

Course Code: ANT 103 (IAI S1 901N)

Course Title: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

Department: Arts, Media, and Social Sciences

Effective Date: Summer 2026

PCS Code: 1.1 - Baccalaureate/Transfer

CIP Code: 45.0201

Repeatability: 0

Credit Hours

Catalog Notation: 3-0-3

Credit Hour Distribution:

Lecture: 3

Lab: 0

Clinical: 0

Total: 3

General Course Information

Catalog Description

Study of structure and process of culture. Presents major features of culture including subsistence patterns, organizing devices, language, patterns of cultural transmission, political organization, religion, family forms, and cultural change. Examines methods of anthropological research and major theoretical orientations.

General Course Objectives

- Introduce the scientific study of human culture and recognize underlying similarities as well as the wide range of variability of human cultures.
- Understand the relationship between culture and the individual as well as the factors involved in culture change.

Minimum Placement Levels

English	Reading	Math
Placement out of ENG 099	None	None

Prerequisites

None

Methods of Evaluation

Evaluation methods will include 6-8 exams/quizzes, short papers (eight to ten pages total), a research project report, and applied activities.

Instructional Materials and Additional Supplies

Perspectives: An Open Invitation to Cultural Anthropology, by Nina Brown, et.al., current edition. Open access textbook. 978-1931303675

Course Content

General Learning Outcomes (GLOs)

- Global Awareness and Cultural Reasoning: Students will demonstrate their understanding of global issues, gender and sexual orientation, and multicultural perspectives.

Course Segments and Student Learning Outcomes

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define anthropology as the holistic and comparative study of humanity, as well as distinguish between ethnography and ethnology. 2. Understand why anthropology is considered a social science, how it integrates scientific and humanistic perspectives, and the role that the scientific method plays in structuring anthropological research and explanation. 	3	0	0
The Culture Concept and Applying Anthropology	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define the key dimensions of culture and identify and understand the mechanisms of cultural change. 2. Distinguish between ethnocentrism and cultural relativism and consider how both relate to human rights. 3. Specify the relationship of academic and applied anthropology, the kinds of work in which applied anthropologists from all four subfields may engage, and the aspects of anthropology that make it uniquely valuable in application to social problems. 	6	0	0
Theory and Method in Cultural Anthropology	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and distinguish among the major ethnographic techniques, and know how and why these techniques would be used. 2. Distinguish between the important anthropological theorists and their topics. 3. Describe the history of ethnography and how more recent interpretive, dialogic, and reflexive approaches have conceptualized the research and writing of ethnography. 4. Analyze the major theoretical trends in anthropology over time. 	3	0	0
Language	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Outline the structure and nature of animal communication and how it differs from human communication. 2. Demonstrate familiarity with nonverbal forms of communication and consider how these form an interwoven part of spoken language. 3. Explain the importance of the field of sociolinguistics to the study of culture. 	3	0	0
Subsistence and Political Systems	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the major adaptive strategies of humans. 2. Analyze different cross-cultural forms of distribution and exchange including the market principle, redistribution, and reciprocity. 3. Define the basic types of political systems, describing the key characteristics of each; analyze conflict resolution strategies among each type of political system within its sociocultural context. 	7	0	0
Gender and Marriage Cross-culturally	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Distinguish between sex and gender and define how gender is culturally constructed. 2. Analyze and establish connections between the economy of a society to its gender relations, explain the domestic-public dichotomy and differential gender status, and explain how sexuality and gender vary cross-culturally. 3. Identify and distinguish preferred marriage forms cross-culturally, explaining how marriage functions as a form of group alliance and to bolster socioeconomic systems. 	6	0	0

Course Segment	Learning Outcomes	Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
Kinship and Descent	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Describe and analyze the general patterns found in family organization in different societies. Explain an anthropological approach to studying kinship. 	7	0	0
Religion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze different forms of religious expression, and define and analyze the characteristic features of ritual. Consider the diversity across and within world religions and relate how religion can motivate and organize social change. 	4	0	0
Global and Social Inequalities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze the different ways that globalization has been defined and theorized, and compare and contrast these approaches with case studies from the ethnographic record. Analyze how cultural forces and social values in the twenty-first century are influenced by changes brought about by globalization, including the use and deployment of media, social media, and technology. Analyze race as a social construction and distinguish between ethnicity and race. Analyze prejudice, stereotypes, and de jure and de facto forms of discrimination. 	6	0	0

Total Contact Hours

Lecture Hours	Lab Hours	Clinical Hours
45	0	0