San José State University
College of Social Sciences
Anthropology 191, Frontiers in Anthropology, Section 1, Spring 2022

Instructor:	Dr. Charlotte Sunseri
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Office Hours:	On Zoom, Wednesday 9-11AM, or by appt. https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/84719219949
Class Days/Time:	Online, asynchronous
Classroom:	Online
Prerequisites:	Students must have upper division standing.

Course Description

This course is a capstone course for all Anthropology majors, though its material is relevant across the social sciences. The intent of this course is to engage students in conversations about current issues in all four fields of anthropology, and how the anthropological skills and knowledge acquired throughout their studies to date can be utilized and applied in real-world and/or future academic settings. The seminar format of this course uses reading and class discussions to address critical social issues. This course also covers professional preparation.

Course Format: Online Course

This course adopts an online classroom delivery format. The course will require students to use devices to access to the Canvas learning platform using a computer, tablet, or phone. See University Policy F13-2 at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-2.pdf for more details.

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on Canvas Learning Management System course login website at http://sjsu.instructure.com. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU on Spartan App Portal http://one.sjsu.edu (or other communication system as indicated by the instructor) to learn of any updates. For help with using Canvas see Canvas Student Resources page (http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/canvas/student_resources)

Course Goals

1. Students will develop an understanding of anthropology as a discipline with a perspective that can critically assess contemporary academic and social issues.

2. Students will develop an appreciation for where and how anthropology is being used, as well as how it could be used in a variety of settings and applications.
3. Students will develop materials that can be used to further professional and academic careers.

Course Content Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. analyze and evaluate various issue-related arguments, discovering and weighing underlying assumptions, and to apply the diverse theories to which they have been exposed to contemporary issues;
2. write logical and well-organized arguments based on anthropological concepts and data;
3. reflect upon their skills and knowledge as social science majors in order to develop a perspective that can be widely applied and articulated to different communities;
4. synthesize the fields of the discipline and use a variety of types of data and information; and
5. develop a sense of themselves as professionals with skills and knowledge Departmental Objectives

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Schuller, Mark. 2021. *Humanity's Last Stand: Confronting Global Catastrophe.* Rutgers University Press. ISBN: 0813031435.

Other Readings

Supplementary course readings or handouts in PDF format. Available on Canvas website.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Students will be evaluated on the basis of:
1.   *Resume, skills assessment, cover letter*. You will prepare a resume and a skills assessment which describes your past work experience, internships, academic courses, etc. You will also prepare a cover   letter to a hypothetical future employer. These documents will be reviewed in peer groups in class.   (20 points)
2.   *Synthesis of anthropology*. Each student will write a two-page synthesis of anthropology as a distinctive, particular perspective on human behavior, focusing on the subfield of particular interest. Each student will prepare a two minute "elevator speech" to describe the Anthropology major to an uninformed colleague, employer, or funder. (15 points)
3.   *Informational interview*. You will conduct a 30-60 minute informational interview with a person working in a field or organization in which you are interested and write a two page summary of your results. (15 points)
4.   *Case study*. Each student--working as a member of a team--will analyze one of several topics that emerge from the readings and class discussion. This semester, the cases will be drawn from the Schuller book in comparison to our own region. Topics will include cross-cutting disciplinary issues. Each team

will create a 20-minute slide presentation on the topic and how it can be studied. (20 points.)

5. *Final exam and portfolio*. At the end of the semester you will be expected to compile the materials you have prepared for this course and submit them as a portfolio. (15 points)

6. *Reading summaries and Discussion Board posts*. Each week we will read a series of chapters from the textbook and students are expected to read and converse about the topics in assignments and discussion boards. Weekly summaries of the readings from the textbook will be submitted through Canvas, and provide accountability for students to keep up with the readings and course content. (34 points)

Final Examination or Evaluation

The Final Portfolio, outlined above, will be the final examination for the course. University policy S17-1 (http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S17-1.pdf) *which states that "*Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment." In our seminar the 3-Minute Forum film and text (transcript) submission will constitute the culminating event.

