

The Community College of Baltimore County
Common Course Outline
ANTH 121
Intercultural Awareness
3 Semester Hours

Course Description

ANTH 121: Intercultural Awareness

Studies differences in perceptions, values and patterns of interpersonal relations among contemporary peoples and analyzes intercultural interaction; sensitizes Americans to cultural differences to promote effective interaction with people of other cultures in both the public and private sectors.

Course Objectives

- ⌚ Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:
- ⌚ describe the components and properties of culture;
- ⌚ explain the concepts of ethnocentrism and cultural relativism and give examples of the application of both of these to cultural differences;
- ⌚ discuss the importance of Americans' understanding of the cultural perceptions, values and behavioral patterns of other peoples;
- ⌚ describe how subcultures in U.S. society differ in perceptions, values and behavioral patterns from the dominant U.S. culture;
- ⌚ analyze the relation between public policy and cultural differences among U.S. ethnic groups;
- ⌚ compare and contrast the predominant values of U.S. American culture with other contemporary cultures;
- ⌚ describe differences in patterns of interpersonal relations between U.S. American culture and other contemporary cultures;
- ⌚ demonstrate in class exercises the characteristics of effective intercultural interaction;
- ⌚ explain factors that hinder intercultural interaction and ways to counteract these factors;

- ⌚ analyze scenarios of intercultural interaction and identify both effective patterns and problems stemming from ignorance of cultural differences;
- ⌚ exhibit an attitude of cultural relativism when referring to cultural differences;
- ⌚ analyze ethical issues related to intercultural interaction;
- ⌚ use Internet resources to find information on other cultures.

Major Topics

The concept of culture

Ethnocentrism and cultural relativism

Cultural diversity in beliefs, values and world views

Cultural diversity in norms, roles, and relationships

Cultural diversity within the U.S.

The relation between cultural differences and U.S. public policy

Problems in intercultural verbal and non-verbal interaction

Ethical issues related to intercultural interaction

Intercultural interaction in specific settings,

such as business, education, health care, government

Analysis of cross-cultural differences between U.S. culture and specific other cultures, such as Latin American, Arab, and Japanese

Resources on cultural differences and intercultural interaction

Course Requirements

Specific assignments and grading criteria will be determined by individual faculty members and stated in each class syllabus. Students will be provided several opportunities for evaluation. Criteria for evaluation will include writing assignments that offer evidence of students' mastery of writing about cultural differences and intercultural interaction.

The assignments on which grading is based may include:

tests and quizzes

formal essays

exercises using the Internet

class discussion

group or individual projects

group exercises in class