

The Community College of Baltimore County

Common Course Outline

ANTH 101

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

3 Semester Hours

Course Description

ANTH 101: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

Provides exposure to the comparative study of human cultures; examines cultural diversity and the concepts and methods anthropologists use to study culture.

Prerequisite: (ENGL 052 or LVE 2), (RDNG 052 or LVR 2)

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- determine the focus of each of the “four fields” of anthropology and the relationship of anthropology to the other social sciences; (I)
- apply the concept of culture and the cultural relativism approach in class discussion and/or writing about cultures different from their own; (1,11,111, 2)
- evaluate and critique research methods used in ethnographic fieldwork; (1,111)
- differentiate the key features of human language and explain approaches to studying linguistic diversity such as ethnolinguistics and sociolinguistics; (I, 2)
- differentiate the major forms of ecological adaptation: hunting-gathering, horticulture, pastoralism and intensive agriculture; (J,V, 2,3)
- determine the socio-cultural changes involved in the rise of civilization; (J,V, 1)
- analyze cultural diversity in kinship, marriage patterns and gender roles; (I,V, 2,4)
- analyze cultural diversity in economic and political systems; (I,V, 2,4)
- analyze cultural diversity in religious belief systems and the arts; (I,V, 2,3,4)
- apply information acquired throughout the course to show the interrelation of cultural phenomena in order to trace the evolution of cultural patterns from preliterate egalitarian societies to contemporary stratified societies; (I,III,VJ, 1,3)
- evaluate examples of applied anthropology in order to determine the effectiveness of using

anthropological knowledge to address social problems: (I, 4)

- determine sources of print and Internet information on cultural diversity. (IV,VI)

Major Topics

The four fields of anthropology

Culture

Research methods

Language

Ecological adaptation

Kinship and marriage

Gender

Economic systems

Political systems

Social stratification

Religion

The arts

Applied anthropology

Course Requirements

Specific assignments and grading criteria will be determined by individual faculty members and stated in each class syllabus. Students will be provided with numerous opportunities for evaluation. Evaluation of student performance must include some formal and/or informal writing assignments that offer evidence of students' mastery of writing within the discipline of cultural anthropology.

The assignments on which grading is based may include:

- ⌚ tests and quizzes; (VII)
- ⌚ formal essays; (VII)
- ⌚ exercises using the Internet; (VII)
- ⌚ class discussion; (VII)
- ⌚ group or individual projects (VII)
- ⌚ group exercises in class. (VII)

Individual faculty may include additions to the minimum course objectives, major topics and course requirements stated in this Common Course Outline.