

ANCC103
The Human Community:
The Individual and Society



Dr. Gerald F. Reid
Sacred Heart University
Spring 2012

Section A
Tuesday & Thursday
9:30-10:45 AM

Instructor Information

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Course Description and Learning Outcomes

This course constitutes the third part of Sacred Heart University's four-part common core curriculum, "The Human Journey." Four questions lie at the heart of The Human Journey: *What does it mean to be human? What does it mean to live a life of meaning and purpose? What does it mean to appreciate and understand the natural world? What does it mean to forge a more just society for the common good?* In this course these questions about human meaning and existence are addressed from the perspective of anthropology and with special reference to the Catholic intellectual tradition.

The course is divided into three parts. Part I focuses on an exploration of the fossil and archaeological record of human biological evolution and centers on the questions: What does it mean to be human? What does it mean to appreciate and

understand the natural environment? These questions are also at the heart of Part II of the course, which concentrates on indigenous peoples and cultural systems in the present day and recent past. This part of the course also considers the questions: What it means to live a life of meaning and purpose? What does it mean to forge a more just society for the common good? Part III centers on issues and problems of cultural diversity, especially within American society, and continues the consideration of the four core questions of the *Human Journey*.

As a student in this course, if you work conscientiously, complete the required readings and assignments, and participate the class discussions and exercises, you will be able to:

1. Explain at a basic level the theory of evolution by means of natural selection.
2. Describe the official position of the Roman Catholic Church on evolutionary theory and the study of human evolution.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the main trends in human biological evolution.
4. Reflect on the implications of the fossil and archaeological record of human evolution for understanding of what it means to be human.
5. Explain the anthropological concept of culture.
6. Compare and contrast indigenous cultural systems with one another and with the Western cultural system.
7. Reflect on indigenous cultural systems as alternative models of what it means to be human.
8. Reflect on indigenous cultural systems as alternative models of what it means to appreciate and understand the natural environment.
9. Demonstrate an understanding of the economic, social, and political processes that threaten indigenous peoples and cultural systems.
10. Examine the role of cultural differences in inter-group relations.
11. Compare and contrast ethnocentric and relativist responses to cultural difference.
12. Reflect on the role of cultural diversity in work and daily life.

Course prerequisites: CC101 and CC102.

Course Texts

The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down by Anne Fadiman (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1998).

The Wayfinders: Why Ancient Wisdom Matters in the Modern World by Wade Davis (Anansi, 2009).

Why Evolution is True by Jerry A. Coyne (Viking, 2009).

In addition to the above texts, assigned readings will include several articles that can be accessed through the ANCC103 Blackboard site.

Course Expectations and Attendance Policy

As a student in this course you are expected to attend all regularly scheduled class meetings, complete reading and other assignments by the specified dates, and participate in class discussions and exercises. Class participation is an integral part of this course and your final grade, so please come to class prepared and willing to be involved in discussions and debates.

I expect everyone to arrive to class on time. I will take attendance at the beginning of each class and class attendance will be recorded on the course Blackboard site. If you are not present at the start of class your attendance will not be recorded. You are permitted three absences from class during the semester without penalty. Additional absences from class will result in a reduction of your final course grade at the rate of 3 points per absence. If you are absent from class for any reason, it is your responsibility to contact me regarding missed class material and assignments.

I expect everyone to remain in class for the entire period. Unless it is absolutely necessary, I expect that you will not leave once class has started. If for some reason you need to leave class early, I expect you to advise me of this prior to the start of class. Eating food in class is not permitted; however, coffee, tea, water, and soft drinks are permitted. Cell phones and other communication devices are to be turned off at the start of class.

Course Requirements and Grading

In addition to class participation, your grade for the semester will be based on three exams, several reading reflection assignments, and two colloquia reflection assignments. Make-up exams will not be given unless scheduled with me in advance. If you are involved in a University-related activity that conflicts with any of the scheduled exams, it is your responsibility to discuss such conflicts with me in advance and schedule an alternative exam time in advance. The date and time of Exam #3 will be set according to the final exam schedule of the Registrar's Office.

The reading reflection and colloquia reflection assignments will be graded on a modified pass/fail basis with grades of 100/75/60. A reading reflection assignment submitted after the due date is subject to a late penalty of one full grade; assignments more than a week late will not be accepted and will receive a grade of "F." You will have several colloquia reflection opportunities to choose from and the completed assignments may be handed in at anytime prior to the last regular class of the semester. A list of colloquia approved for this assignment will be handed out and discussed during the first week of class.

