

Course Outline for: ANTH 1127 Cultural Anthropology: The Global Human Experience

A. Course Description

1. Number of credits: 3
2. Lecture hours per week: 3
3. Prerequisites: None
4. Corequisites: None
5. MnTC Goals: Goal #5 History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences
Goal #8 Global Perspective

This course examines the human way of life by recognizing and evaluating cultural adaptations to natural and social environments. The cultural organization of non-western and western cultures including indigenous and modern societies is analyzed with emphasis upon subsistence patterns, social structure, languages, belief systems, family and kinship, personality, culture change and applied anthropology.

B. Date last reviewed/updated: February 2022

C. Outline of Major Content Areas:

1. The scope of anthropology
2. The concept of culture
3. Anthropological theory
4. Methodologies
5. Cultural evolution/societal types
6. Subsistence and economics
7. Kinship and family – child rearing, life cycles
8. Gender recognition
9. Associations and Interest Groups
10. Political organization
11. Warfare and conflict resolution
12. Religion and the Arts
13. Applied anthropology

D. Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Recognize and articulate terms, concepts, and intellectual frameworks important to describing and analyzing cultural dynamics. (Goals 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d, 8a)
2. Evaluate the most basic conceptual and theoretical underpinnings of anthropology. (Goals 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 5c, 5d, 8a)
3. Identify the range of societal and cultural types and place them in an evolutionary/historical and ecological perspective. (Goals 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d, 8a, 8b)
4. Describe and analyze the subsystems of culture: family and kinship, economics, political organization, religion, and so forth. (Goals 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d, 8a, 8b)
5. Evaluate various hypotheses that have been put forward to explain the cultural phenomena we encounter. (Goals 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 5c, 5d, 8a)
6. Analyze selected processes of global change: such as, colonialism and neocolonialism, industrialism and urbanization, population increase, planned change. (Goals 2a, 2b, 2c, 5b, 5c, 5d, 8a, 8b, 8d)
7. Recognize and articulate the information and concepts acquired to interpret case material. Both films and written case studies or readings are important for this purpose. (Goals 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d, 8a, 8b, 8d)
8. Articulate the strengths and weaknesses of anthropological research methods, especially participant observation, and be able to articulate problem issues in scientific research. (Goals 2a, 2d, 5a, 5c)

E. Methods for Assessing Student Learning:

Assessment methods may include, but are not limited to, the following: objective and/or subjective exams, quizzes, journals, research papers, oral presentations, written assignments, reflection essays, group work, and/or any other assessment measures based on the discretion of the instructor.

F. Special Information:

None