

Course Outline

Course Title: Introduction To Anthropology

Common Course Title: ANT2000

Effective Term: Fall 2017 (Aug 21, 2017)

Credit Hours: 3 Units

Next Review : Aug 1, 2020

Contact Hour Breakdown: *(Per 16 week Term)*

Total: 48

Lecture:

Lab:

Clinic:

Other:

Requirements

This course does not have any required pre-requisites or co-requisites.

Course Description:

An introductory study of the biological evolution and cultural development of human customs, social organization, and institutions. The student is introduced to the major fields of study undertaken by anthropologists. This is a writing credit course with international/intercultural content. Students must earn a minimum grade of C to meet the requirements of the Gordon Rule for writing.

Course Outline

UNITS

Unit 1 : Major Areas and Approaches to the Study of Anthropology

General Outcome

1.0 The student will be introduced to, read source material and write about the basic concepts, literature, vocabulary and methods necessary for developing an understanding of the discipline. Critically evaluate the ethics, relevance and discipline of anthropology and its subfields through their reading and written course assignments

Specific Learning Outcomes

- 1.1 Research, read and in their writing express the basic concepts, vocabulary, ethics and methods of the field of anthropology
- 1.2 Support the discipline of anthropology as panhuman and promoting an understanding and appreciation for human diversities and commonalities
- 1.3 Demonstrate an understanding of the four field perspective and consider how physical, biological, cultural and (pre) historic perspectives interact systematically
- 1.4 Differentiate between ethical and unethical anthropological practices based on the American Anthropological Association's Code of Ethics

Unit 2 : Human Evolution

General Outcome

2.0 Introduction to the scientific foundation of the understanding of genetics and genetic change in the field of biophysical anthropology. Differentiate the biological processes of human variation, diversity and genetic heritability

Specific Learning Outcomes

- 2.1 Appraise the basic principles of genetics
- 2.2 Critically evaluate the various theories of genetic variability
- 2.3 Evaluate the relationship between cultural practices and biological change
- 2.4 Justify the methodology and application of the scientific process as it relates to the principles of genetic change, recognizing that scientific knowledge is continuously updated and revised as new information is discovered

Unit 3 : Primates

General Outcome

3.0 Introduction of the historic and scientific foundations of the field of primatology Construct the characteristics of the primate order, the social characteristics of living primates, and why the study of primates contributes to an analogical appreciation of hominids

Specific Learning Outcomes

- 3.1 Apply taxonomic principles of classification and nomenclature to the construction of the primate order
- 3.2 Identify the physical and social characteristics of primates
- 3.3 Analyze how the study of social behavior of primates helps us to formulate how we are different and similar to other primates. Students should be able to propose how analogies are made from living primates and the fossil evidence of early and subsequent hominids to diagram early hominid emergence from other species based on fossil evidence.

Unit 4 : Hominids

General Outcome

4.0 Introduction to the historic and scientific foundations of the field of physical anthropology. Interpret early hominid emergence based upon the fossil evidence

Specific Learning Outcomes

- 4.1 Evaluate the various methods for dating fossils and appraise their strengths and weaknesses based on context of application
- 4.2 Distinguish the types of selective forces that were occurring during the emergence of primates and early hominids
- 4.3 Recognize and describe the physical characteristics of the hominid ancestors
- 4.4 Interpret the scientific basis for the major early hominid classifications, including their physical and cultural characteristics as well as the scientists associated with their discoveries.

Unit 5 : Human Diversity

General Outcome

5.0 Introduction to the polytypic nature of human genetic variability Recognize the polymorphic nature of Homo sapiens as a species

Specific Learning Outcomes

- 5.1 Distinguish the processes, significance, and extent of biological variation in the human species
- 5.2 Evaluate how physical characteristics are adaptive in various environmental contexts based on the interaction of physical, biological, and social environments
- 5.3 Recognize that there is no direct relationship between human biological diversity and cultural diversity

Unit 6 : Domestication

General Outcome

6.0 Introduction of the relationship between people and their environment with the adoption of domestication practices Evaluate the dynamics and consequences of the domestication of plants and animals on physical, cultural and human environments

Specific Learning Outcomes

- 6.1 Describe the environmental conditions supportive of early efforts to domesticate plants and animals
- 6.2 Identify the characteristics of Mesolithic cultures
- 6.3 Compare and contrast the characteristics of Mesolithic and Neolithic cultural periods and their practices
- 6.4 Assess the major theories of food production and its cultural consequences in a global context
- 6.5 Debate the biological and cultural consequences of the domestication of plants, animals and people.

