

Curriculum Outline Template

Date of Adoption: 6/30/03

Course Abbreviation ANTH and **Number** 1010 (ID)

Course Title: Culture and Human Experience

Course Description: This course offers an introduction to the field of anthropology, a study of diverse living peoples throughout the world. Emphasis is on understanding the similarities and differences of diverse cultures.

Course Prerequisites: none

Number of credits: 3

Number of instructional contact hours: 3 per week

Number of lecture hours per week: 3 **Number of lab hours per week:** None

Type of credit: Transfer

Submitted by: John N. Fritz

Course Objectives: (A list of student outcomes or competencies that must be included in any sections of the course offered.)

1. Discuss the relevance of the study of anthropology to your development as an individual, citizen and future discipline and/or profession..
2. Discuss specific concepts, ideas, theories and so forth which you found most useful to your individual area of study.
3. How could cultural anthropology 1010 better serve your specific needs for relating anthropology to your career or major?

The Nature of the Course:

The course will be an introduction to the diversity of world cultures and societies. The world is an increasingly smaller place. Connections and interrelationships with other cultures are increasing like never before in human history. This course will begin by examining the basis of human culture in its biological and social dimensions. It will focus on the diverse ways humanity organizes itself, economically, politically and religiously. The intent of the course is to stimulate appreciation and insight into other cultures. The very nature of anthropological knowledge is comparative, seeking to be holistic and viewing cultures as wholes. Diverse cultures have vastly different values, attitudes, and models of inquiring, as well as ways of “knowing”. Anthropology seeks to nurture acceptance of diversity, to see strength, beauty and value in cultural diversity. How can humanity survive if it does not know itself?

Method:

Anthropology 1010 is a GENERAL EDUCATION course at Salt Lake Community College. A minimum of time in class will be spent in lecture, because the knowledge and value to be gained from anthropology, as a general education course, cannot be obtained by memorizing facts or concepts. This knowledge must be gained by participation and the sharing of questions, insights and experiences. Therefore, the student will be expected to come to class prepared to discuss, ask questions, challenge, accept, argue and/or agree.

The students must be willing to reflect on their own behavior, thoughts and attitudes. Logic, reasoning and creativity will need to be employed in class and in assignments. Specifically, assignments and examinations will focus on certain specific categories of intellectual skills. These are: communication, creativity, critical thinking, esthetics and the social web (how do the ideas, concepts and information help us understand and participate in our world). Finally, knowledge of any kind, from any discipline, is interconnected. We will explore the inter-connective nature of creating, understanding and utilizing knowledge

Growth, acceptance and understanding of other cultures will be expected. Students are strongly encouraged to meet with the instructor at least once during the term to discuss their progress and share their views of the course. Class attendance and participation is mandatory. Grading will not be on a curve and the instructor will consider attendance and participation when assigning grades. Improvement in performance may also be considered.

Required Assessments: (To measure the objectives.)

1. Written essay exams
2. Oral presentations
3. Group assignments

Other:

Instructions on Specific Assignments and Processes *(List specific methodologies that may be an integral part of the course or which may be needed to fulfill the General Education Criteria. This must be listed for each delivery format used for the course.) (Examples include attendance at concerts, participation in service learning projects, group projects, student presentations, or involvement in College activities.)*

This course fulfills General Education requirements (if applicable) by:

INTERDISCIPLINARY

Perhaps no other scholarly discipline connects and utilizes the knowledge and methods of other disciplines more than does anthropology. The basic and central organizing concept of anthropology is the concept of culture. Culture, as conceptualized by anthropologists, is a complex of learned behaviors and practices, modes of knowing the world, and ways of adapting to varying environments. As such, the concept of culture is holistic and seeks to understand the complex interrelationship between the physical environment, economics, technology, social, political and family organization, as well as ideology. The introductory anthropology student will learn the basic processes involved in the creation and transmission of culture and the processes involved in cultural change. To understand the processes of how humans adapt to their environments, anthropologists must study how people make a living, create meaning in their lives, organize themselves into groups and, in general, respond to varying and changing circumstances of human existence.

To understand cultural diversity requires multi variant data from a range of sources and perspectives. Students of anthropology cannot be an expert in all these fields but must understand basic principles in order to successfully accomplish their work. Culture and Human Experience provides students with an introduction to how acquiring and applying interdisciplinary knowledge can contribute, for example, to the understanding and solution of complex social problems.

Students will learn that how anthropologists create knowledge is interdisciplinary and that this is reflected in the varying sub-fields of the discipline; archaeology, psychological anthropology, economic anthropology, ethnohistory, and so forth. Furthermore, students learn that anthropologists often work in research teams with other disciplines and commonly publish the results in journals read by non-anthropologists. Examples of this kind of collaborative work are emphasized in the class and reflected in class assignments.

COMMUNICATION

Students will come to understand the many and varying ways communication occurs within cultures. They will learn about the relationship between how languages respond to and organize human perceptions and subjective experience. For example, the varying structure and vocabulary of a language will produce differing time and space experiences and ultimately alter perceptions of reality.

On a different level, students will learn that anthropologists must use data from a host of scientific disciplines to construct an understanding of cultural processes. They must also be able to communicate effectively with scholars from other disciplines. Students will learn the value of developing the skills and knowledge to read and interpret texts from diverse fields. Student assignments will focus on effective written and oral communication of both these levels.

CREATIVITY

A fundamental practice in anthropology is to work systematically from the known to discover the unknown. To make consistent and reliable anthropological interpretations, students must learn and practice combining known concepts and facts in innovative ways. Anthropological methods require students to develop insight from detailed observations, multiple data sources, and the work of previous archaeologists. Assignments will be designed to exercise and develop students' abilities to creatively interpret and understand anthropological data.

CRITICAL THINKING

Anthropologists must utilize both inductive and deductive logic. Anthropological analysis is both quantitative and qualitative. Anthropologists sometimes use statistical techniques, but problem solving skills based on a holistic perspective require a multidimensional approach. For example, understanding how adaptive technologies influence and shape the forms of social organization and religious ideologies of a culture can introduce students to the inter-connectedness of thought and practice. Student assignments will be designed to build these skills.

Furthermore, by understanding other cultures and how they construct solutions to varying life conditions, students develop a deepened understanding of themselves and others. Culture and Human Experience assignments are designed for students to examine themselves and their own culture.

AESTHETICS

A vital aspect of Culture and Human Experience is the history of anthropological thought. Students will be introduced to social, cultural and technological influences on anthropological theory and interpretation over the last century. An understanding of these influences is important in order to contextualize knowledge. This kind of epistemological insight is useful and widely applicable across disciplines and fields. Students will also learn about the diversity of human expression and embedded symbolic meanings in such expressive forms as music, carvings, textiles, and weaving

SOCIAL WEB

The work of anthropology over the last century has yielded tremendous insight into the causes of cultural variation. Knowledge of the reasons for cultural variation can contribute to multi-cultural understanding and an appreciation of human diversity. Today, the anthropologist is faced with ethical and political issues regarding the respect of cultural traditions and the potential uses of their research. Students will be exposed to the real and potential conflicts between anthropological work and the ethical issues connected to cultural change projects and the human rights of indigenous peoples.

SUBSTANCE

The fundamental issue in Culture and Human Experience is how to apply our current ways of knowing the world. However, in a very real way we come to know ourselves and the physical and cultural world that we occupy better by understanding our origins and past. All cultures create explanations and understandings of their origins, and, thus, define themselves in the present. We live in a scientifically and technologically oriented society, where social change is constant and perspective on that change is difficult to achieve. Anthropology gives students a sense of perspective on the human experience not found in other disciplines.