

Anthropology 202 OAS/C – 5238/5239
Cultural Anthropology
Spring 2008

5 Credits

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By appointment only

Description of Cultural Anthropology Course

This course provides an introduction to cultural anthropology, one of the four sub-fields of the American anthropological discipline. The goal in this class is to learn about the scopes and aims of cultural anthropology. In an increasingly globalized world, in which people migrate and cultures meet on a daily basis, it is vital to develop an understanding and appreciation of other cultures.

The course materials will cover the study of core cultural anthropological concepts, key terms, fieldwork methods/techniques, and ethnographical studies. The materials in the course will give students an understanding of cultural anthropology and its many possibilities for research and study.

This course is also designed to teach students what anthropology offers for a deeper comprehension of our shared human condition. Critical thinking skills are vital not only for a better understanding of anthropology but also as citizens of an increasingly globalized world. One goal of this course is therefore to become sensitive to cultural differences and at the same time aware of how our cultural biases can shape our view of the world. The best way to actively combat our own ethnocentrism is to learn about the diversity of human cultures and appreciate how “human” it is to create and build culture.

Learning Outcomes

- Identify the terms and concepts of cultural anthropology
- Define cultural relativity and ethnocentrism
- Evaluate globalization and its impact on cultures
- Describe the research methods of cultural anthropologists
- Develop critical thinking skills in the reading of texts and ethnographies

Text books required:

Kottak, Conrad. 2007. *Mirror for Humanity. A Concise Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*. 5th edition. Boston: McGraw Hill.

Spindler, George & Janice Stockard. 2007. *Globalization in Fifteen Cultures. Born in One World, Living in Another*. U.S.: Thomson Wadsworth.

Please order the text books before the course begins.

Course binder: This is useful to organize all the course material: syllabus, calendar and weekly assignments.

Software: Please make sure your software is compatible with VISTA by performing the browser check on the opening page.

Learning Modules:

Weekly assignments are located in the Learning Module section of the course. In these modules you will find the weekly readings and points to ponder (weekly discussions).

Weeks 1 through 6

In these 6 weeks the material will cover the Kottak text with an introduction to core concepts of anthropology such as

Culture

Ethnicity

Race

Gender

Kinship

Tribes

Chiefdoms

States

Subsistence

Religion

Weeks 7 through 11

In the last four weeks the key concepts and terms learned in the first six weeks will be utilized to read and evaluate the ethnographic material in the Spindler text. Students will be given the option of a research topic or a final exam.

Discussions

Students will be given five Points to ponder each week. These are 4 points from the readings and 1 point which each student will find themselves from an online newspaper article. By Thursday of each week students will need to post their 5 points in the Discussion area. Then by the end of the week, Sunday, they will need to post 10 (in total) responses to other student's Ptps. Discussion is very important in an online course and it is an excellent tool for students to help each other and show what they have understood from the readings. Students will be expected to be courteous to each other and correct at all times.

Quizzes

Every week there will be a quiz based on the weekly readings and Ptps. The quiz will consist of 20 multiple choice questions and two short essay questions taken from the Ptps.

Midterm and Final Exam

The Midterm will consist of short essay questions from the Ptps from Weeks 1 through 5. The Final Exam will be a choice between a written exam that covers the entire course or an online research project.

Grades

Discussions 20 points	9 out of 10 count	180	18%
Quizzes 30 points	8 out of 9 count	320	32%
Midterm		200	20%
Final		300	30%

Total points possible: 1000 points

A	4.0	96-100%
A-	3.7	90-95%
B+	3.3	87-89%

B	3.0	83-86%
B-	2.7	80-82%
C+	2.3	75-79%
C	2.0	65-74%
D	1.0	50-64%
F	0	< 50%
W	0	Official withdrawal
HW	0	Hardship withdrawal
I	0	Incomplete

For information on BCC grading policies please read the official grade information online.

Course calendar		
Week	Subject	Reading
Due		
1	Course information Reading chapters in Kottak	Text: Kottak chapters 1 & 2 Student bio, Back up Week 1 Ptps, Quiz 1
2	What is Culture? Ethnicity and Race	Text: Kottak chapters 3 & 4 Week 2 Ptps Quiz 2
3	Language and culture Making a living	Text: Kottak chapters 5 & 6 Week 3 Ptps Quiz 3
4	Political Systems Family and Kinship	Text: Kottak chapters 7 & 8 Week 4 Ptps Quiz 4
5	Gender Religion	Text: Kottak chapters 9 & 10 Week 5 Ptps Quiz 5

6	Modern World system Colonialism and Development	Text: Kottak chapters 11 & 12	Week 6 Ptps Midterm Exam
7	Identity and Power	Texts: Kottak chapter 13 Spindler, chaps. 2, 3 & 4	Week 7 Ptps Quiz 6
8	Change with Gender Roles	Text: Spindler, chapters 6, 7 & 8	Week 8 Ptps Quiz 7
9	New Patterns of Migration	Text: Spindler, chaps. 9, 10 & 11	Week 9 Ptps Quiz 8
10	Economic Effects of Modernization	Text: Spindler, chapters 12, 14 & 15	Week 10 Ptps Quiz 9
11	Final Exam	Either Final Paper or Final Exam	By last day of class Final Due

This is an outline of the course calendar, please go to the course calendar in course information for more details.

