

Course Outline for: ANTH 1100 Introduction to Anthropology – What it Means to be Human

A. Course Description

1. Number of credits: 4
2. Lecture hours per week: 4
3. Prerequisites: None
4. Corequisites: None
5. MnTC Goals: Goal #5 History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences
Goal #8 Global Perspective

This course is designed to introduce students to a full four-field approach to the anthropological study of human beings. Students will survey the ways that humans shape and live within the cultural realms through historical, environmental, biological and cultural (social) factors. The importance of context in research will be emphasized in this course, with key concepts, sub-discipline content, approaches and questions relating to cultural, biological and linguistic anthropology, plus archaeology introduced. In addition, specific categories of key vocabulary, theoretical orientations, methods, and practices will be provided as a general introduction to what it means to be human.

B. Date last reviewed/updated: January 2022

C. Outline of Major Content Areas

1. The introduction of anthropology as a four-field approach to understanding human beings
2. The basis of early and present-day concepts and theories in each of the four sub-disciplines
3. The role that anthropology plays in globalization and its resulting changes in the world
4. The scientific method as utilized in each area of anthropology, both quantitatively and qualitatively
5. The cultural universals that are defined and examined in anthropology

D. Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Use terms, concepts, and intellectual frameworks important in describing and analyzing bio-cultural dynamics in all four sub-disciplines in anthropology. (Goals 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d, 8a, 8b, 8c)
2. Evaluate the most basic conceptual and theoretical underpinnings of anthropology in all four sub-disciplines. (Goals 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 5c, 5d, 8a, 8b)
3. Identify the range of biological, societal and cultural types and place them in an evolutionary/historical and ecological perspective. (Goals 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 5b, 5c, 5d, 8a, 8b)
4. Analyze the four sub-disciplines in anthropology as they relate to study areas of anthropology and are related to one another, especially in respect to cultural universals such as: family and kinship, language, economics, political organization, religion, and

- symbolic behavior. (Goals 2a, 2b 2c, 2d, 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d, 8a, 8b)
5. Evaluate various hypotheses that have been put forward to explain the bio-cultural phenomena in humans. (Goals 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 5c, 5d, 8a, 8b)
 6. Analyze selected processes of globalization and planned changes in the future (Goals 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 5b, 5c, 5d, 8a, 8b, 8d)
 7. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of anthropological research methods and be able to articulate the processes used in scientific research. (Goals 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 5a, 5c)
 8. Apply the concepts, terms, and intellectual frameworks necessary to explain adaptation and bio-cultural evolution in human evolution and the archaeological record. (Goals 2a, 2b 2c, 2d, 5a, 5c, 8b)
 9. Apply and analyze the methods of scientific inquiry as they apply to archaeology and prehistory, gaining practice in the analysis and interpretation of bio-cultural and archaeological data. (Goals 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 5a, 5b 5c,)

E. Methods for Assessing Student Learning

Assessment methods may include, but are not limited to, the following: objective and/or subjective exams, quizzes, journals, research papers, oral presentations, written assignments, reflection essays, group work, and/or any other assessment measures based on the discretion of the instructor.

F. Special Information:

None