

**Active Learning Exercises  
for  
Anthropology 101**

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# ANTH 101: Introduction to Anthropology

## -The Course-

- ❖ 4-field introductory course
- ❖ Covers a **lot** of material- history of the subject, evolution, genetics, primates, prehistory, language, culture, social organization at all levels
- ❖ Due to this, it's largely a lecture class

# ANTH 101: Introduction to Anthropology

## -The Students-

- ❖ Required for major
- ❖ Primarily non-major students fulfilling a Gen Ed requirement
- ❖ Most with no background in anthropology

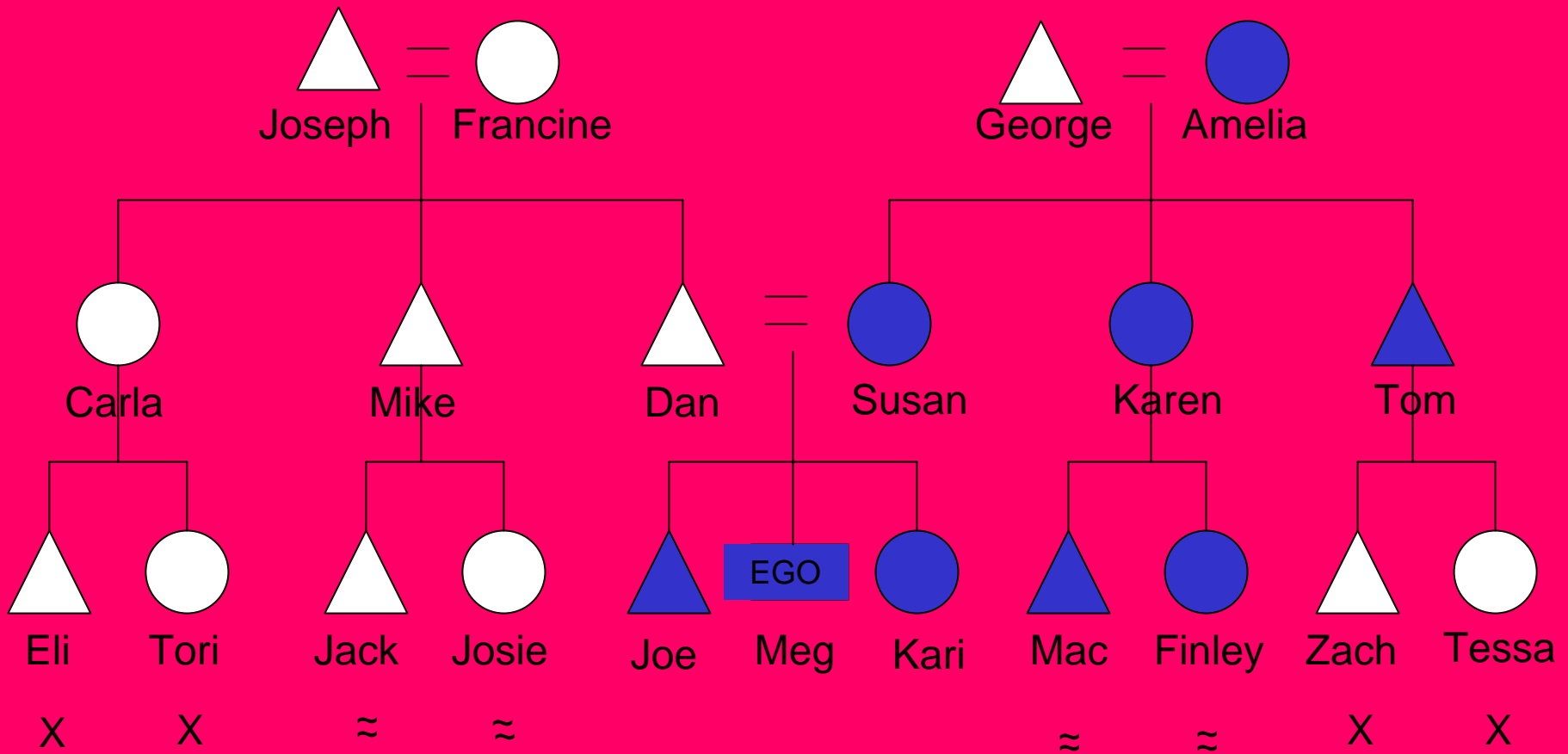
# ANTH 101: Introduction to Anthropology

