

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

Department Information:

Division: Social Sciences
Department: Anthropology
Course ID: ANTHRO 102
Course Title: Cultural Anthropology
Units: 3
Lecture: 3
Prerequisite: None

Catalog and Schedule Description:

This course is an introduction to the study of culture and the basic concepts, theories, and methods used in the comparative study of sociocultural systems. The course typically includes subjects such as subsistence patterns, social and political organization, language and communication, family and kinship, religion, the arts, social inequality, ethnicity, gender, culture change and the application of anthropological perspectives to contemporary issues.

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: One

III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS:

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- A. Explain the four subdisciplines of anthropology, discuss the goals of sociocultural anthropology, and review and critique the process of participant observation in the study of cultures;
- B. Describe anthropological research methods and discuss the conceptual framework of sociocultural anthropology in terms of the concept of culture;
- C. Define culture and evaluate the inherent "naturalness" of cultural rules and roles;
- D. Evaluate ethnocentrism, appraise its utility in maintaining societal solidarity and evaluate the roles of ethnocentrism and racism in the adoption of cultural tolerance and cultural pluralism;
- E. Differentiate between levels of social and political organization and correlate with religious, resource procurement, and economic systems;
- F. Recognize the flexibility of cultural systems in adapting to environmental change and modernization.

IV. COURSE CONTENT:

- A. What is anthropology
 1. Goals of anthropology
 2. Anthropology as science
 3. Four subdisciplines of anthropology
 4. Anthropological paradigms: holistic, global, scientific
 5. Anthropological problems and solutions
 6. Question of race
- B. The Nature of Culture
 1. Culture defined
 2. Traits of culture
 3. Function of culture
- C. Language and Culture
 1. Communication
 2. Language
 3. Ethnolinguistics
- D. Psychological Anthropology
 1. Enculturation
 2. Personality
 3. Group personality

- 4. Normal and abnormal personality
- E. Subsistence
 - 1. Adaptation
 - 2. Food foraging societies
 - 3. Food producing societies
- F. Economic Systems
 - 1. Resources
 - 2. Distribution and Exchange
- G. Sex and Marriage
 - 1. Control of sexual relations
 - 2. Marriage
- H. Family and Household
 - 1. Functions of the family
 - 2. Family forms
 - 3. Residence patterns
- I. Kinship and Descent
 - 1. Forms and functions
 - 2. Bilateral kinship
 - 3. Descent groups
 - 4. Kinship terminology
- J. Groupings
 - 1. Gender
 - 2. Age
 - 3. Common-Interest Association
 - 4. Social Stratification
- K. Political Organization
 - 1. Types of Political systems
 - 2. Social Control
 - 3. External affairs
- L. Religion
 - 1. Definition of religion
 - 2. Religious specialists
 - 3. The supernatural
 - 4. Rituals
 - 5. Magic
 - 6. Witchcraft and sorcery
- M. Art
 - 1. Reasons to study art
 - 2. Uses of art
 - 3. Music
- N. Cultural Change
 - 1. Mechanisms of cultural change
 - 2. Forcible change
 - 3. Modernization
- O. The Future of Humanity
 - 1. Applied anthropology
 - 2. Relevance of anthropology to the future
 - 3. Cultural pluralism
- V. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**
 - A. Lecture
 - B. Discussions (class and group)
 - C. Audio-Visuals
 - D. Reading of texts, both secondary and primary
 - E. Writing tasks appropriate for the material
 - F. Computer Tutorials (if applicable)

VI. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Reading and Critical Thinking
Read Daniel Gordon's "Female Circumcision in Egypt and Sudan: A Controversial Rite of Passage." Summarize the key ideas in that article. Compare and contrast the view that a culture's rituals cannot be judged from outside that culture with the view that there are cross-cultural norms by which rituals of any culture can be judged. Be prepared to discuss your summary, your comparative analysis, and your own personal ideas on the topic with the class.
- B. Writing and Critical Thinking
Write an essay in which you, first, describe the Peyote Sacrament of the Native American Church. Then, using Huston Smith's categories from his book, *Cleansing the Doors of Perception*, conclude the essay with an analysis of the impact of non-addictive entheogenic substances on the history of religion, the philosophy of religion, and the religious life itself.

VII. EVALUATION:

- A. Methods of evaluation will vary from instructor to instructor, but may include true-false tests, multiple choice tests, or sentence completion tests. In addition, written components such as essay tests, writing tasks (i.e. journals, summary reviews, interpretive essays, and/or term projects) will be included. Telecomputing can include downloading and uploading reading and writing tasks, on-line discussion, and computer tutorials. Grading may be comparative within a class or may be based on an absolute standard. Methods of evaluation will adhere to the parameters set out in the "Expected Outcomes for Students" section above.
1. Sample objective test question: Horace Minor's primary intent in writing "Body Ritual among the Nacerima" was
 - a. A thick description of an Australian aboriginal culture
 - b. A critique of twenty-first century anthropological methods
 - c. An autobiographical reflection on his childhood
 - d. None of the above
 2. Sample subjective test question: Describe Victor Turner's use of the concept of "liminality" in analyzing rituals. Give one example from contemporary experience that illustrates this concept.
- B. While the frequency of evaluation will depend on the type of evaluation (i.e. "objective" or written), evaluation will take place periodically throughout the semester with enough frequency to be sufficient to measure student progress and will be sensitive to the various learning styles of students. The minimum evaluation will consist of: at least two evaluative instruments (i.e. papers, projects, portfolios, or tests) chosen by the instructor of record for the class.

VIII. TYPICAL TEXT(S):

- A. Haviland, William A. 1999. *Cultural Anthropology*. Ninth Ed. Fort Worth, Texas: Harcourt Brace College Publishers.
- B. Miller, Barbara D. 1999. *Cultural Anthropology*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.
- C. Ember, Carol R. *Cultural Anthropology*, 11th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 2004.

IX. OTHER SUPPLIES REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

Supplementary material may include handouts, primary sources, maps, study guides, computer disks, and/or software.