Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

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| **C-ID Number** | ANTH 120 |
| **Discipline** | Anthropology |
| **Date Approved** | June 20, 2012 |

## General Course Description

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.

## Minimum Units

3.0

## Any rationale or comments

Cultural anthropology is one of the core subfields of anthropology.

## Advisories/Recommendations

Eligibility for or completion of C-ID ENGL 100: College Composition

## Course Content

Anthropological theories, methods and perspectives
Anthropological study of human cultures in comparative perspective
Subsistence patterns
Social, political and economic organizations
Language and communication
Family and kinship
Belief systems
Art and expressive culture
Ethnicity and race
Gender and sexuality
Social inequality and colonialism
Globalization and culture change
Professional ethics
Applied anthropology

## Laboratory Activities

None

## Course Objectives

At the conclusion of this course, the student should 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.

## Prerequisites

## Corequisites

None

## Methods of Evaluation

Multiple measures may include, but are not limited to:

In-class discussions and exercises
Individual/group writing projects
Written and oral quizzes
Field activities
Journal reviews
Other written assignments
Exams

## Sample Textbooks

Bailey, Garick and James Peoples.  Essentials of Cultural Anthropology. Wadsworth.
Bodley, John.  Cultural Anthropology: Tribes, States and Global Systems.  AltaMira.
Ember, Carol and Melvin Ember.  Human Culture: Highlights of Cultural Anthropology.  Pearson Publishing.
Ferraro, Gary and Susan Andreatta.  Cultural Anthropology:  An Applied Perspective.  Wadsworth.
Haviland, William, Harald E. L. Prins, Bunny McBride and Dana Walrath.  Cultural Anthropology:  The Human Challenge.  Wadsworth Publishing.
Kottak, Conrad.  Mirror for Humanity.  McGraw-Hill.
Lenkeit, Roberta. Introducing Cultural Anthropology.  McGraw-Hill.
Miller, Barbara.  Cultural Anthropology in a Globalizing World.  Prentice Hall.
Nanda, Serena and Richard Warms.   Culture Counts: A Concise Introduction to Cultural Anthropology.  Wadsworth/Cengage Publishing.
Peoples, James and Garick Bailey.  Humanity:  An Introduction to Cultural Anthropology.  Wadsworth.
Supplemental readings (note that classic ethnographies may have publication dates older than 5 years):
Angeloni, Elvio (editor).  Annual Editions: Anthropology. McGraw-Hill.
Knauft, Bruce.  The Gebusi: Lives Transformed in a Rainforest World.  McGraw-Hill.
Peters-Golden, Holly.  Culture Sketches:  Case Studies in Anthropology.  McGraw-Hill.
Shostak, Marjorie.  Nisa: The Life and Words of a !Kung Woman.  Harvard University Press.
Spradley, James and David McCurdy.  Conformity and Conflict.  Prentice Hall.
Or equivalent Open Educational Resource

## Notes