

CUYAMACA COLLEGE
OFFICIAL COURSE OUTLINE

ANTHROPOLOGY 120 – CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

3 hours lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description

The nature of culture; cultural growth and history; survey of the range of cultural phenomena including material culture, social organization, kinship systems, religion, language and other topics; systematic study of similarities and differences among cultures through investigation of selected societies.

Prerequisite

None

Course Objectives

Students will be able to:

- 1) Develop a greater understanding and appreciation of their own culture and other cultures
- 2) Gain knowledge which will contribute to understanding and performance in other courses as well as in day-to-day living
- 3) Develop a knowledge of and appreciation for other cultures and societies through the investigation of various contemporary societies
- 4) Understand the human cultural growth and development in prehistoric times
- 5) Develop and appreciate the ideals, attitudes and behavioral patterns which are essential in understanding cultural phenomena
- 6) Appreciate acculturation and pragmatic aspects of applied anthropology
- 7) Acquire some understanding of the procedures and issues involved in doing field research
- 8) Be prepared for upper division work in cultural anthropology

Special Materials Required of Student

None

Minimum Instructional Facilities

Standard classroom with maps, film/slide projectors

Course Content

- 1) Anthropology and the social sciences
 - a. Nature and scope of anthropology
 - b. Various subdivisions and specializations
 - c. Basic terminology
 - d. Application of the scientific method
- 2) The nature of culture
 - a. Culture as a determinant in human behavior
 - b. Working definition of culture
 - c. Role of value judgments and ethnocentrism in cross-cultural studies
 - d. Role of symbolic behavior
- 3) Review of physical anthropology and archaeology
 - a. Characteristics which enable humans to acquire culture
 - b. Human evolution and relationship to other primates
 - c. Methods utilized by archaeologists in the study of early cultures
- 4) The nature of cultural change
 - a. How culture changes
 - b. Cultural change by diffusion
 - c. Invention and discovery in cultural change
- 5) Social and political organization
 - a. Nature and variety of family groupings
 - b. Courtship, marriage and related cultural patterns
 - c. Kinship
 - d. Status, role and role conflict
 - e. Age groups, age sets, tribal fraternities and voluntary associations
 - f. Initiation rites and theoretical explanations
- 6) Culture and personality
 - a. Factors other than culture which may determine personality
 - b. Traditional C & P studies
 - c. The individual in culture and deviance
- 7) Religion and world view
 - a. Primary functions of religion in human societies

- b. Methods and techniques used in contacting, influencing and controlling supernatural powers
 - c. Psychological function of religion and interaction of man with the supernatural world
 - d. Interdependence of religion with other social institutions
 - e. Mechanistic and vitalistic world views
- 8) Linguistics
- a. Structure of language
 - b. Growth and reconstruction of proto-languages and historical linguistics
 - c. Language families of both Old and New World
- 9) Theory in anthropology
- a. Major theoretical positions
 - b. Differences between American ethnology and British social anthropology
- 10) Ethnographic material

Method of Instruction

- 1) Lecture and discussion
- 2) Films, slides, other instructional media

Method of Evaluation

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) Midterm, final exam
- 2) Research project

Texts and References

- 1) Required (example): Haviland. Cultural Anthropology, current edition.
- 2) Supplemental: To be determined by instructor