INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

WELCOME TO ANTHROPOLOGY 2! This course will provide students with an introduction to culture theory as well as to the cross-cultural understanding of human behavior. Emphasis will be placed on subsistence strategies; marriage and kinship institutions; levels of sociopolitical organization; and religious systems; along with the effects of cultural change, mainly as a result of European expansion, industrialization, and globalization.

There are three parts to the course. Part I includes a basic introduction to the field of anthropology, to the methods of anthropological study, to the concept(s) of culture, and to the basic characteristics of human language. The emphasis of Part II is on the four social systems/institutions on which anthropologists focus their research: economics, kinship, politics, and religion. Part III will briefly address culture change, seen mainly as a result of European colonization, the development and spread of capitalism, and globalization.

Ethnographic material is incorporated to each main topic, in order to clarify the concepts discussed in lectures. Each topic will be subdivided into lecture, assigned readings, and anthropological videos. The assigned readings must be completed before the scheduled meetings, as they will enable you to participate in the ongoing discussions.

The following is a list of the course objectives. These are the major concepts you should thoroughly understand by the completion of the semester.

1. Identify the fields of anthropology and major subfields of cultural anthropology and explain which aspect of the human condition each field addresses.
2. Identify and explain each of the major concepts that make up the anthropological perspective.
3. List and assess the different methodologies utilized by cultural anthropologists in the field.
4. Analyze the changes exhibited in the ethnographic description of non-Western social groups from the 19th century to the present.
5. Analyze each aspect of culture (learned, shared, symbolic, patterned, adaptive, ever-changing) and discuss the major theoretical schools associated with each perspective.
6. Assess the importance of language in human communication and outline and explain each of the approaches used to the study of human languages.
7. Compare and contrast the various subsistence strategies (modes of production) utilized by human societies as they interact with the environment.
8. Compare and contrast the systems of exchange typical of foragers, pastoralists, horticulturalists, and agriculturalists.
9. Assess the importance of surplus in the development of social stratification.
10. Describe and analyze the major kinship systems and types of marriages present in human societies, and reflected by cross-cultural studies.
11. Evaluate the importance of gender studies in anthropology and identify the socioeconomic factors that influence the status of women in societies around the world.
12. Describe and analyze the various levels of sociopolitical organization achieved by human societies.
13. Assess the criteria for social stratification and the potential for social mobility.
14. Compare and contrast the characteristics and functions of religious beliefs and practices by making reference to the level of political organization (band, tribe, chiefdom, state) achieved by a society.
15. Evaluate the factors that account for the emergence of Movements of Revitalization in modern as well as in traditional societies.
16. Assess the effects of European expansion and colonization, industrialism, and globalization on developing nations in general and on indigenous groups in particular.

The following Student Learning Outcomes have been developed for the course. By the last week of class, students should be able to successfully complete the requirements outlined in the course level SLOs.

**SLO #1: Holistic Approach** On an objective exam, students will demonstrate an understanding of the holistic approach in anthropology by identifying the appropriate definition.

**SLO #2: Subsistence Strategies**—In an in-class objective assignment, students will demonstrate their understanding of subsistence strategies by identifying three of the four types recognized by anthropologists and by explaining five features that correspond to each.

**SLO #3: Levels of Sociopolitical Integration**—In an in-class objective assignment, students will demonstrate their understanding of political organization by identifying the four types recognized by anthropologists and by explaining three features that correspond to each.

The following Program Level SLOs have been developed for the program. By the last week of class, students should be able to understand the requirements outlined below.

**PLO #1: Four-Field Approach**—Students will demonstrate an understanding of the four-field approach in anthropology by outlining each field,
identifying which aspects of the study of human beings each field addresses and providing two examples of specializations within each field.

**PLO #2: Holism**—Students will demonstrate an understanding of the holistic approach by identifying how it applies to anthropological research.

**PLO #3: Stages of Research**—Students will demonstrate an understanding of the stages of research in the discipline of anthropology by properly identifying each step and its critical significance.

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**REQUIRED READINGS:**

Textbook

Nanda, S. and Warms, R.  
*Cultural Anthropology*, 11th edition

Wadsworth, 2014

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**GRADING:**

There will be three components to the grade: exams, short assignments, and participation.

1. There will be three exams, each of which will consist of multiple choice questions only. Each exam will be worth 100 points. Regardless of total points accumulated, students will need to take every exam in order to be considered for a passing grade in the course.

2. Students will be graded for the completion of ten writing assignments totaling 50 points (5 points each). You will have to provide typed answers to questions on assigned articles (I will provide the questions). The due dates will be announced in class; **late submissions will be penalized**: a reduction of 1.5 points will be applied to a paper submitted on the meeting after the original due date; and a reduction of 3 points will be applied to a paper submitted on the second meeting after the due date. **Beyond that, no submissions will be accepted.** Please, keep in mind that I consider these assignments to be a very important component of the course; I grade them on the basis of detail and on how much they reflect your understanding of the readings.

3. In addition to the exams and quizzes listed above, students will receive points on the basis of participation. The criteria for participation includes (but it is not restricted to) the following: attendance; good behavior and participation while in class; and the maintenance of consistently good grades or, at least, the gradual improvement of performance as exhibited by the scores achieved in exams. I will keep track of those students who are actively involved in discussions, mainly through answers to questions that I pose in reference to the readings assigned for the class (The maximum points allotted for participation will be 20).

