 410 has a contemporary ethical issues (E) Focus designation. Contemporary ethical issues are fully integrated into the main course material and will constitute at least 30% of the content. At least 8 hours of class time will be spent discussing ethical issues. Through the use of lectures, discussions and assignments, students will develop basic competency in recognizing and analyzing ethical issues; responsibly deliberating on ethical issues; and making ethically determined judgments.

Course Objectives & Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will:
1. be able to identify and discuss the main points in professional ethics within the discipline of American anthropology (including cultural anthropology, archaeology and biological/physical anthropology).
2. acquire information and develop skills to demonstrate improved ability to cope with ethical dilemmas and make decisions regarding appropriate ethical conduct.
3. demonstrate a general knowledge of the most important resources for this subject.
Course Prerequisites

Prerequisites: ANTH 152 (ANTH 210 & 215/215L recommended) or Instructor Approval.

Student Responsibilities

This is an upper-division undergraduate course that fulfills the Ethics (E) focus requirement. In order to perform well, students must complete all of the required readings, be prepared to participate in class and submit all assignments and exams by the dates assigned. Since this course will cover many controversial issues within the field of anthropology, students will be exposed to a variety of opinions; while debate & discussion is strongly encouraged in this course, please do so in respectful manner.

Required Readings

There is no required textbook to purchase for this course. Required readings will be made available on Laulima. See “Required Readings” section below for full list of readings.

Weekly Assignments

Students will complete weekly assignments that will be used to assess that they read & understood the required readings and attended & participated in course lectures. Specific assignments will vary weekly but will include short question responses, in-class video responses, & case-study scenario responses. The assignments, worth 4 points each, make up the majority of your grade; thus, it is important that you put time and effort into them.

Unless otherwise noted in the Course Calendar, weekly work must be submitted through the Laulima “Assignments” tool/tab before the end of the day Sunday. Late assignments are discouraged but will be accepted; however, 1 point will be deducted for each day it is late.

Grading Policy

You can earn a total of 100 points in this course (each equivalent to one percent of your final grade). Students earning a cumulative total equal to or more than 60 points pass the course and will be assigned a letter grade according to the table below. Students earning fewer than 60 points fail the course and receive a letter grade of “F”. “Incomplete” grades will be given only in the most extenuating circumstances, and requires (at a minimum) signed medical documentation.

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<th>ADEQUATE PERFORMANCE</th>
<th>INADEQUATE</th>
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<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Failing Grade</td>
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<td>A+ 97–100</td>
<td>F &lt;60</td>
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<td>B+ 87–89</td>
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<td>C- 70–72</td>
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Grade Break-Down

Syllabus Quiz = 1 point (extra credit)
Weekly Assignments (15 @ 4 pts each) = 60
Midterm Take-Home Exam = 20
Final Take-Home Exam = 20
Academic Dishonesty

Disciplinary action will be taken against all forms of academic dishonesty (plagiarizing, cheating, etc.) as outlined in the University of Hawai‘i - Mānoa’s Campus Policies (http://www.catalog.hawaii.edu/about---uh/campus---policies1.htm).

Two Points on Valid Sources of Information and Proper Citation:

1) Wikipedia, however convenient, is not a valid source of reliable information. Anyone with a computer and internet connection can create/edit Wikipedia articles and entries. It should never be used as a serious research tool, and never be cited in an academic paper.

2) All assignments for this course require that you properly cite/give credit to your information source. Rephrasing/slightly changing the wording or structure of information does not make it your own. As students pursuing higher education, it is important for all of you to understand what plagiarism is, as well as how to evaluate, employ and cite an accurate source of academic information.