Grading Information

Grades will be assessed based on writing competency and clarity, coherence and accuracy of argument, and professional presentation.

A plus   >99%,   A   9499%,   A minus   9093 %

B plus   8889%,   B   8487%,   B minus   8083%

C plus   7879%,   C   7477%,   C minus   7073%

D plus   6869%,   D   6367%,   F   <63%

Policies:

● Students will be held to the highest standards of academic integrity and intellectual ethics. The chief product in the social sciences is new knowledge and original thinking. Plagiarism is intellectually dishonest and a form of theft. It will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in accordance with university Academic Integrity Policy.

● Clear criteria for grading will be provided for each assignment format. Feedback to students will be immediate and as detailed as manageable. The instructor will make every reasonable effort to provide timely and constructive feedback to students concerning performance throughout the semester, especially on written work.

● **Assignments will not be accepted after the last day of class.**

● The instructor reserves the right to adjust the syllabus, exam dates, or course content as deemed necessary to facilitate the highest achievement and performance of the class, or to explore timely topics.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9 *(http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf)*, relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on Syllabus Information web page (http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo), which is hosted

by the Office of Undergraduate Education. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

ANTH 191 / Frontiers of Anthropology, Spring 2022, Course Schedule

Schedule (including assignment due dates, exam dates) is subject to change with fair notice – notice may be made available by email from instructor and/or classroom announcements.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Jan 26-28	**Module 0:** Course Welcome: Introduction to the course, Canvas functions Discussion: test entry to introduce yourself Sign up for Disciplinary Assessment teams for Module 1
2 3	Jan 31-Feb 4 Feb 7-11	**Module 1: Anthropology—Perspectives on the Discipline**; what is anthropology and your interest in a subfield? Read & annotate: Schuller (Foreward/Introduction, Ch. 1) Discussion: brainstorm in teams on knowledge and skills in the field of Anthropology Assessment: Anthropology Synthesis, Elevator speeches (in Disciplinary Assessment teams)
4 5	Feb 14-18, Feb 21-25	**Module 2: Jobs and Career Pathways** Read & annotate: Schuller (Ch. 2, 3) Discussion: Plan your informational interview topic/person Assessment: Skills and Abilities Assessment Set up teams for Informational Interview Support
6 7	Feb 28-Mar 4, Mar 7-11	**Module 3: CVs and Resumes**; graduate school, applications for MA/PhD programs, job application materials Read & annotate: Schuller (Ch. 4) Discussion: Informational interview preparations and list of questions Assessment: Resume workshop in teams Assessment: Cover letter
8 9	Mar 14-18, Mar 21-25	**Module 4: Informational Interviews** Read & annotate: Schuller (Ch. 5) Discussion: Talk about all the groups' interviews in your Informational Interview Support team Assessment: Informational Interview
10	Mar 28-Apr 1	**Spring Break!**
11	Apr 4-8	**Module 5: Case Study, Part 1**; Designing a research topic on relevant issues Read & annotate: Schuller (Conclusion) Discussion: Brainstorming topics for Case Study Teams, team sign up
12	Apr 11-15	**Module 6: Case Study, Part 2**; Developing hypotheses and research agendas Discussion: Making hypotheses for your Case Study
13 14	Apr 18-22, Apr 25-29	**Module 7: Case Study, Part 3**; Collecting data and designing anthropological research Discussion: Report on your data collection plan for your Case Study team
15	May 2-6	**Module 8: Case Study, Part 4**; Analyzing data and interpreting results Discussion: Show your data in raw form, and tables/graphs
16 17	May 9-13 May 16	**Module 9: Case Study, Part 5**; Creating a presentation of your team's research design and results Assessment: Case Study Forum Presentation

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		Discussion: Online Viewing of Case Study videos by peers, discuss them
Final Exam		Final portfolios due online by Wednesday, **May 18 at 9PM**