

# ANTH G100: INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Item	Value
Curriculum Committee Approval Date	10/01/2024
Top Code	220200 - Anthropology
Units	3 Total Units
Hours	54 Total Hours (Lecture Hours 54)
Total Outside of Class Hours	0
Course Credit Status	Credit: Degree Applicable (D)
Material Fee	No
Basic Skills	Not Basic Skills (N)
Repeatable	No
Open Entry/Open Exit	No
Grading Policy	Standard Letter (S), • Pass/No Pass (B)
Local General Education (GE)	• Area 4 Social and Behavioral Sciences (GD)
Diversity Requirement (GCD)	Yes
California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC)	• Cal-GETC 4 Social & Behavioral Sciences (4) • Cal-GETC 4A Anthropology (4A)
Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC)	• IGETC 4 Social&Behavioral Sci (4) • IGETC 4A Anthropology (4A)
California State University General Education Breadth (CSU GE-Breadth)	• CSU D1 Anthropology (D1)

## Course Description

This course examines the theories, methods, and applications of anthropological inquiry with an emphasis on cultural and social models. Topics including language, foodways, economies, politics, race, gender, kinship, religion, art, media, and medicine are evaluated within the contexts of globalization, transnationalism, and the environment. This course explores these topics through historical, contemporary, and cross-cultural examples of various societies from around the world. ADVISORY: ENGL C1000. Transfer Credit: CSU; UC. C-ID: ANTH 120. C-ID: ANTH 120.

## Course Level Student Learning Outcome(s)

1. Course Outcomes
2. Appraise the educational value of the holistic nature of anthropological inquiry.
3. Assess the importance of symbolism in cultural identity.
4. Examine the challenges and benefits of fieldwork in anthropology.
5. Debate the hypothesis stating language shapes thought.

## Course Objectives

1. Distinguish anthropological inquiry from other paradigms.
2. Identify the key characteristics of culture.
3. Debate ethical considerations of fieldwork in anthropology.
4. Evaluate the intersections between language, culture, and thought.
5. Examine the interconnections between culture and food.
6. Assess the impact of transnationalism on indigenous populations.
7. Evaluate the intersections of culture and the environment.
8. Analyze the cross-cultural dynamics of value, money, and economic systems.
9. Appraise the relative value of aggression and violence as tools for gaining political power.
10. Explain the myth of race and its legacy of racism.
11. Differentiate between gender, sex, and sexuality.
12. Inspect the various kinship systems, power distributions, and cross-cultural norms of family dynamics.
13. Evaluate the application of various theoretical perspectives on different types of religion.
14. Assess the impacts of culture on the agency of health, illness, and healing.
15. Examine the symbolism, power, and influence of art and media.

## Lecture Content

Anthropology History of anthropology Four fields of anthropology Theoretical perspectives Research methods Applied anthropology Culture Key characteristics Expressions of culture Structural components of culture Fieldwork Ethnography Alternative methods Ethical considerations Language Methods of analysis Intersections between language, culture, and thought Power dynamics and social inequalities Foodways Microevolutionary biocultural adaptations of the human diet Subsistence economies Food as a cultural construct Globalization and transnationalism Causes Consequences Resistances Environment Intersections between the environment and culture Holistic perspectives on nature and conservation Sociocultural causes of environmental destruction Economy Economies as a cultural construct Cross-cultural variations in establishing value Theories on money and the distribution of power Politics How societies organize themselves Cross-cultural variations on strategies for gaining power Aggression and violence Race, ethnicity, and class The myth of race and its legacy of racism Social stratifications Prejudice, discrimination, and unearned privilege Gender, sex, and sexuality Gender as a cultural construct Cross-cultural variations in gender and sexuality Growing pains of the gender binary: Current topics in LGBTQIA+ Kinship, marriage, and family Families as the source of politics, power, and wealth Kinship patterns, variations in marriage, and cultural prohibitions Impacts of reproductive technologies and transnationalism Religion Theoretical perspectives on religion Categories of religion and spiritual beliefs Cross-cultural variations on rituals Medicine Impacts of cultural beliefs on the experience and agency of health and illness Cross-cultural variations in medical authority and therapeutic processes Global health problems and anthropological solutions Materiality Symbolism and power of art Impacts of media and the culture of mass consumption Cultural resource management: appropriation vs. appreciation

## **Method(s) of Instruction**

- Lecture (02)
- DE Live Online Lecture (02S)
- DE Online Lecture (02X)

## **Reading Assignments**

Textbook.

## **Writing Assignments**

Discussions, essays, and/or research papers.

## **Out-of-class Assignments**

Assigned readings, essays, research papers, and/or projects.

## **Demonstration of Critical Thinking**

Analyze the role of culture in the various components of society.  
Distinguish anthropological inquiry, theories, and methods. Assess the cross-cultural impacts of current events.

## **Required Writing, Problem Solving, Skills Demonstration**

Synthesize terminology, key concepts, and methods of inquiry for application to broader topics.

## **Eligible Disciplines**

Anthropology: Master's degree in anthropology or archaeology OR bachelor's degree in either of the above AND master's degree in sociology, biological sciences, forensic sciences, genetics or paleontology OR the equivalent. Master's degree required.

## **Textbooks Resources**

1. Required Guest, K.J. Essentials of Cultural Anthropology: A Toolkit for a Global Age, 4th ed. W. W. Norton Company, 2023