

BUTTE COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

ANTH 4H - Honors Cultural Anthropology

3 Unit(s)

Prerequisite(s): ENGL 2 or concurrent enrollment and Admission to the Honors Program

Recommended Prep: NONE

Transfer Status: CSU/UC

51 hours Lecture

This is an Honors level introductory cultural anthropology course. Emphasis is placed on the importance of recognizing and understanding culture as a dynamic and adaptive force underlying a significant degree of human behavior and thinking. As an Honors course primary ethnographic sources (descriptions of distinctive human communities) and classic works summarizing culture theory will be used. Major thematic units of study include definitional and theoretical issues pertaining to culture, ethnographic method, linguistic anthropology, culture/personality, subsistence systems, social organization, political organization, economics, beliefs, culture contact, and applied anthropology. This course emphasizes culture process and cross-cultural comparisons as seen through the lens of cultural anthropology. Graded only.

II. OBJECTIVES

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

- A. analyze and synthesize significant global ideas and primary original works and writing;
- B. demonstrate critical thinking skills in seminar-type discussions;
- C. demonstrate advanced writing skills and critical, creative thinking in composing a minimum of 5,000 words in analytical papers and reading responses;
- D. generate creative, original responses to course material;
- E. describe and summarize a comprehensive body of knowledge pertaining to the foundations of cultural anthropology;
- F. describe and analyze cultural anthropological perspectives across a range of important thematic areas including cultural relativism, cross-cultural patterns associated with subsistence, economics, social organization, and world view;
- G. review and critique ethnocentric views of human culture and history providing a broad based "holistic" perspective of humanity;
- H. describe the consequences of extreme culture contact situations and the impact that colonization and globalization has had on small-scale traditional societies;
- I. apply the knowledge obtained in this course to solutions for human based problems (applied anthropology);
- J. analyze and synthesize significant works (ethnographic case studies) related to cross-cultural research;

III. COURSE CONTENT

A. Unit Titles/Suggested Time Schedule

Lecture	
<u>Topics</u>	<u>Hours</u>
1. Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	6.00
2. The Historical Development of Anthropological Thought	6.00
3. Language, Culture and Thought	6.00
4. Culture and Personality (Psychological Anthropology)	6.00

5. Subsistence	6.00
6. Economic Systems	4.00
7. Social Organization	7.00
8. Political Organization	3.00
9. Beliefs and World View	3.00
10. Applied Anthropology	4.00
Total Hours	51.00

IV. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Lecture
- B. Instructor Demonstrations
- C. Group Discussions
- D. Guest Speakers
- E. Collaborative Group Work
- F. Homework: Students are required to complete two hours of outside-of-class homework for each hour of lecture
- G. Reading Assignments
- H. Multimedia Presentations

V. METHODS OF EVALUATION

- A. Research Projects
- B. Papers
- C. Oral Presentation
- D. Written Assignments
- E. Essays and research papers

VI. EXAMPLES OF ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Reading Assignments
 - 1. Read an ethnography of your choice from the selected list and apply to various theoretical orientations as discussed in class.
 - 2. Read Marvin Harris's Material Culture. Apply his ideas to your selected ethnography.
- B. Writing Assignments
 - 1. Compose a comprehensive 15 page research paper where you identify a problem taken from your ethnography and, based on our discussion of Applied Anthropology, propose a solution.
 - 2. Write a 3 page essay summarizing the following theoretical models; functionalism, structuralism, and cultural relativism.
- C. Out-of-Class Assignments
 - 1. Conduct an ethnographic interview of a senior citizen.
 - 2. Organize a set of field notes based on your observation of a TV sitcom.

VII. RECOMMENDED MATERIALS OF INSTRUCTION

Textbooks:

- A. Harris, M. The Rise of Anthropological Theory. 3rd Edition. Altamira, 2001.
- B. Bodley, John. Cultural Anthropology: Tribes, States, and the Global System. 5th Edition. Alta Mira Press, 2011.
- C. Ember, Carol and Melvin. Cultural Anthropology. 13th Edition. Prentice Hall, 2010.

Created/Revised by: Michael Findlay
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