

ONLINE COURSE OUTLINE AND SYLLABI

INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL AND SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY(ASB102)

INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL AND SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY (ASB102)

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CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Principles of cultural and social anthropology, with illustrative materials from a variety of cultures. The nature of culture. Social, political and economic systems; religion, aesthetics and language.

This course provides an introduction to the study of human culture and its variation. The goals of the course are to provide you with an understanding of anthropologists' views on the basis for differences between various groups of people and to broaden your own understanding of your own culture and that of others. We will consider the following overall topics in four modules:

Module 1: Introduction to Anthropology and Culture

The overall nature of the approaches of anthropology to the study of culture, including biological and cultural bases for human behavior; cultural factors in cognitive development; how culture as learned behavior provides the basis for group differences; cross-cultural differences in sex roles and behavior; the effects of society and culture upon psychological development;

Module 2: Human Uniqueness: Perspectives from Ideological Culture

The study of aspects of human uniqueness in ideological culture such as language; magic, religion and altered states of consciousness; and expressive culture and mythology;

Module 3: Infrastructure and Social Structure

The infrastructural and structural aspects of human behavior, involving the interrelationships of technology, subsistence economy and other aspects of social organization; the cross-cultural variation in marriage, family and kinship patterns; the patterns and processes of different political organizations and systems of social stratification;

Module 4: Anthropology and the World: Past and Future Perspectives

The global process of cultural change; and the applications of anthropology, particularly in business, intercultural and international relations.

EVALUATION

Class grades are determined by four exams, each worth 1/4 of your grade. Exams cover texts, lecture and film. Exams are multiple choice and evaluated on the following scale (100-80% = A; 79-70%=B; 69-60%=C; 59-50%=D; Below 50%=F).

EXTRA CREDIT

Extra Credit is available through two different exercises. You may do both of the Extra Credit 1 and 2. Each extra credit assignment can be worth up to one grade level/10% points to your final grade.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Ember, C. and M. Ember (**EE**) 2007. Cultural Anthropology 12th Edition. New Jersey: Pearson Educational.

Gary Ferraro, 1998. Applying Cultural Anthropology Readings (**ACA**). Belmont: Wadsworth.

LECTURE AND READING OUTLINE

LECTURE

READINGS

Module 1: Introduction to Culture

Introduction to Anthropology
Concepts of Culture

ACA 11, 12
EE1, 2

Studying Culture: Cultural Relativism and Knowledge
Theories of Culture and Human Behavior

EE3 ACA 13, 20
EE4

Biosocial Foundations of Culture
Socialization Processes

EE 9, ACA 24
ACA Section 3

Culture & Personality: Psychocultural Dynamics

EE14

*Overview of Culture, Socialization and Identity

Exam Module I—EE 1-4, 9, 14; ACA 11-13, 20, 24; Section #3 Education

Module 2: Human Uniqueness: Perspectives from Ideological Culture

Language and Reality
Culture in Perception, Cognition and Social Relations

EE5, ACA 15-18

Magic and Religion
Shamanism

EE15
Winkelman 2005

Art and Expressive Culture and Mythology
EXAM MODULE 2 EE 5, 15, 16; ACA 15-18

EE16

Module 3: Infrastructure and Social Structure

Subsistence Patterns EE6
Economics Systems EE 7, ACA Sec 5

Sex and Marriage EE 10, 9
Family and Kinship EE 11,

Political Organization and Social Stratification EE 8, 12, 13
Understanding Cultural Systems Overview

EXAM MODULE III – EE 6-13, ACA Sec 5 Economic Development

Module 4: Anthropology and the World: Past and Future Perspectives

Cultural Change and the Modern World System EE 17

Applied Anthropologies EE 18, ACA 19-20
Medical Anthropology EE 19, ACA Sec 1

Intercultural Relations in the Global Village EE 20,
Managing the Overseas Assignment ACA Sec 4 Government and the Law

EXAM MODULE IV – EE 17-20, ACA Sections 1, 4; Ch 19 & 20

All Extra-Credit Papers Due to Drop Box August 4, 5PM

REQUIRED COMPLETION SCHEDULE AUGUST 4, 5PM

Recommended Completion Schedule

Module 1: Introduction to Culture July 14

Module 2: Human Uniqueness: Perspectives from Ideological Culture July 21

Module 3: Infrastructure and Social Structure July 28

Module 4: Anthropology and the World: Past and Future Perspectives August 3

VIDEOS BY MODULE

Module 1: Introduction to Culture

Module 2: Human Uniqueness: Perspectives from Ideological Culture

Module 3: Infrastructure and Social Structure

Module 4: Anthropology and the World: Past and Future Perspectives

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Extra Credit is available through two different exercises. You may do both of the Extra Credit 1 and 2. Each extra credit assignment can be worth up to one grade level/10% points to your final grade.

Extra Credit 1

Extra credit is available through writing a 5-10 page (12 pt. double-spaced) paper on an approved topic in the area of **applied** anthropology. Writing an extra credit paper does **not** guarantee an improvement in your grade. Plagiarism of your paper may result in your failing the course. To be eligible for extra credit, a paper must be identified as following one of the following options and guidelines:

- 1) Applied project overview. Examine a program, project, activity or proposal using cultural knowledge or anthropological perspectives to solve some human problem or enhance intercultural interaction and illustrate how cultural knowledge and/or intercultural relations helped to solve a problem. Example: how anthropologists were used as mediators, project administrators, consultants, etc on a development project. See Applying Cultural Anthropology readings for general ideas.
- 2) Applying cultural knowledge to intercultural relations. Using the cultural systems model, psychocultural model, and/or social interaction rules models, describe relevant aspect of a cultural system that one would need to know to be culturally sensitive in relating to and working with people from a specific culture.
- 3) Provide a research review of the scope of activities carried out in a single specific subfield of applied anthropology (e.g., medical, psychiatric, forensic, educational, legal, business, industrial, etc.) , including the historical development and range of contemporary applications.

Extra Credit II