

Course Prospectus

For ANTH 220 Sociocultural Anthropology

Overview

Welcome to "Sociocultural Anthropology." The focus of this introductory course is the study of human culture from a global perspective grounded in the belief that an enhanced global awareness is essential for people preparing to successfully take their place in the fast-paced, increasingly interconnected world of the twenty-first century. The course draws upon classic and recent research in biological, cultural, linguistic, social, economic, and political anthropology, and religion to produce a holistic and global perspective of humanity. The design of the course focuses students in assigned readings, conceptualization activities, vocabulary building, and upon leading issues.

Course catalog description for this course

This course introduces the nature of human culture from a global perspective. Emphasis is on cultural theory, methods of fieldwork, and cross-cultural comparisons in the areas of ethnology, language, religion, and the cultural past to produce a holistic and global perspective of humanity. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate enhanced global awareness including an understanding of basic cultural processes and the methodologies involved in the collection and analysis of cultural data.

Prerequisites and corequisites

There are no prerequisites or corequisites for this course.

Course credit

Three (3) semester hours.

Instructional objectives

A student who finishes this course has maintained active participation and has demonstrated that he or she is able:

1. To identify and demonstrate the great cultural diversity of humankind;
2. To identify, in spite of the many differences, in what ways humans are fundamentally similar;
3. To demonstrate the effects of interactions between different peoples (i.e. reach an understanding of the process of globalization);
4. To demonstrate the holistic nature of anthropology as an interdisciplinary field; and
5. To identify the diachronic perspective and the comparative approach of anthropology.

Students with disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. Students who believe they have a

disability requiring an accommodation, should inform the instructor through the "Contact Instructor" link on the course home page.

Technology access

This course requires web access and the student also has to have an established e-mail account. The Adobe Acrobat Reader is necessary to view documents that are PDF files. It may be downloaded free at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>, which may then be installed and used to access PDF documents on this site.

Course evaluation

Student input is welcome for improving this course. Making suggestions by e-mail is helpful. Our goal in this course is to facilitate the successful achievement of all instructional objectives by all students. At the end of the course students have the opportunity of assessing the course. We want to make distance learning courses as effective as we can. We may also ask some other questions concerning a student's experience in distance learning to help us improve our program. We appreciate students letting us know how we can improve our products and services for them and other distance learners.

Textbooks

The textbook for this course is:

Scupin, Raymond. *Cultural Anthropology: A Global Perspective*. Seventh edition. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2008.

This may be ordered through the University Bookstore.

A word of caution, the textbook used in this course is a commercial publication. It represents the views and ideas of its authors, editors, and publishers. Living University does not endorse the text nor vouches for its accuracy. We simply employ it in helping students master the content of the course.

Course requirements and grades

ICEBREAKER ASSIGNMENT

To officially begin course students must complete an icebreaker assignment by which they introduce themselves to their classmates through the posting of a short autobiography on the course Forum. The icebreaker assignment must be submitted by the eighth day of the semester. Students post their biographies as a reply to the "Bios" topic on the course forum. A student can earn 25 bonus points in this course by doing so "on time." As there are people from all over the world enrolled in this course each autobiography will help all know, understand and appreciate each other. Students are to read and comment on each other's bios throughout the first week of class.

DUE DATES AND EXTENSIONS

Students must complete the course by the last official day of instruction as set forth in the academic calendar.

READING AND WRITING EXERCISES

Refer to "Course outline and assignments" section for reading assignments.

FILING WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

For instructions in how to post assignments is provided by visiting the Frequently Asked Questions pages through the link on the course homepage.

STUDY TIPS

Distance learning emphasizes self-motivation. The instructor functions as a facilitator with the student as the driving force in mastering course content. Students are encouraged to not put off completing their readings and assignments. While there are many different learning styles, the following strategy should serve the needs of most students.

- Look over assigned readings.
- Read the assigned readings making notes before viewing the assigned lecture.
- Define terms in the assignment. The quizzes will specifically test basic terminology. Students should develop their vocabulary as they proceed assignment by assignment.
- Complete the answers for the writing assignment.
- Each week students should review notes, geographical terms and locations, and the words they defined.
- If a student has a question, ask. Questions should arise in the teaching-learning process. By bringing questions to our attention students not only acquire assistance but they also maintain the interaction necessary in higher education. Use the Inbox on the course home page to send questions.

