

Course title:

Bi1251 Introduction to Anthropology I

Extent and Intensity:

13 weeks, one lecture per week (2 hours)

Teacher(s):

Paride Bollettin, MSc., Ph.D.

prof. PhDr. Jaroslav Malina, DrSc.

RNDr. Robin Pěnička, Ph.D.

Prerequisites and co-requisites

No pre-requisites. The course is suitable both for those who have a prior background in anthropology (social and biological) and for those who have experience in related disciplines who wish to improve their knowledge of the diversity of human experiences.

Field of study / plans the course is directly associated with

Anthropology

Course objectives

The course Introduction to Anthropology will offer students a concise introduction to anthropological topics from all fields of anthropological research.

Learning outcomes

At the end of this course the student should be able to: relay basic information on history of anthropology; define its current division and disciplines; report on complexity of understanding and investigating humans; interpret the holistic biological-socio-cultural notion of anthropology; explain the professional use of anthropology and related areas.

Course contents:**26th September - Week 1**

The lecture will offer a general overview of the course, an explanation of the tasks, a discussion of evaluation format, and the definition of the topic for the final work. We will also ask participants to briefly introduce themselves. Finally, we will start to discuss the relevance of a bio-socio-cultural approach in anthropological studies and an overview of some diversified approaches (evolutionism, structuralism, functionalism and post-structuralist) in socio-cultural anthropology.

Recommended readings:

Boas, Franz. 1904. The history of anthropology. *Science* 20(512): 513–524. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.1126/science.20.512.51>

Lévi-Strauss, Claude. 1955. The Structural Study of Myth. *The Journal of American Folklore* 68 (270): 428-444. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2307/536768>

Additional reading will be made available along the semester for who is interested in deepening specific topics discussed in the lectures. These materials will be made available in a shared online folder:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1PLc-8gvMCyG5wRNGsniClfJuzgksn_B8?usp=sharing

03rd October - Week 2

The lecture will present an overview of the main topics and debates in the history and development of socio-cultural anthropology in a global perspective. Special attention will be dedicated to the discussions about ethnography as anthropological practice and to "classic" topics of socio-cultural anthropological debates, such as kinship systems, the concepts of "enculturation" and "acculturation", and economic and symbolic lives.

Recommended readings:

Howell, Signe. 2017. Two or three things I love about ethnography. *Hau: Journal of Ethnographic Theory* 7(1): 15-20. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.14318/hau7.1.004>

10th October - Week 3

The lecture will present an overview of the main topics and debates in the history and development of biological anthropology in a global perspective.

Recommended readings:

Jantz, R. L. 1995. Franz Boas and Native American Biological Variability. *Human Biology* 67(3): 345-353. DOI: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/41465390>

17th October - Week 4

We will receive as guest lecturers Marco Tromboni e Mariana Possas from the Federal University of Bahia (Brazil), who will present their researches with linguistic anthropology and human rights.

24th October - Week 5

The lecture will be dedicated to discussing the concept of "ontology" in anthropology and philosophy. In this lecture we will receive as a guest lecture Julia Turska from the Wageningen University (Holland).

Recommended readings:

Holbraad, M., & Pedersen, M. 2017. Introduction: The Ontological Turn in Anthropology. In *The Ontological Turn: An Anthropological Exposition*, pp. 01-29. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Doi: <https://doi.org.br/10.1017/9781316218907.002>

31th October - Week 6

The lecture will present an overview of the main topics and debates in the history and development of socio-cultural anthropology in the Czech Republic.

Recommended readings:

Nešpor, Zdeněk R. – Jakoubek, Marek. 2004. Co je a co není kulturní/sociální antropologie? Námět k diskuzi. *Český lid* 91(1): 53-79. DOI: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/42639301>

07th November - Week 7

In the lecture, we will receive as a guest professor Marcelo Moura Melo from the Federal University of Bahia (Brazil).

14th November - Week 8

We will receive as guest lecturers Kelly Sambucci and Bara Cervena from the Masaryk University (Czech Republic), who will present their research with local people, Gorillas and parasites in Uganda.

Recommended readings:

Ampumuza, Christine, 2022. Living with Gorillas? Lessons from Batwa-Gorillas' Convivial Relations at Bwindi Forest, Uganda. *Conservation and Society* 20(2): 69-78. DOI: http://doi.org/10.4103/cs.cs_30_21

21th November - Week 8

We will receive as guest lecturer Rochelle Foltran from the Federal University of São Carlos (Brazil), who will present their researches with Indigenous people in Brazil.

28th November - Week 10

We will receive as guest lecturer Fernando Florencio from the University of Coimbra (Brazil), who will introduce the anthropology of African traditional religions and neo pentecostal churches.

05th December - Week 11

The lecture will present an overview of the main topics and debates in the history and development of biological anthropology in the Czech Republic.

Recommended readings:

Bláha, Pavel – Sedlak, Petr, 2002. Směry české antropologie na počátku třetího tisíciletí. *Česká antropologie* 52: 76-78.

12st December - Week 12

The lecture will present an overview of some contemporary topics, controversies, and debates in biological anthropology in a global perspective.

Recommended readings:

Waiting for indication

19th December - Week 13

The lecture will be dedicated to the application of the final examination. This will be composed of 6 questions from which each participant will be asked to choose and answer 4. Additionally, we will realise a collective evaluation of the course.

Planned learning activities and teaching methods

The course will be organised in a participative and collaborative modality and it will mobilise diverse teaching-learning strategies:

- 1) studying and discussing bibliographic materials suggested in advance;
- 2) the participation of guests presenting (in presence and/or online) specific case study;
- 3) seminars for the collective and critical reflection on core aspects of the controversies in socio-cultural and biological anthropology.

Assessment methods

The grade will be composed of three self-evaluations:

- 1) the active participation in the course's meetings (30%);
- 2) a written final test (70%) composed of 6 questions from which each participant will be asked to choose 4. The questions will cover all the discussions of the semester and the recommended bibliographical materials. The test will take place in January.

Language of instruction

English and Czech

Further comments

Course's materials and instructions will be provided in advance to participants.

Teachers' information

RNDr. Robin Pěnička, Ph.D. (ÚAntr Biol PřF MU)

Paride Bollettin, MSc., Ph.D. (ÚAntr Biol PřF MU)