## -The Goal-

- Increase learning
- Use active learning as a means
- Make class more interesting for students

# ANTH 101 Active Learning Exercises

- ❖ Introductions
- ❖ Punnet Square
- ❖ Primate Phylogeny
- ❖ Hominid Cranial Comparison
- ❖ Upper Paleolithic Video
- ❖ Archaeology Lithic Exercise
- ❖ Human Variation
- ❖ Keeping Up Appearances Video
- ❖ Cultural Observation
- ❖ How to Speak Minnesotan Video
- ❖ Food Acquisition Questions
- ❖ Gender Division of Labor
- ❖ Kinship Chart
- ❖ Associations and Groups
- ❖ Religions of the World
- ❖ Culture Change

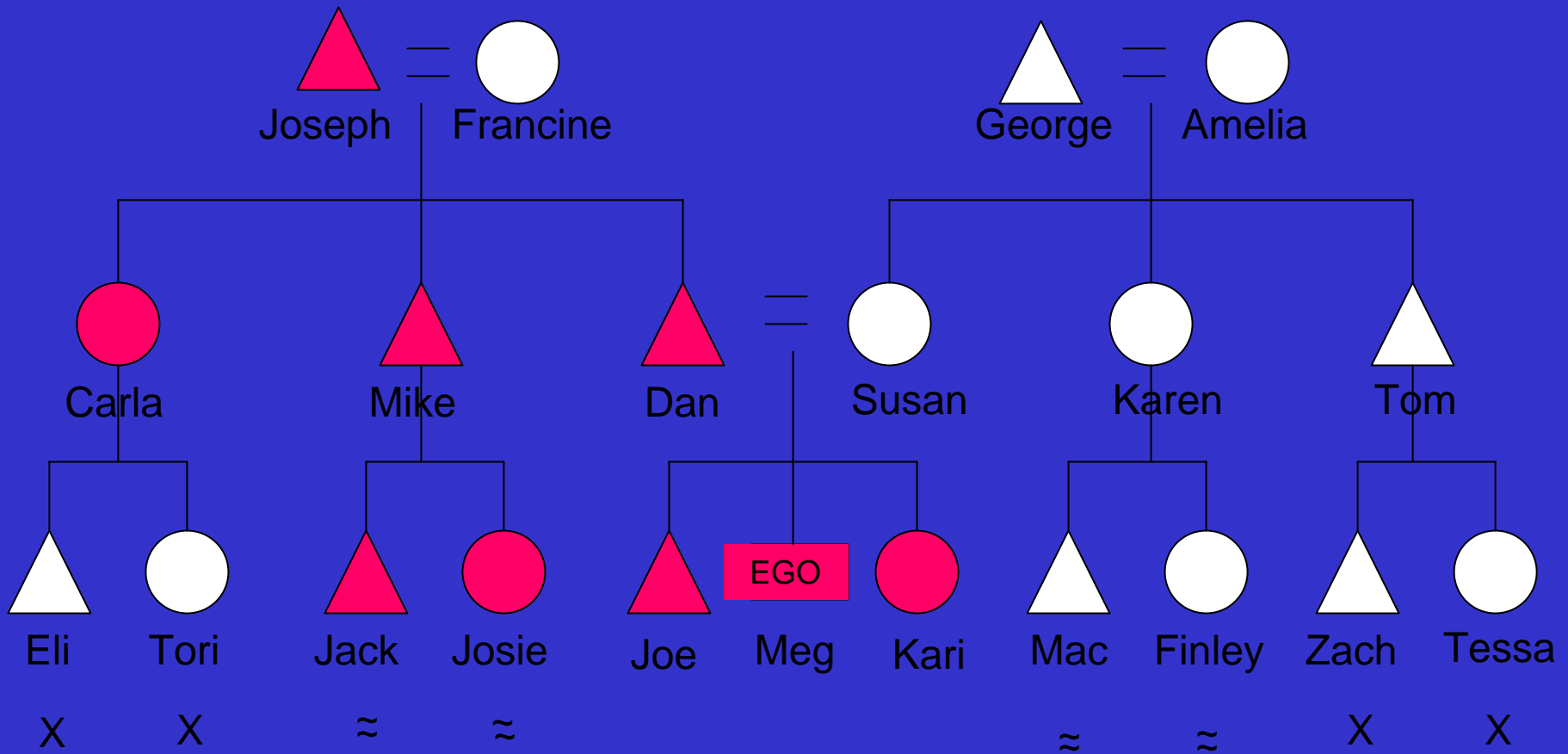


 Matrilineage members

X Cross cousin

≈ Parallel cousin

# MATRILINEAL



Patrilineage members

X Cross cousin

≈ Parallel cousin

# PATRILINEAL



# ANTH 101: Introduction to Anthropology

## -The Analysis-

- Survey
  - 10 questions with ranked responses (Strongly agree to strongly disagree)
  - 2 questions about favorite/least favorite exercises
  - Comments
- Administered to 37 students in class

ANTH 101  
Blue  
Spring 2006

ANTH 101 In-Class Assignment Survey

1. The in-class assignments are useful to me.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

2. The in-class assignments are relevant to the material we are covering in the class and the text.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

3. I prefer in-class assignments to lecturing.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

4. The grading for in-class assignments is fair.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

5. I enjoy working with others on group assignments.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

6. We are given enough time to complete the assignment.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

7. I would like more in-class assignments and active learning activities.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

8. Group discussion helps me learn the material better.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

9. Hands-on/active learning assignments help me to better understand the material.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

10. The professor and/or GA explain the assignments and are willing to answer questions.

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree

11. What was your favorite in-class assignment?

12. What was your least favorite in-class assignment?

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## -The Results-

1. The in-class assignments are useful to me.

– Strongly agree 4

– Agree 29

– Unsure 4

– Disagree 0

– Strongly disagree 0

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## -The Results-

2. The in-class assignments are relevant to the material we are covering in the class and the text.

– Strongly agree	17
– Agree	20
– Unsure	0
– Disagree	0
– Strongly disagree	0