To that end, the UH Mānoa Library has an excellent listing of online research and citation tools: http://guides.library.manoa

The Pennsylvania State University's Online Writing Lab (OWL), accessible through the aforementioned link, is an especially useful tool for research and citation.
Course Schedule

**Week 1 (1/8 - 1/12): Introduction: Anthropology and Ethics**
Readings: Fluehr-Lobban 2013: Chapter 1; MacClancy & Fuentes 2015
Assignment(s): Syllabus Quiz (1-point extra credit) and Weekly Assignment (4 points) due by end of day Sunday 1/14

**Week 2 (1/15 - 1/19): Historical Overview of Ethical Issues in Anthropology**
Readings: Fluehr-Lobban 2003: Chapter 1
Assignment(s): Weekly Assignment (4 points) due by end of day Sunday 1/21

**Week 3 (1/22 - 1/26): “Human Zoos”**
Readings: Blanchard et al. 2008: Chapter 1
Assignment(s): Weekly Assignment (4 points) due by end of day Sunday 1/28

**Week 4 (1/29 - 2/2): Case Study: Ishi**
Readings: Marks 1999; Brandes 1999; Killion 1999; Rockafeller and Starn 1999
Assignment(s): Weekly Assignment (4 points) due by end of day Sunday 2/4

**Week 5 (2/5 - 2/9): “Do No Harm”: Ethical Responsibilities of Anthropologists**
Readings: Fluehr-Lobban 2013: Chapter 2
Assignment(s): Weekly Assignment (4 points) due by end of day Sunday 2/11

**Week 6 (2/12-2/16): Anthropology, War and Secrecy**
Readings: Fluehr-Lobban 2013: Chapter 5 (pp 109-137); Price 2003: Chapter 2 (pp 29-49, In Fluehr-Lobban 2003);
Assignment(s): Weekly Assignment (4 points) due by end of day Sunday 2/18

**Week 7 (2/19-2/23): Case Study: The Yanomami (Darkness in El Dorado)**
Readings: Fluehr-Lobban 2003: Chapter 4 (pp 85-106); Turner and Nelson 2005
Assignment(s): Weekly Assignment (4 points) due by end of day Sunday 2/25
**Week 8** (2/26 - 3/2): **Ethical Issues in Archaeology**


Assignment(s): Weekly Assignment (4 points) due by end of day Sunday 3/4

**Week 9** (3/5 - 3/9): **Ethical Issues: Museums & Collections**


Assignment(s): Weekly Assignment (4 points) due by end of day Sunday 3/11

**Week 10** (3/12 – 3/16): **Ethical Issues in Biological/Physical Anthropology**


Assignment(s): Weekly Assignment (4 points) due by end of day Sunday 3/18

**Week 11** (3/19 – 3/23): **Repatriation and Consultation (NAGPRA)**

Readings: Morenon 2003: Chapter 5 (pp 107-140, In Fluehr-Lobban 2003); Kanehele 2003: Chapter 6 (pp 141-158, In Fluehr-Lobban 2003); Claw et al 2017

Assignment(s): Take-Home Midterm Assignment Due Sunday March 25th by end of day.

**Week 12** (3/26 – 3/30): **SPRING RECESS (No Class)**

**Week 13** (4/2 - 4/6): **Case Study: Kennewick Man**

Readings: Meltzer 2015; Rasmussen et al. 2015

Assignment(s): Weekly Assignment (4 points) due by end of day Sunday 4/8

**Week 14** (4/9 – 4/13): **Decolonizing Anthropology**


Assignment(s): Weekly Assignment (4 points) due by end of day Sunday 4/15

Readings: Fluehr-Lobban 2013: Chapter 7; Acabado et al. 2017; Mullins 2011

Assignment(s): Weekly Assignment (4 points) due by end of day Sunday 4/22

Week 16 (4/23 - 4/27): Ethics in Anthropology’s Future

Readings: Barnhardt and Kawagley 2005; Watkins and Nicholas 2014; Zimmerman and Branam 2014

Assignment(s): Weekly Assignment (4 points) due by end of day Sunday 4/29


Readings: None

Assignment(s): Weekly Assignment (4 points) due by end of day Sunday 5/6

Week 18 (5/7 – 5/11): Take-Home Final Assignment Due Friday 5/11 by end of day.
Required Reading


Blanchard et al. 2008 Human Zoos


