

Kentucky Class Notes

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**ANT 160 McDonald
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Test 1**

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Anthropology the Discipline: What is Anthropology?

ANTHROPOLOGY is a social science. Anthropology is the study of humans at all times, in all places, in all their diversity. Anthropology is an examination of human adaptation. Anthropology is also used to solve human problems.

- Anthropologists use scientific method to study humans; if you're living or dead anthropologists will study you sooner or later. There is an anthropologist (Bosworth) who has studied in the South Pole. He is studying the people in the science station who are studying the South Pole. Diversity has to do with age, ethnicity, gender, and how we organize ourselves in groups.
- Anthropology is unique in its scope of study, cross-cultural comparative approach, holistic perspective, and curiosity to discover (cultural universals/cultural particularities). Holistic approach observes every aspect of a culture. Dr. McDonald studies older people, she studied health and nutrition practices of older people in North Carolina. However, while studying this she also noticed their strong religious ties. Family is a cultural universal; in every culture studied thus far a form of family has been recognized.

Four Fields of Anthropology:

- I. **ARCHAEOLOGY** is the study of past cultures
 - A. Prehistorical – no writing system
 - B. Historical – with writing system
- II. **BIOLOGICAL/PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY**
 - A. The study of humans as a biological species
 - B. One Biological race: Homo sapiens. All humans have biological needs shaped by the culture.
- III. **LINGUISTICS** is the study of human languages
 - A. Historical: language change & relationships
 - B. Descriptive: formation and use of language
 - C. Sociolinguistics: context of language use

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