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
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-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
EGO

MATRILINEAL

Carla Mike Karen Tom

Dan Eli Tori

Jack Josie

Meg Kari

Joe Finley Zach

Susan Mac Tessa

X X

Joseph Francine

George Amelia

Matrilineage members

Cross cousin

Parallel cousin
EGO

PATRILINEAL

Carla Mike Karen Tom

Dan Eli Tori

Meg Finley Zach Tessa

X X

Patrilineage members

Cross cousin

Parallel cousin

Patrick

Francine

George Amelia

Kari

Mac Finley Zach Tessa

X X

Joe

Meg

Kari

Mac Finley Zach Tessa

X X

Carla

Mike

Dan

Susan

Karen

Tom

Eli Tori

Jack Josie

Joe

EGO
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-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
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
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
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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Favorite</th>
<th>Least Favorite</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Punnet Square</td>
<td>Punnet Square (2)</td>
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<td>Primate Phylogeny</td>
<td>Primate Phylogeny (1)</td>
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<td>Kinship (1)</td>
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<td>Human Variation (2)</td>
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<td>How to Speak Minnesotan (3)</td>
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<td>Introductions</td>
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<td>Reflections</td>
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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!