

**College of San Mateo**  
**Official Course Outline**

1. **COURSE ID:** ANTH 110    **TITLE:** Cultural Anthropology    **C-ID:** ANTH 120  
**Units:** 3.0 units    **Hours/Semester:** 48.0-54.0 Lecture hours; 96.0-108.0 Homework hours; 144.0-162.0 Total Student Learning hours  
**Method of Grading:** Grade Option (Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass)
  
2. **COURSE DESIGNATION:**  
**Degree Credit**  
**Transfer credit:** CSU; UC  
**AA/AS Degree Requirements:**  
    CSM - GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS: E5b. Social Science  
**CSU GE:**  
    CSU GE Area D: SOCIAL SCIENCES: DSI - Social Institutions  
**IGETC:**  
    IGETC Area 4: SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES: Social and Behavioral Sciences
  
3. **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**  
**Catalog Description:**  
    This course explores how anthropologists study and compare human culture. Cultural anthropologists seek to understand the broad arc of human experience focusing on a set of central issues: how people around the world make their living (subsistence patterns); how they organize themselves socially, politically and economically; how they communicate; how they relate to each other through family and kinship ties; what they believe about the world (belief systems); how they express themselves creatively (expressive culture); how they make distinctions among themselves such as through applying gender, racial and ethnic identity labels; how they have shaped and been shaped by social inequalities such as colonialism; and how they navigate culture change and processes of globalization that affect us all. Ethnographic case studies highlight these similarities and differences, and introduce students to how anthropologists do their work, employ professional anthropological research ethics and apply their perspectives and skills to understand humans around the globe.
  
4. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**  
    Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:
  1. Define the scope of anthropology and discuss the role of cultural anthropology within the discipline.
  2. Recognize the methods, theories and perspectives used to study and understand human cultures.
  3. Explain the importance of the ethnographic method in the study of culture.
  4. Employ the relativist perspective while discussing cultural variation.
  5. Define anthropological concepts including ethnicity, gender, political organization, economic systems, kinship, rituals and belief systems.
  6. Analyze and evaluate the ethical issues anthropologists encounter, and professional ethical obligations that must be met in the study of and application in cultural groups different from their own.
  7. Explain the interconnectedness of the economic, political and sociocultural forces of globalization amongst diverse cultural groups.
  
5. **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**  
    Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:
  1. Define the scope of anthropology and discuss the role of cultural anthropology within the discipline.
  2. Recognize the methods, theories, and perspectives used to study and understand human cultures.
  3. Explain the importance of the ethnographic method in the study of culture.
  4. Employ the relativist perspective while discussing cultural variation.
  5. Demonstrate an understanding of anthropological concepts including ethnicity, gender, political organization, economic systems, kinship, rituals and belief systems.
  6. Explain the interconnectedness of the economic, political and sociocultural forces of globalization amongst diverse cultural groups.
  7. Analyze and evaluate the ethical issues anthropologists encounter, and professional ethical obligations that must be met in the study of and application in cultural groups different from their own.
  
6. **COURSE CONTENT:**

## **Lecture Content:**

1. Part One: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
  - A. Anthropology and human diversity
  - B. Doing cultural anthropology, defining the scope of anthropology and the role of cultural anthropology within the discipline of anthropology
  - C. The idea of culture, anthropological study of human cultures in comparative perspective
  - D. Language and communication
  - E. Anthropological theories, methods and perspectives
2. Part Two: Families in Society
  - A. Subsistence patterns
  - B. Marriage, family, and domestic groups
  - C. Kinship
3. Part Three: Equalities and Inequalities
  - A. Gender and sexuality
  - B. Political, social and economic organizations
  - C. Social and economic organizations
  - D. Stratification: class and caste, social inequality and colonialism
  - E. Stratification: race and ethnicity
4. Part Four: Symbols and Meanings
  - A. Religion and belief systems
  - B. Creative expression: anthropology and the arts
5. Part Five: Cultural Change
  - A. Culture change and globalization
6. Part Six: Using Anthropology
  - A. Applied Anthropology, Medical Anthropology
  - B. Global problems
  - C. Professional ethics

