

Kentucky Class Notes

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ANT 101 Crooks
Fall 2010
Test 1

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Ch. 1

- **ANTHROPOLOGY** is defined as the study of human kind with a goal to broadly describe what it means to be human in all of its *complexity* and *diversity*
- The study of human nature, human society, and the human past
- Anthropology is **HOLISTIC**, meaning everything is connected. Integrates all information that is known about human beings and their activities at the highest and most complete level
- Biology, culture, across geographical space, through time
- Anthropology is **COMPARATIVE**, anthropologists are required to consider similarities and differences in the widest range of human societies possible before generalizing about human past, nature, or society.
- It is **EVOLUTIONARY**- the perspective of an anthropologist requires their observations (about society, nature, and past) to be in a temporal framework so change can be taken into consideration over time.
- Anthropology is **FIELD-BASED**- Anthropologists collect data over an extended period of time. Scientists have close involvement with different groups of people in different places. These different people are research participants and informants. During this field research, anthropologists participate in everyday activities and observe all that goes on. This is called **PARTICIPANT/OBSERVATION** and is very important in studying different societies.
- Most human behavior is **NOT** embedded in our genes, this makes us different than other animals (grasping and nursing are examples of the few embedded behaviors humans have).

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- Anthropology relies in the concept of culture to explain the diversity in ways of life among humans. **CULTURE** is defined as learned behaviors and ideas that are acquired as members of society. However, not all members of a specific society act or think the same way. We use culture to mold in the world we live in.

SAMPLE