

## COURSE OUTLINE

**Anthropology 102H (C-ID Number: ANTHR 120)**  
**Course Title: Honors Cultural Anthropology**  
**(C-ID Title: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology)**

### **Catalog Statement**

This course explores how anthropologists study and compare human culture. Cultural anthropologists seek to understand the broad arc of human experience focusing on a set of central issues: how people around the world make their living (subsistence patterns); how they organize themselves socially, politically and economically; how they communicate; how they relate to each other through family and kinship ties; what they believe about the world (belief systems); how they express themselves creatively (expressive culture); how they make distinctions among themselves such as through applying gender, racial and ethnic identity labels; how they have shaped and been shaped by social inequalities such as colonialism; and how they navigate culture change, and processes of globalization that affect us all. Ethnographic case studies highlight these similarities and differences and introduce students to how anthropologists do their work, employ professional anthropological research ethics, and apply their perspectives and skills to understand humans around the globe. The honors course presents students with the opportunity to complete an original, individual research project or paper and present the findings to the class.

Total Lecture Units: 3.0

Total Laboratory Units: 0.0

**Total Course Units: 3.0**

Total Lecture Hours: 48.0

Total Laboratory Hours: 0.0

Total Laboratory Hours To Be Arranged: 0.0

**Total Faculty Contact Hours: 48.0**

Recommended preparation: Eligibility for English 120 or ESL 151

### **Course Entry Expectations**

Prior to enrolling in the course, the student should be able to:

- analyze short essays to identify thesis, topic development and concluding sentences, as well as traditional expressions used to increase coherence
- evaluate compositions for unity, and sufficiency of development, and coherence, as well as variety of sentence structure
- organize and write a thesis-driven, organized essay which is at least three paragraphs in length

## **Course Exit Standards**

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

- define the scope of anthropology and discuss the role of cultural anthropology within the discipline;
- recognize the methods, theories and perspectives used to study and understand human cultures;
- explain the importance of the ethnographic method in the study of culture;
- employ the relativist perspective while discussing cultural variation;
- demonstrate an understanding of anthropological concepts including ethnicity, gender, political organization, economic systems, kinship, rituals and belief systems;
- explain the interconnectedness of the economic, political and sociocultural forces of globalization amongst diverse cultural groups;
- analyze and evaluate the ethical issues anthropologists encounter, and professional ethical obligations that must be met in the study of and application in cultural groups different from their own.

## **Course Content**

**Total Faculty Contact Hours = 48.0**

### **Introduction to Cultural Anthropology and Theories of Culture (6 hours)**

Anthropology as a holistic and comparative science

Goals of anthropology to describe, analyze, compare, and explain different human societies including our own

Definitions of culture, ethnocentrism and cultural relativism

Different theories of anthropology: psychological, sociological, symbolic, historic, adaptive, and cultural materialist approaches to the study of culture

### **Methodology (3 hours)**

Fieldwork, ethnography, and participant observation

Strengths and weaknesses in technologies of knowledge

Positivism, subjectivity, and postmodernism

Ethical considerations and native anthropology

Examples from the United States and abroad

### **Language (3 hours)**

The distinctive characteristics of human language

Phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics

Ethnography of communication including linguistic stratification by ethnicity, social class, and gender.

Creoles and dialects include black vernacular english

### **Socialization (3 hours)**

Formal and informal means of enculturation

Social birth

Cross cultural variation in child rearing practices

The changing face of the Americans view childhood and intracultural variation within the United States

### **Subsistence (3 hours)**

Variety of subsistence strategies

Case studies of foraging, pastoralism, extensive cultivation, intensive cultivation, and industrialism

Connections between subsistence and environment

Case studies from Africa, Australia, Arctic Circle, Polynesia, Europe, and North and South America

### **Economics (3 hours)**

Norms of productivity, division of labor, distribution, and consumption of goods and services within a society.

