

# Syllabi

Four Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUGP)

Gauhati University

Effective from Academic Year 2023-24



GAUHATI UNIVERSITY

Guwahati-781014

**FOUR YEAR UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMME IN ANTHROPOLOGY  
GAUHATI UNIVERSITY**

**FIRST SEMESTER**

**Subject Name: Anthropology**

**Course I: FOUNDATIONS OF ANTHROPOLOGY**

**Objectives**

This course:

1. Gives an understanding of the basic concepts in Anthropology and all its sub-branches. Students will learn about the meaning, scope and development of the subject and its relationship with other disciplines.
2. Introduces concepts of Society and Culture; and their role in shaping human lives.
3. Provides an understanding of the position of human in relation to other organisms and the distinctiveness and diversity of human beings in time and space.
4. Provides a preliminary understanding of the prehistoric and archaeological background of human culture in the evolutionary context.

**Course level: 100-199**

**Prerequisite: Class XII in any Science, Arts and Humanities**

**Graduate Attributes/Outcomes**

1. This course will raise awareness about ethnocentrism and cultural relativism as unique aspects of the discipline. Students will understand anthropologically how and why social and cultural differences exist in the world and how such differences help us to solve problems in everyday life.
2. This will provide an understanding of the essence of Biological Anthropology with respect to evolution and variation.
3. Students will acquaint themselves with the prehistoric archaeological dimension of human society and its evolutionary context.

**Total Credits: 4**

**Theory – 3, Practical -1**

**Number of required classes: 75**

**Number of contact classes/hours: 60 (Theory – 45, Practical - 15)**

**Number of non-contact classes: 15 (Library studies, Assignments)**

## **Course Content**

### **Unit I:**

(i) Meaning, scope and development of Anthropology. Anthropological perspective and orientation: Ethnocentrism and Relativism. Relationship of Anthropology with other disciplines - Social Science, Behavioural Science, Life Science, Medical Science, and Earth Sciences.

(ii) Main branches of Anthropology, scope and relevance: Socio-Cultural Anthropology, Biological Anthropology, Archaeological Anthropology and Linguistic Anthropology.

### **Unit II:**

(i) Concept and Nature of Society: Social Institutions (Family, Kinship and Marriage); Social Stratification.

(ii) Concept and Definition of Culture: Culture trait, Culture complex and Culture area. Tangible and Intangible Culture; Culture and Civilization. Culture change: Forces and Factors of Culture change.

### **Unit III:**

(i) Man's place in Animal Kingdom, Classification and characteristics of living primates, Human and Non – Human primates – Comparative Anatomy and Behaviour.

(ii) Evolutionary stages of man in the light of fossil evidences: Ardipithecus, Australopithecus, Homo Habilis, Homo Erectus, Archaic man and Neanderthal, modern man.

(iii) Human skeletal morphology: Cranial osteology, Post-Cranial osteology and dentition.

### **UNIT IV:**

(i) Definition and scope of Archaeological Anthropology: Ethnoarchaeology and New Archaeology, Relation with other disciplines. Division of Prehistoric Period: Stone Age and Metal Age; Lower Palaeolithic, Middle Palaeolithic and Upper Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic (Characteristics features of the period in general).

(ii) Geological Time Scale, Geochronology of Pleistocene Epoch, Plio-Pleistocene Boundary, Glacial and Inter-Glacial, Pluvial and Inter Pluvial, Different Types of Geo-climatic Events.

### **UNIT V: Practical**

#### **1. Osteology**

Drawing, Description and Identification of the following Bones: Cranial bones -Frontal, Parietal, Occipital, Maxilla, Zygomatic, Mandible, Sphenoid; Long bones - Humerus, Radius, Ulna, Femur, Tibia, Fibula; Scapula, Clavicle, Pelvis, Sternum, Vertebral Column. Sides to be identified for paired bones.

## 2. Osteometry: Measurement of long bones

**Femur:** Absolute length, Physiological length, Middle shaft diameter

**Humerus:** Maximum Length, Bi-Condylar breadth, Least circumference of shaft, Caliber index

**Ulna:** Maximum length, Physiological length, Least circumference of the shaft, Breadth of Olecranon

**Radius:** Maximum length, Physiological length, Least circumference of shaft, Breadth of Olecranon

**Tibia:** Maximum length, Physiological length, Proximal epiphysial (Bi-condylar) breadth, Minimum transverse diameter at the middle.

**Fibula:** Maximum length, Upper epiphysial breadth, Lower epiphysial breath and Caliber index.

### *Suggested Readings:*

1. Beattie, J. (1964). *Other Cultures: Aims, Methods and Achievements in Social Anthropology*. Routledge.
2. Davis, K. (1949). *Human society*. Macmillan. New York.
3. Ember C. R. et al. (2011). *Anthropology*. Dorling Kindersley. New Delhi.
4. Fox, Robbin. (1967). *Kinship and Marriage*. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge.
5. Harris, Marvin. (1997). *Cultural Anthropology*. Pearson. London.
6. Haviland, W. A., Prins, H. E., & McBride, B. & Walrath, D. (2014). *Anthropology: The human challenge* (14<sup>th</sup> edition). Cengage Learning.
7. Herskovits, Melville J. (1972). *Cultural Relativism; Perspectives in Cultural Pluralism*. Random House, New York.
8. Kroeber, A. L. (1948). *Anthropology*. Oxford & IBH, New Delhi.
9. Levi-Strauss, Claude. (1969). *The Elementary Structures of Kinship*. Beacon Press.
10. Mair, Lucy. (1965). *An Introduction to Social Anthropology*. Oxford University Press.
11. Das, B.M. (1980). *Outlines of Physical Anthropology*. Kitab Mahal Publication.
12. Gebo L. Daniel (2014). *Primate Comparative Anatomy*, John Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA.
13. Groves C. (2001). *Primate taxonomy*. Smithsonian, USA.
14. Jurmain R., Kilgore L., Trevathan W., Ciochon R.L. (2012). *Introduction to Physical Anthropology*. Wadsworth Publ., USA.
15. Rastogi, S. and Shukla, B.R.K (2003). *Laboratory Manuals of Physical Anthropology*. Bharat Book Centre, Lucknow, India
16. Stanford C., Allen J.S. and Anton S.C. (2010). *Exploring Biological Anthropology. The Essentials*. Prentice Hall Publ, USA.
17. Singh I. P. and Bhasin M.K. (1989). *Anthropometry: A Laboratory Manual on Biological Anthropology*. Kamla-Raj Enterprises, Chawri Bazar, Delhi.
18. Das, B.M. & DeKa, R.K. (2013). *Physical Anthropology Practical*. Kitab Mahal Publication.
19. Bhattacharya, D. K. (1987). *Prehistoric archaeology*. Hindustan Publishing Corporation. New Delhi.

20. Heizer, R. F., & Hole, F. (1973). *An Introduction to Prehistoric Archaeology*. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, New York.
21. Fagan, B. M. (1983). *People of the Earth: An Introduction to World Prehistory*. Little Brown & Company. Boston.
22. V. Rami Reddy (1987). *Elements of Prehistory*. Mittal Publication. New Delhi.