Lectures

This course includes several lectures by Dr. Germano and possibly some guests. Links to lectures are placed in lessons.

Quizzes and examinations

Each of the six lessons has an associated online quiz of not more than 28 questions. They are open book quizzes, but under no circumstances are students to print the quiz. An open book quiz is not a workbook exercise. It is a test where the student can consult his or her notes and books. Students are allowed ninety (90) minutes to complete each quiz. Quizzes are objective tests (which may include true/false, matching, multiple choice questions). Students may be asked to answer objective questions covering lectures, readings, vocabulary words and discussion topics.

GROUP RESEARCH REPORTS

Students will be grouped into teams to jointly develop a written group research report. The reports will be published as forums on the course website as the last assignment in the course and all students are requested to post at least two comments on each report. By this means students can earn a maximum of 5 bonus points for making two postings on every paper.

Grading

A course grade will be determined based on the number of points a student has earned over the semester as follows:

- Short Writing Assignments (five, each worth 50 points, for a total of 250 points)
- Group Research Report (300 points)
- Quizzes (six, each worth 75 points, for a total of 450 points; online, open book)
- TOTAL 1,000 points

By getting the autobiography posted on time can earn a student 25 bonus points. These points could make the difference between an A or a B, or passing or not passing.

Grades are assigned in the traditional American style of an A, B, C, D, or F. In distance learning we believe that mastery of the subject matter is achieved when a student can demonstrate that they have achieved 80% of the objectives for a course. That means that we want students to earn at least 800 points in this course. If they do not do so then they have not developed the mastery we would like them to have.

We want this course to be competency-based and so it is possible for the entire class to receive an A or a B. There is no artificial curving of scores in the assignment of grades (if you don't know what that means, don't worry about it). Mastery of the material is what one's goal should be.

Grades are assigned by points as follows:

- A 900-1000 points
- B 800-899 points
- C 700-799 points
- D 600-699 points
- F Below 600 points

Academic irregularity

Students have the responsibility for conducting themselves in such a manner as to avoid any suspicion that they are improperly giving or receiving aid on any assignment or examination. An academic irregularity not only includes cheating but also includes plagiarism (taking another's ideas and/or words and presenting them as if they were the writer's own) and the submitting of the same paper in separate courses without prior consent from the faculty members concerned.

In cases of suspected academic irregularity, faculty members are authorized to refuse to grade such papers, in whole or in part, or examinations, and to record each of them as a failure.

If an academic irregularity is sufficiently serious, the University may take one or more of, but not limited to, the following actions:

1. Drop the student from the course with a grade of F;
2. Place the student on academic probation; and/or
3. Dismiss the student from the University.

Course outline and assignments

Required reading assignments are to be completed before the lecture.

<i>Lesson</i>	<i>Readings (this is not an exhaustive list, some additional readings will be added during the semester)</i>
Lesson 1 Basic Concepts in Anthropology	Reading Assignments
Opening Class	none
Topic 1 Introduction to Anthropology	Scupin Ch. 1
Topic 2 Human Genetics	Scupin Ch. 2
Lesson 2 Basic Concepts of Culture and Society	Reading Assignments
Topic 1 The Nature of Culture	Scupin Ch. 3
Topic 2 The Process of Enculturation	none (omit this chapter)

Topic 3	Language	Scupin Ch. 5
Topic 4	Explaining Culture	Scupin Ch. 6
Topic 5	Analyzing Culture and Society	Scupin Ch. 7

Lesson 3	Prestate Societies	Reading Assignments
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Topic 1	Band Societies	Scupin Ch. 8
Topic 2	Tribes	Scupin Ch. 9
Topic 3	Chiefdoms	Scupin Ch. 10

Lesson 4	State Societies	Reading Assignments
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Topic 1	Agricultural States	Scupin Ch. 11
Topic 2	Industrial States	Scupin Ch. 12

Lesson 5	Globalization	Reading Assignments
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Topic 1	Globalization and Culture	Scupin Ch. 13
Topic 2	Globalization in Latin America, The Caribbean, and Africa	Scupin Ch. 14
Topic 3	Globalization in the Middle East and Asia	Scupin Ch. 15
Topic 4	Globalization, Race, and Ethnicity	Scupin Ch. 16
Topic 5	Contemporary Global Trends	Scupin Ch. 17
Topic 6	Applied Anthropology	Scupin Ch. 18

Lesson 6	Group Research Reports and Discussion	Report Assignments
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