

Course Description

ANT2000 | Introduction to Anthropology | 3 credits

In this course, students will learn the foundations of anthropology as the study of human variation in its biological, social, and cultural dimensions. Students will learn about anthropological concepts, principles, and methodologies to understand and explore past and present human behavior. They will apply the anthropological approach to analyze issues pertaining to past and contemporary cultures, and develop intellectual skills and habits to understand behavioral, social, and cultural issues from multiple disciplinary perspectives. Student learning outcomes: students will explain scientific approaches to the study of human variation and human origins, including primatology, extinct and extant human cultures, language, and ethnicity; students will explain the origins of anthropology as a foundation discipline in the social sciences that examines the nature and definition of culture; students will apply anthropological concepts, principles, and methods to the scientific study of past and present human behavior; students will explain how anthropology incorporates multidisciplinary knowledge and perspectives; and students will describe contemporary anthropological contributions.

Course Competencies

Competency 1:

The student will demonstrate an understanding of the scope of anthropological science, its foci, techniques and methodologies by:

- Defining anthropology.
- Explaining the focus and scope of each of the anthropological subfields: 1) physical/biological, 2) linguistics, 3) archaeology, and 4) sociocultural.
- Explaining the relationship between each of the subfields and to other behavioral and social sciences.
- Explaining the methods of anthropological research.
- Identifying the ethics involved in anthropological research.

Learning Outcomes

- Cultural / Global Perspective

Competency 2:

The student will demonstrate an understanding of humankind as an evolving biological species by:

- Outlining the history of evolutionary thought and its major theoretical and conceptual contributors.
- Explaining the major historical and current debates and arguments that both constrain and oppose evolutionary theory.
- Distinguishing between the various mechanisms of macro and microevolutionary change.
- Describing the selective pressures affecting adaptation.
- Tracing evolutionary adaptation from Australopithecines to Homo sapiens, including human variation.

Learning Outcomes

- Cultural / Global Perspective

Competency 3:

The student will demonstrate an understanding of nonhuman primates by:

- Outlining the taxonomic order of nonhuman primates.
- Identifying the differences between Old and New World monkeys.
- Comparing and contrasting the morphological and behavioral characteristics among nonhuman primates.
- Explaining the global and local forces that threaten the extinction of nonhuman primate populations.

Learning Outcomes

- Cultural / Global Perspective

Competency 4:

The student will demonstrate an understanding of the concept of culture by:

- Defining culture.
- Explaining the major characteristics of culture as an integrated system.
- Explaining the major mechanisms of culture change: 1) diffusion, 2) acculturation, 3) migration, 4) social movements, 5) discovery and innovation, and 6) ideology/paradigmatic shifts.

Learning Outcomes

- Cultural / Global Perspective

Competency 5:

The student will demonstrate an understanding of anthropological linguistics by:

- Discussing the different foci and scope of descriptive/structural linguistics, historical linguistics and sociocultural linguistics.
- Explaining the role and use of symbols in human communication.
- Explaining the relationship between language and culture.
- Describing how grammatical structures and lexicons influence the perception of reality.

Learning Outcomes

- Cultural / Global Perspective

Competency 6:

The student will demonstrate an understanding of various subsistence strategies and economic patterns of adaptation by:

- Describing food foraging societies of hunters, fishers, and gatherers.
- Describing food producing societies of pastoralists, horticulturalists, agriculturalists, industrialists and globalization.
- Explaining the impact of agroindustry on world populations and environmental sustainability.
- Explaining the production, distribution /exchange and consumption patterns associated with each of the subsistence strategies.
- Contrasting and comparing features of minimalist versus consumer societies.

Learning Outcomes

- Cultural / Global Perspective

Competency 7:

The student will demonstrate an understanding of political and social organization by:

- Defining the concept of power and its application to society.
- Listing various levels of sociopolitical organization of bands, tribes, chiefdoms and states.
- Analyzing various systems of social stratification and patterns of social inequality.
- Identifying the various status/role relationships reflected in gender and other aspects of human society.

Learning Outcomes

- Cultural / Global Perspective

Competency 8:

The student will identify the various status/role relationships reflected in gender and other aspects of human society by:

- Describing patterns of marriage and post marital residence.
- Identifying cross-cultural examples of reckoning kin and determining descent.
- Diagramming different systems of kinship.
- Distinguishing between sex and gender.
- Discussing the forces of change impacting systems of marriage, kinship, gender, and sexuality under globalization.

Learning Outcomes

- Cultural / Global Perspective

Competency 9:

The student will demonstrate an understanding of the anthropology of the supernatural by:

- Defining religion.
- Identifying the common features of most all religions.
- Describing the functions of religion and their relationship to social organization.
- Describing several varieties of religious experience as they relate to the cultural contexts of which they are a part.
- Describing the role of rituals and practitioners in the major world religions.

Learning Outcomes

- Cultural / Global Perspective

Competency 10:

The student will understand the global historical forces leading to the emergence of the developed and developing world by:

- Explaining development and underdevelopment as a dialectic process from conquest and colonialism through imperialism and globalization.
- Describing world systems theory.
- Discussing the mechanisms of dependent development.
- Explaining the role of structural adjustment programs as to how they exacerbate global poverty.
- Discussing examples of how applied anthropologists work to ameliorate the impact of under development at micro and macro levels.

Learning Outcomes

- Cultural / Global Perspective