ANT 200 Comparative Cultures

General Information

Date March 15th, 2023
Author Heman Sweet
Department Social Science
Course Prefix ANT
Course Number 200
Course Title Comparative Cultures

Course Information

Catalog Description Comparative Cultures is a survey of world cultures to examine how people achieve the necessary elements of hunting and gathering, matrilineage, big men, redistribution, and state-type societies. The courses starts with some very simple societies and compares them to very complex cultures like our own. This course will examine and describe the ways selected pre-literate and complex societies have used culture to adapt to their environments. Case studies drawn from American, Asian, African, and European societies will be the basis for engaging in cross-cultural studies. Students will earn credit for the SUNY Social Science General Education and Diversity Equity Inclusion, and Social Justice categories.

Credit Hours 3
Lecture Contact Hours 3
Lab Contact Hours 0
Other Contact Hours 0
Grading Scheme Letter

Prerequisites

ENG 101

Co-requisites
First Year Experience/Capstone Designation

This course DOES NOT satisfy the outcomes applicable for status as a FYE or Capstone.

SUNY General Education

This course is designated as satisfying a requirement in the following SUNY Gen Ed categories
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice Outcome 1, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice Outcome 2, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice Outcome 3, and Social Sciences

FLCC Values

Institutional Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course
Vitality and Inquiry

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Analyze major concepts and theories in cultural anthropology by describing the historical and contemporary societal factors that shape the development of individual and group identity involving race, class, and gender.

2. Compare and contrast anthropological research findings by analyzing the role that complex networks of social structures and systems play in the creation and perpetuation of the dynamics of power, privilege, oppression, and opportunity.

3. Explore of the methods social scientists use to explore social phenomena by using basic research techniques to locate, evaluate and synthesize information from a variety of sources appropriate for understanding cultural anthropology.

4. Apply anthropological perspectives and theories by using core concepts of the field including but not limited to the principles of rights, access, equity, and autonomous participation in past, current, or future social justice actions.

Outline of Topics Covered

ANT 200 examines a selection of preliterate and complex cultures, using fundamental concepts of cultural anthropology. The following sample outline includes illustrative cultures; the selection of these may change across sections. The cultural sketches are examples of the culture that might be focused on to illustrate the topic.
I. What is anthropology?
   - Cultural sketch: The Yanomami

II. What is culture?
   - Cultural sketch: The Yanomami, cont.

III. Problems of fieldwork
   - Cultural sketch: The Tiwi

IV. Language
   - Cultural sketch: The Kaluli

V. Subsistence strategies
   - Cultural sketch: The Basseri and Ojibwa

VI. Economy
   - Cultural sketch: The Trobriand Islanders

VII. Marriage, family, and residence
   - Cultural sketch: The Minangkabau

VIII. Kinship and descent
   - Cultural sketch: The Nuer

IX. Gender and sexuality
   - Cultural sketch: The Haiti

X. Political order, disorder, and social control
   - Cultural sketch: The Samoans

XI. Belief systems and art
   - Cultural sketch: The Azande

XII. Globalization and culture change
   - Cultural sketch: The Hmong and the Aztecs