Degree Applicable

Glendale Community College
March 2013

COURSE OUTLINE

Anthropology 102 (C-ID Number: ANTH 120)
Cultural Anthropology (C-ID Title: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology)

I. 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.

Total Lecture Units: 3.0
Total Course Units: 3.0

Total Lecture hours: 48.0
Total Faculty Contact Hours: 48.0

Recommended preparation: Eligibility for English 120 or ESL 151.

II. Course Entry Expectations

Skills Level Ranges: Reading 5, Writing 5, Listening/Speaking 5, Math 2.

Prior to enrolling in the course, the student should be able to:
1. read and understand abstract and complex collegiate level textbooks;
2. communicate learning, conceptual understanding and critical analysis skills through writing research papers, essay exams, or other types of writing assignments;
3. learn material through class lecture, discussion, and reading;
4. add, subtract, multiply, and divide using whole numbers, fractions, and decimals;
5. convert fractions and decimals to percentages.

III. Course Exit Standards

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

1. define the scope of anthropology and discuss the role of cultural anthropology within the discipline;
2. recognize the methods, theories and perspectives used to study and understand human cultures;
3. explain the importance of the ethnographic method in the study of culture;
4. employ the relativist perspective while discussing cultural variation;
5. demonstrate an understanding of anthropological concepts including ethnicity, gender, political organization, economic systems, kinship, rituals and belief systems;
6. explain the interconnectedness of the economic, political and sociocultural forces of globalization amongst diverse cultural groups;
7. 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.

IV. Course Content — Total Faculty Contact Hours = 48 hours

A. Introduction to Cultural Anthropology and Theories of Culture — 6 hours
   1. Anthropology as a holistic and comparative science
   2. Goals of anthropology to describe, analyze, compare, and explain different human societies including our own
   3. Definitions of culture, ethnocentrism and cultural relativism
   4. Different theories of anthropology: psychological, sociological, symbolic, historic, adaptive, and cultural materialist approaches to the study of culture

B. Methodology — 3 hours
   1. Fieldwork, ethnography, and participant observation
   2. Strengths and weaknesses in technologies of knowledge
   3. Positivism, subjectivity, and postmodernism
   4. Ethical considerations and native anthropology
   5. Examples from the United States and abroad

C. Language — 3 hours
   1. The distinctive characteristics of human language
   2. Phonology, morphology, syntax and semantics
   3. Ethnography of communication including linguistic stratification by ethnicity, social class, and gender.
   4. Creoles and dialects include black vernacular english

D. Socialization — 3 hours
   1. Formal and informal means of enculturalization
   2. Social birth
   3. Cross cultural variation in child rearing practices

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

E. Subsistence 3 hours
1. Variety of subsistence strategies
2. Case studies of foraging, pastoralism, extensive cultivation, intensive cultivation, and industrialism
3. Connections between subsistence and environment
4. Case studies from Africa, Australia, Arctic Circle, Polynesia, Europe, and North and South America

F. Economics 3 hours
1. Norms of productivity, division of labor, distribution, and consumption of goods and services within a society.
2. Prestige, power, resources
3. Patterns of economic systems: reciprocity, redistribution, and market exchange.
4. Forms of reciprocity: generalized, balanced, and negative with examples from the United States.
5. The Potlatch

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G. Kinship 3 hours
1. Establishing social relationships by blood or by marriage
2. Descent: matrilineage, patrilineage, bilateral descent
3. Kinship terminology
4. Connection between kinship systems and different social institutions
5. Rendering kinship charts

H. Marriage 3 hours
1. Customs, rules, obligations that establish relationships between kin groups
2. Exogamy, endogamy and incest taboo
3. Functions of marriage
4. Forms of marriage: monogamy, polygyny, polyandry
5. Residence patterns and domestic groups
6. Financial obligations including bride wealth, bride service and dowry

I. Gender 3 hours
1. Difference between sex and gender
2. Variety of gender roles in various societies
3. Third gender categories such as berdache
4. Initiation into gender roles
5. Gender stratification
6. Examples from the United States and abroad

J. Political Organization 3 hours
1. Social differentiation in access to power, wealth, and prestige
2. Egalitarian, rank, and stratified societies

3. Forms of political organization: band, tribe, chiefdom, and state
4. Formal and informal forms of social control
5. Conflict and conflict resolution
6. Warfare

K. Ethnic and Class Stratification 3 hours
1. Ascribed and achieved statuses
2. Stigmatization by according to social class and ethnicity
3. Critique of racial categories by contrasting typographies in other societies such as Japan, Brazil, United States and Malaysia
4. Contemporary examples of indigenous peoples and immigrant populations within nation states

L. Religion 3 hours
1. The function of religion in society and for the individual
2. Varieties of religion: animism, animatism, totemism, polytheism, monotheism
3. Fundamental components of religion: cosmology, ritual, religious specialists
4. Conceptions of the supernatural: anthropomorphic, zoomorphic, naturalist, and trickster figures
5. Prayer, magic and witchcraft

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M. Expressive Culture 3 hours
1. Forms of creative expression guided by aesthetic principles
2. Art as a reflection of cultural values and patterns
3. Functions and varieties of expressive culture: poetry, song, painting, body modification, imagery, sculpture, dance
4. Deep play
5. Role of art in a globally interconnected economic and cultural system including museums and tourist art

N. Globalization 6 hours
1. Cultural change
2. History of colonialization, globalization and European expansionism
3. Forced labor, slavery and cash crops
4. Industrialization and multinational corporations
5. Urban migration
6. Accelerated change and modernization theory

V. Methods of Instruction

The following methods of instruction may be used in the course:
1. lectures;
2. class discussions;
3. small group activities including exercises;
4. video and other multi-media presentations;
5. optional on-line presentation of course material.

VI. Out of Class Assignments

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

1. individual projects (e.g. make a kinship chart of your family and answer questions regarding kinship concepts with individuals on your personal kinship chart);
2. 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);
3. assignment involving field work (e.g. research and write an ethnography of contemporary Halloween Practices).

VII. Methods of Evaluation

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

1. weekly exercises (e.g. document a linguistic argot used by specialized community);
2. occasional or weekly quizzes;
3. two or more mid-term examinations;
4. final examination.

VIII. Textbook(s)

Nanda, Serena, and Richard L. Warms. *Cultural Anthropology 10 Edition.* Belmont: Wadsworth Publishing, 2006. Print.
13th Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN-13: 978-0495810834

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IX. Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. assess their own culture better by learning of tribal societies and of pre-industrial and non-western peoples;
2. describe the ways in which humans have met their basic and derived needs within their climatic and geographic limits;
3. assess ethnocentrism which follows from over-emphasizing one's own culture;
4. give an analytical overview of the field, methods, limitations and major concepts in anthropology for students considering a major or minor in the subject.