

Course Objectives

This course will provide an introduction to the principles and processes of cultural anthropology, the basic subdivisions of anthropology, and the concepts and terminology used in both ethnography and ethnology. It focuses on the cross-cultural comparison of contemporary societies and includes such cultural elements as marriage, family, politics, technology and religion. While we all share a biological heritage, the diversity of human culture and thought is almost staggering. Acquiring cultural knowledge is both fascinating in its pursuit and critical in its attainment for the culturally literate person. What does it mean to be cross-culturally literate? Students explore this question while exploring the wide variety of human cultures. At the same time, students explore their own cultures and origins.

Writing assignments represent a significant component of coursework.

Anthropology &206D Outcomes

- Assess a wider vision of the human condition, and that we are one pattern among many.
- Explain the salient features of ethnocentric, prejudiced, discriminatory responses to members of other cultures and distinguish the concepts.
- Discuss the characteristics of a kin-based society.
- Distinguish group conscious, and family conscious from kin-based in several cultures.
- Explain rites of passage, their typical role in society as well as in political movements.
- Utilize anthropological models in analyzing selected religious systems.
- Discuss the relationship between culture and psychosomatic and sociosomatic expressions of illness in selected case studies.

Anthropology Program Core Learning Outcomes

- Collect information from different types of written sources.
- Present a synthesis of the data they collect in the form of written and/or oral presentations.
- Incorporate a cultural relativistic perspective into all course work.
- Demonstrate how the biocultural model is integral to understanding the world from a holistic perspective.
- Analyze the human condition both in a historical context and from the stance as a global citizen.

Social Sciences-specific Outcomes

- Demonstrate knowledge of a range of facts, terminology, events, and/or methods that social scientists in various disciplines must possess in order to investigate, analyze or give a history of, or predict human, group, or societal behavior.
- Demonstrate the ability to apply classifications, principles, generalizations, theories, models, and/or structures pertinent to social scientific efforts to organize conceptual knowledge in various fields.
- Demonstrate the ability to reach conclusions/make arguments across a range of social science topics that are tied to a defensible sifting of appropriate evidence relative to the questions involved.
- Demonstrate an understanding and tolerance of the diversity of perspectives, cultural understandings, and ways of thinking that others bring to bear on social science questions.