

COURSE OUTLINE

SOCI-115

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

3 Semester Hours

(Social and Behavioral Science Core)

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

Through this introduction to cultural anthropology, the student will be able to identify the basic concepts anthropologists use in describing the economic family, political, and religious systems of pre-literate cultures. The student will use these concepts in analyzing a specific preliterate culture. The student will also apply the anthropological perspective to his own culture.

Prerequisite: Eligible to enroll in ENGL-121. (3 hours weekly)

Overall Course Objectives

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

1. Describe the relationship between cultural and biological evolution.
2. Identify the kinds of research anthropologists are interested in and the importance of each.
3. Compare and contrast adaptive strategies of a variety of cultures.
4. Identify the basic concepts anthropologists use to describe a culture and apply them to non-literate cultures.
5. Apply anthropological concepts to American culture and sub-cultures within North America.
6. Describe how the Archaeological method is utilized.
7. Trace the development of language and technology.
8. Explain the importance of the role objectivity and ethnic appreciation play in studying cultures.
9. Identify issue/situations that will impact the future of humanity.
10. Describe and evaluate how a variety of cultures are organized politically, economically and socially.

Major Topics

- I. Anthropology as a Discipline
 - A. The Special Perspective of Anthropology
 - B. The Branches of Anthropology
 - C. The Archaeological Method
 - D. The Contribution of Physical Anthropology
 - E. Ethnography and the Concept of culture

- II. Culture and Humankind
 - A. Language
 - B. Personality and Culture
 - C. Subsistence Technologies
 - D. Economic Distribution
 - E. Political Organization

- III. Social Systems and Cultural Change
 - A. Marriage and Family and Kinship
 - B. Religion and Magic
 - C. The Arts
 - D. Cultural Change
 - E. The American Culture
 - F. The Future of Humankind

Course Requirements

Grading/Exams:

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

Final grades will be based on short answer quizzes, unit exams, at least three interpretative papers, ethnographic analysis or field/lab work.

Writing:

Specific writing assignments will be determined by the individual faculty member but will require at least 2500 words of formal writing. The papers required will be based on articles read and/or researched conducted and meet the minimum standard of proficiency. At least three interpretative papers will be required. Periodically student will use writing in class as a means to learn, to integrate information, to review what they have learned, and to clarify their responses to assigned works.

Other Course Information

This course is a Social Science elective and an Arts and Sciences elective. Meet college definition for: Cultural Diversity. This is a Social and Behavioral Science Core course.