Anthropology is the study of mankind. This semester course is an introduction to cultural anthropology, studying humans in the distant past and the wild variance of custom and belief in modern societies. Anthropology students will explore the three major subfields of the discipline -- ethnology, linguistics, and archaeology -- and participate in a systematic study of other cultures and our own.

**CONTENT**
Throughout this class, students will consider the following:

- What exactly is culture? What are we born with, and what do we learn?
- Where does anthropology fit among other disciplines like biology, geography, psychology, history, economics, and sociology?
- How do we study prehistory? What methods can archaeologists employ to distill meaning from the garbage and ruin that ancient cultures left behind?
- In studying anthropology, how do we consider a people on its own terms? What prejudices and presuppositions can negatively affect our study of other cultures?
- What cultural characteristics are a result of external forces like climate, geography, natural resources, and population density?
- How does food influence -- and how is it influenced by -- the way we live?
- What can we learn by studying how different cultures tend to their sick?
- How does the way we speak often express more than the words we are saying?

**PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMIC STANDARDS**
There are no state standards for anthropology per se, but the course will address the following:

**History:**
- 8.1.8: Historical analysis and skills development
- 8.2.8: Pennsylvania history
- 8.3.8: United States history
- 8.4.8: World history

**Geography:**
- 7.1.8: Geographic literacy
- 7.2.8: Physical characteristics of places, regions
- 7.3.8: Human characteristics of places, regions
- 7.4.8: Interactions between people, places

**Civics and government:**
- 5.1.8: Principles and documents of government
- 5.3.8: How government works

**RESOURCES**
There is no textbook. As a result, you will receive a lot of handouts in this class. I will post them all on mrtripodi.org, in addition to giving them out in class. We will also watch more than a dozen documentary films in here, and I will do what I can to make these available to you outside of school.
MATERIALS

• **Folder or binder:** I would recommend a three-ring binder for this class. You'll get a lot of handouts.
• **Pen or pencil:** Try to bring your own. I’ll bail you out if necessary. Also: Don't turn in stuff written in highlighter.
• **Your own digital device:** I am fine with you bringing and using your own phone/laptop/tablet/netbook for scholarly purposes. You can use it to take notes, complete in-class assignments, or augment your learning on the fly. But if I catch you texting or clashing clans¹, you've lost that privilege without warning. School-wide BYOT policy applies.

METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

1. **Homework** and **in-class assignments** are designed specifically to introduce or reinforce key ideas. A student’s success hinges on completing homework and in-class work, and both should be taken quite seriously.
2. **Quizzes** are given frequently to assess your progress. Occasionally one will be unannounced. It is the student’s responsibility to stay on top of the material. **Tests** will be given at the end of each unit – roughly once every three weeks. Each test will be worth between 50 and 100 points. A cumulative **final exam** will be given at the end the semester.
3. **Projects** are assigned at least once per nine weeks, and offer every student an opportunity to showcase his or her individual skills and creativity. Each project will be explained in depth upon its assignment.
4. **Class participation** is 25% of your grade. Show up, stay awake, contribute to the class discussion, and you're well on your way to an A.

LATE WORK

I accept late work only until the assignment has been returned or entered into Classroll. No late work will be accepted once the grades are posted. Credit given for late work is half of what an on-time assignment would have been graded. **Homework submitted later the same day - or later in the class - is considered late.**

GRADING

According to district policies: A: 100-92%, B: 91-83%, C: 82-74%, D: 73-65%, E: below 65%. A 91.50% will be rounded to 92%. A 91.49% will be rounded to 91%.

MRTRIPODI.ORG

Assignments and class documents are **updated daily** at the class website, www.mrtripodi.org. I will not use School Fusion as anything more than a reminder to check the website.

If you're absent, I will not send work home. It is your responsibility to access what you missed through the website.

GUIDELINES/BEHAVIOR

I try to work bell-to-bell every day. When the late bell rings, you should be quiet, in your seat, and ready to begin.

If you cheat, I will catch you and fail you.²

If you copy someone else's work, I will enjoy catching and failing you.³ Plagiarism is the cardinal sin of serious scholarship. Expect a 0% as your best outcome.⁴

Anthropology often operates as a seminar, and a seminar requires a certain contract among its participants. First, you will treat your instructor and your classmates with unflagging respect. Second, ad hominem or inflammatory commentary (attacking race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, even political views) is empirically unacceptable, and will be dealt with swiftly and mercilessly. **Think before you speak, people.**

CONTACT

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. You may reach me by telephone at 724-846-9600 or by email at tripodij@bsd.k12.pa.us. You can also get me through the website, the Facebook page, Twitter, etc. -- but the most efficient way to get me outside of school hours is through my school e-mail.

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¹ Or doing anything else asinine or non-school-related
² Ask other kids in the building if you don't believe me. I take the integrity of this class very, very seriously.
³ Seriously, just don't do it. I catch kids every year. **Every year.** It's easier than ever to plagiarize, and easier than ever to catch plagiarists.
⁴ Other outcomes include (but are not limited to) detention, failing the nine weeks, failing the course, and/or being removed from the course.