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## -The Results-

3. I prefer in-class assignments to lecturing.

– Strongly agree 9

– Agree 16

– Unsure 8

– Disagree 4

– Strongly disagree 0

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## -The Results-

4. The grading for in-class assignments is fair.

– Strongly agree 27

– Agree 9

– Unsure 0

– Disagree 0

– Strongly disagree 1

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## -The Results-

5. I enjoy working with others on group assignments.

– Strongly agree	10
– Agree	20
– Unsure	3
– Disagree	3
– Strongly disagree	1

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## -The Results-

6. We are given enough time to complete the assignment.

– Strongly agree	22
– Agree	15
– Unsure	0
– Disagree	0
– Strongly disagree	0

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## -The Results-

7. I would like more in-class assignments and active learning activities.

– Strongly agree 8

– Agree 14

– Unsure 10

– Disagree 4

– Strongly disagree 1

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## -The Results-

8. Group discussion helps me learn the material better.

– Strongly agree 7

– Agree 17

– Unsure 7

– Disagree 5

– Strongly disagree 1

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## -The Results-

9. Hands-on/active learning assignments help me to better understand the material.

– Strongly agree	8
– Agree	22
– Unsure	5
– Disagree	2
– Strongly disagree	0

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## -The Results-

10. The professor and/or GA explain the assignments and are willing to answer questions.

– Strongly agree	24
– Agree	13
– Unsure	0
– Disagree	0
– Strongly disagree	0

# Active Learning Exercises

## Favorite

Punnet Square  
Primate Phylogeny  
Kinship (1)  
Hominid Cranial Comparison (3)  
Human Variation (2)  
How to Speak Minnesotan (3)  
Division of Labor

## Least Favorite

Punnet Square (2)  
Primate Phylogeny (1)  
Kinship  
Hominid Cranial Comparison (2)  
Archaeology Lithic Exercise (3)  
How to Speak Minnesotan  
Division of Labor  
Food Acquisition  
Introductions  
Reflections

# Comments

- “None- they have all been useful & interesting”
- “I really liked today’s” [Kinship]
- “Any one, they are pretty much all the same... It’s just nice to talk to people about class junk”
- “The one today [Kinship] was a bit confusing, but I understand it now so I guess it was successful”

# Comments

- “More in-class assignments as a type of extra credit ...”
- “I like the mixture of both lecture and in-class assignments”
- “Good class- keep up the good work!”
- “Excellent class- the overall structure is fantastic- this is the best class I have taken at MSU other than Human Anatomy with Dr. Williams”

# Conclusion

**Active learning was a success!**