Unit 7 : Emergence of Cities and States

General Outcome

7.0 Evaluate the scientific evidence related to the impact and development of sustainable polities

Specific Learning Outcomes

7.1 Evaluate the scientific evidence related to the impact and development of sustainable polities

7.2 Research, explain and write about the archeological evidence and contribution to the reconstruction of past cultures

7.3 Assess and interpret the various theories related to the origins of cities and states in global context

Unit 8 : Culture, Language and Personality

General Outcome

8.0 Introduction of the contextualized concept of cultural relativism Assess the concept of culture in its multiple dimensions and comprehend the diversity of cultures

Specific Learning Outcomes

8.1 Evaluate the reliance of humans on culture for survival

8.2 Recognize that cultures are variable, adaptive and changing

8.3 Examine the importance of human communication including language and its relationship to culture

8.4 Recognize, interpret and critically analyze the similarities and differences between one's own culture and the culture of others through a study of the arts, customs, beliefs, values, and history that define and characterize a culture

Unit 9 : Resource Collection/Production

General Outcome

9.0 Introduction of the socio-economic dynamics in the production and distribution of resources Compare the various methods by which people in different cultures acquire, produce and distribute resources

Specific Learning Outcomes

9.1 Compare and contrast the various forms and types of social organization and technologies associated with resource acquisition, storage, production, exchange, consumption and distribution

9.2 Compare and contrast the major forms of resource production and distribution and assess their impact on cultural development

Unit 10 : Marriage, Family and Kinship

General Outcome

10.0 Introduction of kinship and non-kinship based groupings in cultural context Judge the importance of kinship networks and other types of non-kinship groups within cultures as well as the different formations of such groups

Specific Learning Outcomes

10.1 Recognize that sex and marriage are regulated in all cultures

10.2 Distinguish between different types of marriage and the concepts that describe such marriages

10.3 Identify the patterns and terminology of marital residences

10.4 Compare and contrast the types of family units that exist in cultures

10.5 Justify the adaptive nature of the variations in kinship and non-kinship based organizational systems and groups

Unit 11 : Political Systems

General Outcome

11.0 Introduction of the sub-field of political anthropology and its contribution to the study of power and authority Evaluate the importance of political systems and their role in socio-organizational functioning

Specific Learning Outcomes

- 11.1 Recognize the variability of political systems in the anthropological literature
- 11.2 Assess how political systems regulate and modify interpersonal behavior and relationships
- 11.3 Assess the strengths and weaknesses of taxonomic classifications of political organizational systems and the principles of their functioning

Unit 12 : Belief Systems

General Outcome

12.0 Introduction of a culturally mediated construction of the relationship between concepts of the natural and supernatural world
Conclude that all cultures utilize ideological belief systems to order their physical and supernatural worlds

Specific Learning Outcomes

- 12.1 Demonstrate that all cultures have some form of belief system in relation to the supernatural
- 12.2 Argue and debate the adaptive, functional value of supernatural belief in cultural context
- 12.3 Differentiate, compare and contrast variations in supernatural beliefs and practices across the globe

Unit 13 : Cultural Variation

General Outcome

13.0 Introduction of the principles of change in cultural context
Analyze how cultures change and the processes involved in their change

Specific Learning Outcomes

- 13.1 Illustrate the processes by which cultures change and survive
- 13.2 Evaluate the role of cultural diversity and change in the modern world
- 13.3 Justify how anthropologists conceptualize culture change
- 13.4 Assess the concept of applied anthropology and its variations
- 13.5 Interpret the implication of the U. N. Charter on Human Rights for contemporary world cultures