Your grade for the course will be calculated as follows:

Exams (3)	60%
Writing assignments (6)	20%
Colloquia reflection assignments (2)	10%
Class participation	10%

Your final letter grade for the course will be assigned as follows:

A	100-93	C+	79-77
A-	92-90	C	76-73
B+	89-87	C-	72-70
B	86-83	D+	69-67
B-	82-80	D	66-60
		F	59 or less

According to University policy, the last day to add or drop a course is Monday, January 23rd. The last day to withdraw from a course is Monday, March 19th.

Academic Integrity

In accordance with the University's policy on academic integrity, I expect you to do your own work on the class assignments and exams. If you are not familiar with the University's policy on academic integrity, you should take time to review and understand it. The policy can be found in the Sacred Heart University Undergraduate Catalog.¹ If you have any questions or concerns about this policy or how it relates to the requirements for this course, please discuss them with me. An assignment, exam, or paper that has been plagiarized or involves some other form of academic dishonesty will result in an automatic grade of "F" for the course. You should be aware that in a case of academic dishonesty, the University's policy on academic integrity requires me to notify the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences of the violation. The policy on academic integrity also stipulates that a student who has been involved in two confirmed violations of the policy may be dismissed from the University.

¹ http://www.sacredheart.edu/download/3503_undergrad_policies_and_procedures_79_100.pdf

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Date	Topic	Assignment
Tuesday 1/17	Course Orientation	<i>Why Evolution is True</i> , Preface and Introduction
Thursday 1/19	What is Evolution?	<i>Why Evolution is True</i> , Ch. 1 Writing Assignment #1
Tuesday 1/24	The Origin of Species	<i>Why Evolution is True</i> , Ch. 7 Optional: <i>Why Evolution is True</i> , Ch. 2
Thursday 1/26	Science and Religion: Conflict or Convergence?	Selections from Faith & Reason "And God Created Darwin" [BB]
Tuesday 1/31	What is "Human"?	Writing Assignment #2
Thursday 2/2	What About Humans? Video: <i>Becoming Human</i>	<i>Why Evolution is True</i> , Ch. 8
Tuesday 2/7	What About Humans?	View: Becoming Human , Pt. 2
Thursday 2/9	Are We So Different?	"Race: Are We So Different?" (BB) <i>Why Evolution is True</i> , Ch. 9
Tuesday 2/14	Exam #1	Prepare for Exam #1
Thursday 2/16	The Value of Diversity	<i>The Wayfinders</i> , "Season of the Brown Hyena"
Tuesday 2/21	VIDEO: <i>Hopi Songs of the Fourth World</i>	TBA
Thursday 2/23	Other Ways of Being "Human"	<i>The Wayfinders</i> , "The Wayfinders" Writing Assignment #3
Tuesday 2/28	The Cultural Web of Human Life	<i>The Wayfinders</i> , "Peoples of the Anaconda"
Thursday 3/1	VIDEO: <i>Cree Hunters of Mistassini</i>	TBA
Tuesday 3/6	Spring Break – No Class	No reading assignment
Thursday 3/8	Spring Break – No Class	No reading assignment
Tuesday 3/13	Re-Imagining Our Connection with the Natural World	<i>The Wayfinders</i> , "Sacred Geography"
Thursday 3/15	Globalization, Indigenous Peoples, and Ancient Wisdom	<i>The Wayfinders</i> , "Century of the Wind" Writing Assignment #4
Tuesday 3/20	VIDEO: <i>Kayapo: Indians of the Brazilian Rainforest</i>	For Indigenous Peoples Equality is a Long Struggle

Thursday 3/22	Exam #2	Prepare for Exam #2
Tuesday 3/27	Culture, Ethnocentrism, and Cultural Relativism	<i>The Spirit Catches You</i> , Ch. 1-3
Thursday 3/29	Culture, Ethnocentrism, and Cultural Relativism	<i>The Spirit Catches You</i> , Ch. 4-6 Writing Assignment #5
Tuesday 4/3	Culture, Meaning, and Experience	<i>The Spirit Catches You</i> , Ch. 7-9
Thursday 4/5	Easter Break – No Class	No reading assignment
Tuesday 4/10	Easter Break – No Class	No reading assignment
Thursday 4/12	Culture and Community	<i>The Spirit Catches You</i> , Ch. 10-12
Tuesday 4/17	Culture and Community	<i>The Spirit Catches You</i> , Ch. 13-15 Writing Assignment #6
Thursday 4/19	Cultural Assimilation and Cultural Pluralism Video: <i>Crash</i> , Pt. 1	<i>The Spirit Catches You</i> , Ch. 16-17
Tuesday 4/24	The Changing Face of American Society Video: <i>Crash</i> , Pt. 2	<i>The Spirit Catches You</i> , Ch. 18-19
Thursday 4/26	Course Conclusion	No reading assignment

Exam #3 will be scheduled during the final exam period according to the final exam schedule of the Registrar's Office.