## **7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**

Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Other (Specify): These instructional methods are intended to aid students in seeing culture the way anthropologists view it, by using key anthropological vocabulary, principles, and methods. 1. To do this, the aim of LECTURE is to highlight and organize the chapter material so that it can be linked to other previous key concepts, to cultural phenomena in daily life, to the special boxed information in the chapters, and to concepts that will be upcoming in the text. 2. DISCUSSION is part of the lecture where students may ask about what they have read or they may be asked to analyze sections in the text to explain how the vocabulary and principles relate to examples found in daily life experiences. 3. The ORAL REPORTS give the students an opportunity to read, outline, and present on a topic they have been assigned or chosen. In this exercise they summarize the information and/or react to it. In addition, this activity often invites students to contribute from their own experiences because the material itself touches many aspects of their lives so they can offer explanations, evaluations, and justifications. Finally, the chapter quizzes are based on this material, so students are required to remember the key concepts, examples, and conclusions. 4. When MULTIMEDIA (DVDs, videos, Internet, CDs) are used in class, students take brief notes relating the information to the vocabulary and principles that are being covered. In addition, these presentations supplement or complement or contrast with concepts in the text, and as such the students are asked to compare and contrast or evaluate among the various ideas.

## **8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS**

Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

### **Writing Assignments:**

Students complete in class writing exercises as well as written summaries of cultural events/exhibits. Additional assignments include summaries of current articles related to textbook topics. Films related to subject matter are viewed by students who submit notes on the content. Lecture content is also provided and students take notes on the topics. Essays are a component of exams.

### **Reading Assignments:**

Students complete weekly reading assignments in the assigned textbook and current articles related to textbook topics. Students read each other article summaries and comment on them.

### **Other Outside Assignments:**

Students attend multicultural events, farmers' markets, museums related to course content.

## 9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

- A. Class Participation
- B. Class Work
- C. Exams/Tests
- D. Papers
- E. Quizzes
- F. Written examination
- G. 1. CHAPTER QUIZZES: given weekly to evaluate if students have understood some of the vocabulary and principles, have distinguished the general ideas from the specific details, and can apply key words and concepts to an appropriate situation. 2. ORAL REPORTS: assigned weekly to students on a rotational basis to determine if students can summarize information, outline data, orally deliver the essential message of the article in 10-15 minutes, using notes only. 3. CHAPTER ESSAY QUESTIONS: assigned to students on a chapter by chapter basis on some important aspect to evaluate if students can find the appropriate information and outline it to answer the essay question fully. 4. CHAPTER EXAMINATIONS: given at least four times during the semester to determine if students can identify, apply, compare, contrast, and define key anthropological vocabulary, principles, and methods covered in the text. 5. EXTRA CREDIT ORAL REPORTS: undertaken on a voluntary basis to challenge students to apply key anthropological vocabulary and principles to other situations and/or research and understand more detailed information on a topic of their choice. -Examinations 70% -Quizzes 15% -Chapter Oral presentations 8.5% -Chapter Essay Questions 6.5%

## 10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):

Possible textbooks include:

- A. Guest, Kenneth. *Essentials of Cultural Anthropology, A Toolkit for a Global Age*, 4th ed. Norton, 2023
- B. Kottak, Conrad. *Cultural Anthropology: Appreciating Cultural Diversity*, 19th ed. McGraw-Hill, 2022
- C. Haviland, William, et. al.. *Cultural Anthropology: The Human Challenge*, 15th ed. Cengage Learning, 2017

Possible software includes:

- A. MindTap for Cultural Anthropology. Cengage, 1st ed.  
mapping cultures across space and time (2018)

**Origination Date:** October 2022

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**Course Originator:** Michele Titus