

COURSE OUTLINE

Introduction to Anthropology

Course Description

BS 106. Introduction to Anthropology. 3 hours credit. This course will enable the student to use scientific observation in understanding human behavior. It will focus on the nature and processes of cultural change that have resulted in the development of humankind. The time span of the course will be from the Paleolithic period to the present.

Course Relevance

The concepts learned in this course will give the student the skills and knowledge to understand human culture and how it impacts his or her life.

Required Materials

Haviland. W.A.(2005).Cultural anthropology: the human challenge. Twelfth edition.
Thomson Wadsworth.

Telecourse tapes: Faces of Culture.

Learning Outcomes

The intention is for the student to be able to

1. Understand the diversity of human culture.
2. Use the scientific method of observation.
3. Understand how culture impacts the individual.

Learning PACT Skills that will be developed and documented in this course

Through involvement in this course, the student will develop ability in the following PACT skill area(s):

Analytical Thinking Skills

1. Critical thinking
 - Through written essays, spoken presentations, class discussion, the student develops critical analysis of the core components of the discipline.

Communication Skills

1. Reception and interpretation of information
 - Through observation and analysis of oral presentations, the student develops effective interpretation of ethnographic records.

Technology Skills

1. General computer use
 - Through electronic-facilitated research and preparation of computer generated assignments, the student develops basic computer skills.

Major Summative Assessment Task(s)

These learning outcome(s) and the Learning PACT skill(s) will be demonstrated by:

1. Giving an oral presentation (C Skill) over the culture analysis.
2. Writing an analysis of peer presentations.
3. Producing a computer-generated (T skill) critical analysis (A skill) of an assigned culture.

Course Content

- I. Skills or Competencies – Actions that are essential to achieve the course outcomes:
 - A. Writing
 - B. Reading
 - C. Computer literacy
 - D. Analytical thinking
 - E. Ability to compare and contrast
 - F. Memorization of terms
 - G. Application of concepts

Learning Units

- I. Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
 - A. History of anthropology
 - B. Subfields of anthropology
 - C. Scientific method
 - D. Evolution through adaptation
- II. Concept of culture
 - A. Characteristics of culture
 - B. Acquisition of culture
 - C. Functions of culture
 - D. Culture change
- III. Ethnographic and ethnological research
 - A. Applied anthropology
 - B. Advocacy anthropology
 - C. Cultural anthropology research methods
 - D. Theoretical perspectives
- IV. Origin and diversity of species
 - A. Evolution through adaptation
 - B. Anatomical adaptation
 - C. Behavioral adaptation
 - D. Race as a social construct
 - E. Race as a biological construct
- V. Language and communication
 - A. Linguistic research
 - B. Descriptive linguistics

- C. Historical linguistics
 - D. Sociolinguistics
 - E. Ethnolinguistics
- VI. Personality and gender
 - A. Enculturation
 - B. Modal personality
 - C. Core values
 - D. Cross-cultural mental disorders
- VII. Subsistence systems
 - A. Food-foraging societies
 - B. Food-producing societies
 - C. Industrial societies
- VIII. Economic systems
 - A. Production and resources
 - B. Distribution and exchange
 - C. Economic global exchange
- IX. Marriage and family
 - A. Forms of marriage
 - B. Divorce
 - C. Family and household
 - D. Residence patterns
- X. Kinship and descent
 - A. Descent groups
 - B. Unilateral descent
 - C. Bilateral kinship
 - D. Kinship terminology and groups
- XI. Social groups
 - A. Gender based groups
 - B. Age based groups
 - C. Common interest groups
 - D. Common class groups
- XII. Politics, power, and violence
 - A. Political systems
 - B. Politics and religion
 - C. Political leadership
 - D. Maintenance of order
 - E. Violence and war
- XIII. Religion and the supernatural

- A. Practice of religion
- B. Magic
- C. Witchcraft

XIV. The arts

- A. Visual art
- B. Verbal art
- C. Musical art
- D. Functions of art

XIV. Processes of change

- A. Mechanisms of change
- B. Repressive change
- C. Rebellion and revolution
- D. Modernization

XV. Role of Anthropology in social change

- A. Cultural future of humanity
- B. Structural power
- C. Problems of structural violence

Learning Activities

Lecture, instructor-led discussions, group study, field trips, library research, various audio/visual aids, case studies, guest speakers, and student presentations. The student will be required to examine professional journals in this course.

Grade Determination

The student will be graded on completion of assessment tasks, research papers, tests, daily work, class participation, out- of-class assignments and other methods of evaluation at the discretion of the instructor.