Grading criteria is as follows:

Three exams @ 100 points each........ 300
10 WA @ 5 points each------------------ 50
Participation/Attendance------------ 20

Total possible points---------------370

A= 100-90% of total possible points (370-330)
B= 89-80% (329-293)
C= 79-70% (292-256)
D= 69-60% (255-219)
F= 59% and below (218 and below)

Note:
(1) **Attendance is mandatory.** Students with more than three absences will be dropped, regardless of student performance and how advanced in the session we are. Keep in mind that a tardy is equivalent to ½ absence.
(2) In the event that extra credit assignments are offered, students who have missed more than two meetings will not be eligible for possible extra credit points (no exceptions). Most probably, no extra credit assignments will be made available during the short summer session.
(3) Scantrons (Form 882-E) and #2 pencils will be needed for all exams. You will also need blank sheets of paper on which you will write the answers to essay questions. Exams schedules will not be extended beyond the allotted time, so you should arrive on time.
(4) Exams are based on text, lecture, and video material. Make-ups will be given on exceptional circumstances only (which will be assessed by the instructor), and only when consultation with the instructor is made no later than 24 hours after the exam, no exceptions.
(5) Cheating is absolutely prohibited. If a student is caught cheating during and exam, an “F” will be assigned to the exam.
(6) Please turn all cell phones off before entering the classroom. NO TEXTING DURING CLASS TIME IS PERMITTED (Failure to comply with this rule may lead to suspension from the class).
(7) **Students are expected to remain in the class for the entire length of the meeting.** Those who leave early without previous consultation with the instructor will be marked absent.
(8) There will be no negotiation on final grades, as the grade scale shown above has been adjusted to the lowest end of the spectrum. When calculating final grades, I will add all the points you have accumulated during the session. Your final grade will be based, absolutely, on the result of that sum. The only subjective component of the grade will be your participation.
(9) Any changes to this syllabus will be announced in class. **It is your responsibility to know of those changes.**
**ADA Statement:** El Camino College is committed to providing educational accommodations for students with disabilities upon the timely request by the student to the instructor. A student with a disability, who would like an academic accommodation, is responsible for identifying herself/himself to the instructor and to the Special Resources Center. To make arrangements for academic accommodations, contact the Special Resources Center.

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**LECTURES, READINGS, WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS, VIDEO COMPONENT, AND EXAM SCHEDULE**

(According to availability and scheduling, some of the films may be substituted)

Jan. 5, 6

**Introduction/ Anthropology and Human Diversity**

*Text:* Chapter 1

*WA:* “Body Ritual among the *Nacirema*” (hand-out)

*Video:* “The Nature of Anthropology”

Jan. 9, 10

**Doing Cultural Anthropology**

*Text:* Chapter 2

*WA:* “An Ethnographic Field Study in India” (hand-out)

*Video:* “How Cultures are Studied”

Jan. 11, 12

**The Idea of Culture**

*Text:* Chapter 3

*WA:* “Preschools in Japan, China, and the United States” (hand-out)

Jan. 12, 13

**Communication**

*Text:* Chapter 4

*WA:* “Genderlects” (hand-out)

(Martin Luther King’s Day, Monday 1/16, Campus Closed)

Jan. 17

**EXAM #1**

(Note: Exam #1 will take place from 10:30 to 11:55; the rest of the meeting will be dedicated to an introduction to “Making a Living,” Ch. 5)

Jan. 18, 19

**Making a Living**

*Text:* Chapter 5

*WA:* (1) “The Maasai of East Africa: A Transhumant Pastoral Adaptation”

(2) “The Lua”: Swidden Cultivators in Thailand

*Videos:* “Patterns of Subsistence: Food Foragers and Pastoralists”

“Patterns of Subsistence: The Food Producers”
Jan. 20  
**Economics**  
*Text:* Chapter 6

Jan. 23, 24  
**Kinship**  
*Text:* Chapter 7  
*WA:* “The Matrilineal Minangkabau of Sumatra”  
*Videos:* “Kinship and Descent, Part I”

Jan. 25, 26  
**Marriage, Family, and Domestic Groups**  
*Text:* Chapter 8

Jan. 27  
**Gender**  
*Text:* Chapter 9  
*WA:* “The Hijras: An Alternative Gender Role in India”

Jan. 30  
**EXAM # 2**  
(Note: Exam #2 will take place between 10:30 and 11:55; the rest of the meeting will be dedicated to an introduction to “Political Organization,” Ch. 10)

Jan. 31, Feb. 1  
**Political Organization**  
*Text:* Chapter 10  
*WA:* “The Connection between Wealth and Power in the Precolonial Asante State”  
*Video:* “Political Organization”

Feb. 2, 3  
**Religion and Ritual**  
*Text:* Chapter 12  
*WA:* “The Rastafari: Religion and Resistance to Domination”  
*Video:* “The Asmat of New Guinea”

Feb. 6  
**Power, Conquest, and a World System**  
*Text:* Chapters 14 and 15

Feb. 7  
**FINAL EXAM**

_I WISH YOU A VERY SUCCESSFUL SPRING 2017 SEMESTER!!!_