**Course Goals**

The goal of anthropology is to understand human behavior in order to understand human diversity. The desire of anthropologists is to help others understand humankind's history and the diversity brought about by that history. From this knowledge should come the understanding that there is only 1 human species, that race is an arbitrary term and a cultural construct, and that cultural diversity does not create "them" and "us" only a more interesting "us." Critical thinking is an important aspect of learning as well as forming educated personal opinions. To help with this goal, many chapters will have a section titled
"Discussion Article(s). Some of you may strongly disagree with the articles, others will embrace the idea that's presented. The purpose of the articles is to generate discourse on both views. Just remember, it's required to back your opinion with facts; what are your beliefs based on?

Course Requirements

**Introduction**

There are 27 chapters in the book, however, not all chapters will be covered and only portions of others are required. Learning Objectives, especially the "Key Terms" and Chapter Summaries are the best indicators what you will need to know from each chapter. Within WebCT be sure to read each of the articles listed as subtitles in the different chapters. There's a good chance that information from articles/web sites given on these pages will be on the test. The first part of the textbook discusses the origins of humankind, which takes us into the subject of evolution. Evolution has been and continues to be a very controversial subject. As a researcher I believe evolution is both a theory and a fact. As an anthropologist, as well as an individual, I believe that all religions are true to those who believe. Thus, my purpose is to teach you the scientific perspective of earth's history, not to convert you to my way of thinking. In fact, I'm hoping the class will feel comfortable enough to have discussions on both points of view.

**Requirements**

Grades for the course will be based on 4 requirements: 1. Four exams; 2. Homework; 3. Class participation. 4. Research Paper The exams will occur approximately every 4 weeks and may include definitions, short answer questions, and essay questions. The homework assignments will involve writing a one to three page essay on a particular subject that you may have to research on the Internet. If you've never done research on the Internet, give me a call and I'll walk you through your first assignment. All assignments are due on the date shown on your class calendar. To access assignments, choose "ASSIGNMENTS" under your Course Tools menu. Class participation will be noted via your involvement in class discussions. Please note that discussions are not limited to those I have initiated. If you want to discuss something, preferably regarding anthropology, post it. To access the discussion sessions, choose "DISCUSSIONS" under your Course Tool menu. Your research paper can be on any of the topics listed under Class Project. If there's something else you're interested in, let me know and if the project is appropriate you can do it. All topics chosen must be sent to me by January 31.

*Section Instructor: Mickie Murin*
E-mail
mmurin@alvincollege.edu