

U156-104: Cultural Anthropology and Human Diversity

Course Format: Online

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Course credits: 3

Pre/Corequisites: None; Appropriate for advanced high school and first-year or higher college students.

Course Description: A cross-cultural perspective of human cultures and the methods used by anthropologists to understand them. After studying the origins of human culture and learning the fundamental concepts and definitions used by anthropologists, you will conduct in-depth explorations of the Yanomamö and the !Kung San. You will also explore the historical development and diversity of modern-day societies, discovering ways persistently marginalized groups in the United States negotiate the conditions of exclusion and marginalization.

Required Course Materials

- Haviland, William, et al. *Cultural Anthropology: The Human Challenge*. 14th ed., Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2014. ISBN-13: 978-1-133-95742-3
- Nesper, Larry. *The Walleye War: The Struggle for Ojibwe Spearfishing and Treaty Rights*. University of Nebraska Press, 2002. ISBN-13: 978-0-803-28380-0
- Fadiman, Anne. *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and the Collision of Two Cultures*. The Noonday Press, 1997. ISBN-13: 978-0-374-52564-4
- Chagnon, Napoleon A. *Yanomamö*. 5th ed., Harcourt College Publishers, 1997. ISBN-13: 978-0-155-05327-4
- Shostak, Marjorie. *Nisa. The Life and Words of a !Kung Woman*. Harvard University Press, 2000. ISBN-13: 978-0-674-00432-0

Hardware Requirements

You will need a webcam, speakers, and a microphone. You will complete your exams through an online proctor, requiring all three components.

Course Learning Objectives

- Describe anthropology and the subfields of physical anthropology, cultural anthropology, archaeology, and linguistic anthropology and define the characteristics of culture.
- Describe the techniques used in the research of the four subfields of anthropology, particularly ethnography.
- Explain the factors that led to the social development of human culture.
- Identify the various subsistence patterns identified by economic anthropologists.
- Describe the biological and cultural reasons behind the development of marriage and the various forms of marriages.
- Define matrilineal, patrilineal, and bilateral descent and the sort of society they're most usually associated with.
- Discuss the various forms of political systems found throughout the world, including decentralized systems such as those found in bands and tribes, and the centralized political systems of chiefdoms and states.
- Describe the forms of religion practiced throughout the world, discriminate between religion and

witchcraft, and explain the psychological and social functions of religion.

- Explain verbal art such as myth, legend, and tales, and their functions in societies.
- Discuss voluntary culture change and its mechanisms, as well as repressive culture change, and revitalization and revolutionary movements.
- Compare the differences between assimilation, accommodation, and syncretism.
- Describe the effects of global corporations on worldwide cultural diversity.
- Compare global culture versus cultural pluralism.
- Discuss the problems of structural violence such as hunger, pollution, and overpopulation, and their effect on the future of the world's cultures.

Course Overview

MODULE #	MODULE TOPIC	EVALUATED ACTIVITIES
1	What Is Anthropology and What Is Culture?	Written Assignment 1
2	Ethnographic Research: Its History, Methods, and Theories	Written Assignment 2
3	The Beginnings of Human Culture, Language, and Communication	Written Assignment 3
4	Growing Up Human	Written Assignment 4
5	Subsistence and Economics	Written Assignment 5
		Midcourse Exam
6	Sex, Marriage, and Family	Written Assignment 6
7	Kinship, Descent, and Social Groupings	Written Assignment 7
8	Politics and Society	Written Assignment 8
9	Religion and Art	Written Assignment 9
10	Cultural Change	Written Assignment 10
11	The Future of Humanity	Written Assignment 11
		Final Exam

Evaluation Methods

Your final grade will be based on your performance on the following:

- 1) Written Assignments (40%)
- 2) Examinations (60%)

Written Assignments (40%)

There are 11 unit writing assignments in this course. Each written assignment consists of short essay questions that you are to complete and submit to your Course Facilitator for correction, comments, and grading. The questions emphasize key issues from the assigned reading. Most questions can be answered in an essay of about one page; some require longer responses. Base your answers on both the textbook discussion and the commentary. *Note:* be sure to include in your essays references to the text's case studies and to the assigned ethnographies.

Examinations (60%)

There are two required examinations, a midcourse examination (25%) following Unit 5, and a final examination (35%) at the end of the course, following Unit 11. Both examination have a two hour time limit and are closed-book exams; you may not refer to your textbook, notes, or other readings. In the midcourse examination you will be asked to write essay answers for ten questions based on the material covered in the first half of the course. The final examination has ten essay questions covering all material from the second half of the course. Students are strongly encouraged to review Course Facilitator feedback on all assignments before attempting any exam.

Exam Method: Online with Proctoring

This course requires all students to complete exams online with a proctoring service. Students receive two

attempts on each exam. If you elect to take a second attempt, the highest score of both exams will be recorded.

Grading Scale

The following grading scale is used to evaluate all course requirements and determine your final grade:

A = 93–100	B = 83–87.9	C = 70–77.9	D = 60–69.9
AB = 88–92.9	BC = 78–82.9		F = Below 60

Pass/Fail Option

Students who enroll in an Independent Learning (IL) course under the pass/fail option will receive a final grade of S in place of a final grade equivalent to an A, AB, B, BC, or C and a final grade of U in place of a final grade equivalent to a D or F.