General Information

Date
05/04/2017

Department
Social Science

Course Prefix:
ANT

Course Number:
200

Course Title:
Comparative Cultures

Course Information

Credit Hours
3

Lecture Contact Hours
3

Catalog Description
You have learned about the basics in Introduction to Cultural Anthropology; for instance, you know about hunting and gathering, matrilineages, big men, redistribution, and state type societies. Now we go deeper into this subject! We go on a survey of world cultures to see people living out all the basics you have learned in our Introduction to Cultural Anthropology course. We will start with some very simple societies and compare them to very complex cultures like our own. In a short phrase, we will go around the world in 16 weeks!
This course will examine and describe the ways selected pre-literate and complex societies have used culture to adapt to their environments. Case studies drawn from American, Asian, African, and European societies will be the basis for engaging in cross-cultural studies.

Prerequisites
ANT 111 Cultural Anthropology

Grading Scheme
Letter Grade

This course is designated as satisfying a requirement in the following SUNY Gen Ed category

Other World Civilizations

FLCC Values
College Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course

Inquiry
Vitality
Perseverance

Course Learning Outcomes

1: Examine the concept of culture, and understand how the different elements of culture are expressed in different cultural contexts.
2: Develop a better sense of cultural relativism, sensitivity to difference, and personal intellectual growth in a more connected world.
3: Relate patterns of culture around the world to each other, to gain insight into human similarities and differences, and further understanding of our own culture.
4: Apply anthropological research methods to comparative culture research.

Outline of Topics Covered

ANT 200 examines a selection of preliterate and complex cultures, using fundamental concepts of cultural anthropology. The following sample outline includes illustrative cultures; the selection of these may change across sections.

I. What is anthropology?
   Cultural sketch: The Yanomami
II. What is culture?
   Cultural sketch: The Yanomami, cont.
III. Problems of fieldwork
   Cultural sketch: The Tiwi
IV. Language
   Cultural sketch: The Kaluli
V. Subsistence strategies
   Cultural sketch: The Basseri and Ojibwa
VI. Economy
   Cultural sketch: The Trobriand Islanders
VII. Marriage, family, and residence
   Cultural sketch: The Minangkabau
VIII. Kinship and descent
   Cultural sketch: The Nuer
IX. Gender and sexuality
   Cultural sketch: The Haiti
X. Political order, disorder, and social control
   Cultural sketch: The Samoans
XI. Belief systems and art
   Cultural sketch: The Azande
XII. Globalization and culture change
   Cultural sketch: The Hmong and the Aztecs