Welcome sentient beings! In the photo above you will notice signs of significant activity on the planet Earth – the product of a species calling itself Homo sapiens. This course will provide you with a bird’s-eye view of these creatures, a field of study known on Earth as 'anthropology.' As it is taught on the North American continent, this actually includes four subfields:

**Biological Anthropology** studies the evolution of human and other primate forms over the millennia;
**Archaeology** studies pre-historic (and sometimes historic) cultures through their physical remains;
**Cultural Anthropology** studies the beliefs, art, morals, economies, etc., of social groups;
**Linguistic Anthropology** studies languages as well as the cultures and social relationships from which they spring.

If you are intrigued by any of these, this course is the place to start. Even if you wish to learn only one subfield, it is important that you learn how it relates to the others. Ultimately, you’ll find that the study of anthropology as a whole will enhance your understanding of history, science, medicine and health, the arts, politics, not to mention your own family and other social networks (whatever planet you may be from).
Course Requirements

You are expected to read the assigned text and view the class lectures for each week. Each week’s class lectures will be in the form of audio & slide presentations, available online by Wednesday of that week.

I request that you contribute to the class Discussion Forum on the class website. This should be a critique or clarification of any idea in that week’s course materials, or links to anthropological events in the news. Individual contributions are not graded, but your overall participation will figure in to the “seriousness of purpose” aspect of your overall grade (see below). For the first week, your contribution need only be to introduce yourself and the culture you consider yourself a part of, and tell us which subfield of anthropology interests you most.

Students are encouraged to contribute their own links or content to the Discussion Forum. For example, there will be a thread for news items related to anthropology. Feel free to create your own topics and threads on the Discussion board.

Writing Assignments: Three 1,000-word essays (usually this is about 2-3 pages) concerning themes from several weeks’ readings. Suggested topics will be distributed, or you may develop your own theme if you discuss it with me beforehand. Late essays will not be accepted unless you have made previous arrangements with me.

Writing assignments and suggested topics will be emailed one week before the due date. Please submit your Short Essays in a reply to the assignment email, as an attachment (in the .rtf format, please). Please respect the length requirements above.

Note: the writing assignments, though short, are a key component of this course. If you are uncomfortable writing in an academic style, consider a visit to the UNA Center for Writing Excellence. Also, look over the ASA style guide and follow that format when citing other works (http://www.asanet.org/Quick%20Style%20Guide.pdf).

There will be three exams, each featuring multiple choice questions. Exam questions will be drawn from the assigned text and the class lectures. In an online class, the exam is made available for a certain number of days, during which you must log on and complete the exam in the allotted time.

- Each Exam = 18% of your grade. The 3 exams count for a total of 54%.
- Each Short Essay = 13% of your grade. The 3 reports count for a total of 39%.
- The remaining 7% of your grade is derived from your general seriousness of purpose and creative grasp of the material. All earnest attempts to improve your writing and critical thinking will be taken into account, as will the quality of your Discussion Forum input. Any visits to the Center for Writing Excellence will add to this aspect of your grade.

For the record, this syllabus is for Section SO-231-I01
Office Hours
Virtual Office Hours: Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m., for quickest response.
Or email me at any time (I will respond within twenty-four hours).

Text

Schedule of Topics and Assignments
Week 1, Jan. 11-13
Read Ch. 1, “What is Anthropology?” pp. 3-18
View Lecture 1

Week 2, Jan. 17-20
Read Ch. 2, “Why is Evolution Important to Anthropologists?” pp. 29-55.
View Lecture 2

Week 3, Jan. 23-27
Read Ch. 3, “What can Evolutionary Theory Tell Us about Human Variation?” pp. 57-80
Read Module 2, “Dating Methods in Paleoanthropology and Archaeology” pp. 81-91
View Lecture 3

Week 4, Jan. 30-Feb. 3
Read Ch. 4, “What can the Study of Primates Tell Us about Human Beings?” pp. 93-109
View Lecture 4

Short essay #1 due Feb. 6

Week 5, Feb. 6-10
Read Ch. 5, “What can the Fossil Record Tell Us about Human Origins?” pp. 111-151
View Lecture 5

Exam #1 available Feb. 11-13

Week 6, Feb. 13-16
Read Ch. 6, “How do We Know about the Human Past?” pp. 153-177
View Lecture 6

Week 7, Feb. 20-24
Read Ch. 7, “Why did Humans Settle Down, Build Cities, and Establish States?” pp. 179-211; View Lecture 7
Week 8, Feb. 27-Mar. 2
Read Ch. 8, “How does the Concept of Culture Help Us Understand living Human Societies?” pp. 213-230
Read Module 3, “On Ethnographic Methods” pp. 231-243
View Lectures 8 & 9 [combined in one presentation]

Week 9, Mar. 5-9
Read Ch. 9, “How do Cultural Anthropologists Learn about Contemporary Ways of Life?” pp. 245-277

Short essay #2 due Mar. 12

Week 10, Mar. 12-16
Read Ch. 10, “Why is Understanding Human Language Important?” pp. 283-313
View Lecture 10

Exam #2 available Mar. 17-19

Week 11, Mar. 19-23
Read Ch. 11, “How do Symbolic Practices Shape Human Lives?” pp. 315-337
View Lecture 11

Week 12, Apr. 2-6
Read Ch. 12, “How do Anthropologists Study Economic and Political Relations in Contemporary Human Societies?” pp. 339-361
View Lecture 12

Week 13, Apr. 9-13
Read Ch. 13, “Where do our Relatives Come From and Why Do They Matter?” pp. 363-403
View Lecture 13

Week 14, Apr. 16-20
Read Ch. 14, “What can Anthropology Tell Us about Social Inequality?” pp. 405-435
View Lecture 14

Short essay #3 due Apr. 23

Week 15, Apr. 23-27
Read Ch. 15, “What Can Anthropology Tell Us about Globalization?” pp. 437-467
Review for final exam

Final Exam: between May 4-7; date to be announced.
Learning Disabilities Policy
In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the University offers reasonable accommodations to students with eligible documented learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. Under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, a disability is defined as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities as compared to an average person in the population. It is the responsibility of the student to contact Developmental Services prior to the beginning of the semester to initiate the accommodation process and to notify instructors within the first three class meetings to develop an accommodation plan. Appropriate, reasonable accommodations will be made to allow each student to meet course requirements, but no fundamental or substantial alteration of academic standards will be made. Students needing assistance should contact Developmental Services (RM. 111 in the GUC or 765-4214).

Plagiarism
Plagiarism is the practice of presenting someone else's writings as your own original work. If you are not familiar with the idea of plagiarism, Collier Library has some useful information here: http://www.una.edu/library/orientation/plagiarism_copyright/plagiarism-students.html. Instructors are quite adept at spotting plagiarism and even finding the sources of stolen text – we are researchers, after all. I discourage lengthy quotes. The papers are too brief for that. But if you feel you must quote a source, even the assigned textbook, please cite it according to the approved ASA style. Students committing plagiarism may be subject to disciplinary action by the University of North Alabama, receive an F for the class, or receive an F on the assignment in question, at the instructor's discretion.

Departmental Make-up Policy
Make-up quizzes and exams are given at the discretion of the instructor under extenuating circumstances, and requests for make-up quizzes and exams must be made by the student within three days of the scheduled quiz or exam date. Illnesses or the death of an immediate family member are the only non-university approved reasons that will justify make-up quizzes or exams. All make-up requests must be accompanied by official written notice and make-up work must be completed on the date defined by the instructor. Instructors are not responsible for informing students of missed work.