Instructor Bio: I have been teaching anthropology at Bellevue Community College since 2004. I completed my B.A. with honors in Anthropology in 1995 at the University of Washington. I then began graduate studies at the Graduate Faculty of the New School for Social Research in New York in 1996. I received a Wenner-Gren pre-dissertation grant in 2000 and conducted 12 months of fieldwork in Milan, Italy. My field site was a public housing tenant committee, where I conducted research on the concepts of identity and belonging among Italians and immigrants from Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America. I was awarded a Ph.D. in 2004. During the years of dissertation writing I began working with non-profit affordable housing organizations in Seattle. I am still working at providing affordable housing when I am not teaching. I enjoy movies, travel and reading in my spare time.

Learning Outcomes for Cultural Anthropology

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

I. Introduction

A. To recognize and use the basic principles of logic and scientific method, and apply them to cultural anthropology.

II. General Information about Culture and Society

A. To define both culture and society and show why they are not the same thing.

B. To explain what culture traits are, and be able to explain the differences between material culture and non-material culture.

C. To be able to define enculturation and be able to explain how it works and what it has to do with culture traits.

D. To define ethnocentrism and cultural relativism.

E. To explain the connections between ethnocentrism & human behavior.

III. Kinds of Culture and Societies

A. To explain the differences between simple and complex socio-cultural systems.

B. To be able to give a general account of the changes in socio-cultural systems from simple to complex.

IV. Hunting and Gathering Societies

A. To be able to define "hunting and gathering."

B. To be able to define "reciprocity" and what it has to do with the distribution of goods and services.

V. Social Organization

A. To define the concepts of nuclear family and extended family.

B. To explain how nuclear families are formed, how they are dissolved, and their connection with the sexual division of labor.

C. To be able to explain why cultures and societies are systems.

VI. Families and Kinship

A. To explain the difference between nuclear and extended families.

B. To recognize the incest taboo and be able to explain how it works in different societies.

C. To explain and diagram the differences between patrilineal, matrilineal, and bilateral extended kin groups.

D. To explain the connections between kin groups and property.

E. To explain why arranged marriages have been so important in so many societies.

VII. Chiefdoms

A. To recognize what rank is and be able to explain how it works in chiefdoms.

B. To explain connections between rank and redistribution.

VIII. State-level Societies

A. To define what constitutes the state and its typical cultural features.

B. To understand the concepts of race, ethnicity, class, and caste, and how they perpetuate inequality in states.

General Education Ratings

Cultural Anthropology (ANTH 202) has the following General Education Ratings:

	REASONING			COMMUNICATION				
	Critical Thinking, Creativity, Problem-Solving	Quantitative/Logical	Research/Information Literacy	Reading	Writing	Listening, Speaking	Visual	Computer Literacy
ANTH 202	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	0

	RESPONSIBILITY				CULTURAL TRADITIONS			SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT		
	Self-Assessment/Life Goals	Group Processes	Ethics	Lifelong Learning	Historical & Intellectual Perspectives	Aesthetic Awareness	Cultural Diversity	Nature of Science	Science & the Natural World	Technology & Society
ANTH 202	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	2	0	2

What do these ratings mean?

0 = Course does not include instruction and assessment of this area.

1 = Course includes instruction and practice of the gen-ed area, and performance/knowledge of this area is assessed.

2 = Course includes instruction and practice in two or more of the outcomes of this gen-ed area, performance/knowledge is assessed, and 20% or more of the course focuses on it.

3 = Course includes instruction and practice in at least half of the outcomes of this gen-ed area, performance/knowledge is assessed, and 1/3 or more of the course focuses on it.

Please consult BCC's Course Catalog for more information on General Education Ratings.

**PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE
DIVISION
Revised Fall 2007**

Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing*

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue Community College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue Community College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Dean of Student Services.

Incomplete

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete (“I”). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an “F”).

F Grade

Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F."

Final Examination Schedule

The Social Science Division will adhere to the final examination schedule as stated in the BCC Schedule. Final examinations will be held at the end of each quarter at fixed times. Instructors will not give examinations in advance of the regular schedule. A student who is absent from any examination held at any time during the quarter may forfeit the right to make up the examination. If, for illness or some other circumstance beyond the student's control, the student is unable to be present at any scheduled examination and has contacted the instructor on a timely basis, the student may be permitted to take such examination at a time designated by the instructor.

Withdrawal From Class

College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the seventh week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.

Hardship Withdrawal

Instructors may assign the grade of “HW” (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.

Students Who Require Disability Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to meet with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) office located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who require accommodation in class should review the DSS accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

Students with mobility challenges who may need assistance in case of an emergency situation or evacuation should register with Disability Support Services, and review those needs with the instructor as well.

Distribution of Grades

Grades will not be posted in the Social Science Division or in faculty offices, and secretaries will not give out grades. Students should access their grades through the BCC Web site.

Return of Papers and Tests

Paper and/or Scantron score sheet returns will be arranged in the following ways ONLY: by mail, if student supplies the instructor with stamped, self-addressed envelope (with appropriate postage); or by the instructor designating a time and place whereby the student may retrieve his/her papers. Unclaimed papers and/or Scantron score sheets must be kept by the instructor for a minimum of sixty (60) instructional days following the end of the quarter.

**If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue Community College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (D110), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.*