Prestige, power, resources

Patterns of economic systems: reciprocity, redistribution, and market exchange

Forms of reciprocity: generalized, balanced, and negative with examples from the United States

The Potlatch

### **Kinship (3 hours)**

Establishing social relationships by blood or by marriage

Descent: matrilineage, patrilineage, bilateral descent

Kinship terminology

Connection between kinship systems and different social institutions

Rendering kinship charts

### **Marriage (3 hours)**

Customs, rules, obligations that establish relationships between kin groups

Exogamy, endogamy and incest taboo

Functions of marriage

Forms of marriage: monogamy, polygyny, polyandry

Residence patterns and domestic groups

Financial obligations including bride wealth, bride service and dowry

### **Gender (3 hours)**

Difference between sex and gender

Variety of gender roles in various societies

Third gender categories such as berdache

Initiation into gender roles

Gender stratification

Examples from the United States and abroad

### **Political Organization (3 hours)**

Social differentiation in access to power, wealth, and prestige

Egalitarian, rank, and stratified societies

Forms of political organization: band, tribe, chiefdom, and state

Formal and informal forms of social control

Conflict and conflict resolution

Warfare

### **Ethnic and Class Stratification (3 hours)**

Ascribed and achieved statuses

Stigmatization by according to social class and ethnicity

Critique of racial categories by contrasting typographies in other societies such as Japan, Brazil, United States and Malaysia

Contemporary examples of indigenous peoples and immigrant populations within nation states

**Religion (3 hours)**

The function of religion in society and for the individual

Varieties of religion: animism, animatism, totemism, polytheism, monotheism

Fundamental components of religion: cosmology, ritual, religious specialists

Conceptions of the supernatural: anthropomorphic, zoomorphic, naturalist, and trickster figures

Prayer, magic and witchcraft

**Expressive Culture (3 hours)**

Forms of creative expression guided by aesthetic principles

Art as a reflection of cultural values and patterns

Functions and varieties of expressive culture: poetry, song, painting, body modification, imagery, sculpture, dance

Deep play

Role of art in a globally interconnected economic and cultural system including museums and tourist art

**Globalization (6 hours)**

Cultural change

History of colonialization, globalization and European expansionism

Forced labor, slavery and cash crops

Industrialization and multinational corporations

Urban migration

Accelerated change and modernization theory

**Methods of Instruction**

The following methods of instruction may be used in this course:

- lectures;
- class discussions;
- small group activities including exercises;
- video and other multi-media presentations;
- optional on-line presentation of course material;
- student presentations of course material.

**Out of Class Assignments**

The following out of class assignments may be used in this course:

- individual projects (e.g. make a kinship chart of your family and answer questions regarding kinship concepts with individuals on your personal kinship chart);
- term paper or other shorter written assignments (e.g. write about the carbon footprint of a product at the supermarket from production, distribution, and consumption);
- assignment involving field work (e.g. research and write an ethnography of contemporary Halloween Practices);
- term project (e.g. original research regarding a form of expressive culture and present to class).

### **Methods of Evaluation**

The following methods of evaluation may be used in this course:

- weekly exercises (e.g. document a linguistic argot used by specialized community);
- occasional or weekly quizzes;
- in-class presentation of original research term project;
- two or more mid-term examinations;
- final examination.

### **Textbooks**

Haviland, William, A., Harald E. L. Prins, Bunny McBride, and Dana Walrath. *Cultural Anthropology: The Human Challenge*. 14<sup>th</sup> ed. Belmont: Wadsworth, 2013. Print. 14<sup>th</sup> Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN-13: 978-1133957423.

Nanda, Serena, and Richard L. Warms. *Cultural Anthropology*. 11<sup>th</sup> ed. London: Wadsworth, 2014. Print. 14<sup>th</sup> Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN-13: 978-1133948681.

Bonvillain, Nancy. *Cultural Anthropology*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Upper Saddle River: Pearson, 2013. Print. 14<sup>th</sup> Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN-13: 978-0205860364.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

- assess their own culture better by learning the economic and political systems of pre-industrial and non-western peoples;
- describe the ways in which humans have met their basic and derived needs within their climatic and geographic limits;
- assess ethnocentrism and culture contact;
- give an analytical overview of the field, methods, limitations and major concepts in anthropology for students considering a major or minor in the subject;
- understand global diversity;
- assess the impacts of globalization.