

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY
ANTH101-080
SPRING 2009

CLASS PROJECT

Introduction

What good is anthropology? One of the ways to check this out for yourself would be to do a “Clipping File” over the course of the semester, as you think about anthropology and investigate what it is all about. The “Clipping File” involves you reading print media—newspapers, periodicals both news and other and news web sites—reading interesting articles that seem relevant to topics, ideas and concerns that are dealt with in anthropology and seem relevant to your readings, class discussion, lecture and films. When you begin to pay attention to such items, it is uncanny sometimes how they seem to suddenly show up in the news. And if you look broadly, you might be amazed at how many such articles appear in the news on a regular basis, covering each of the five fields of anthropology—cultural anthropology, physical anthropology (also known as biological anthropology, archaeology including historic archaeology. anthropological linguistics (study of language and speakers’ use of language) and applied anthropology (focused on applying anthropology to solving everyday social problems). See on my web page www.udel.edu/anthro/budani for the power point lecture entitled “Anthropology and Human Diversity” for a more in depth discussion of the five subfields of anthropology. The purpose of this exercise is to give you a practical, day to day look at the ways in which our society is in need of such a discipline as anthropology, to help understand and deal with our human diversity.

What To Do

Set aside either a notebook or a three ring binder for this project. Date each entry and the source of the clipping. For example, if you use a news magazine, then give the title i.e., Time Magazine, Date February 9th 2009 Article Title author and pages. Or if you use a clipping from CNN, identify the title of the story, author if any, and date. Clip and past the article to a page in your note book or to loose leaf paper for a three ring binder. Write no more than one paragraph in which you discuss the clipping’s relevance to anthropology, to a sub discipline and link it to something you read or heard in lecture and watched in a film. Close by saying how the clipping contributes to your understanding of anthropology and its practical uses. Although I expect the number of clippings to vary from week to week, I think it is a good idea to aim for a minimum of three clippings per week. Comments may be hand written. Be sure to number pages and to distinguish one week from another.

Review of Notebooks or Binders

Beginning in February, turn in your collection of clippings in the class that is also the last day of the month. Reviews for March are an exception. Turn in your clippings and comments on Tuesday, March 24th. Grades earned on Clippings will count toward your final grade.