

Miami-Dade Community College
ANT 2410 – INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Course Description: The nature of culture, personality, and social organization is presented with emphasis on the customs of pre-literate peoples.

This course fullfills the 2000 word requirement of the Gordon Rule.

3 Credits

Prerequisites and Co-requisites: None.

Course Competencies:

Competency 1. THE STUDENT WILL DEMONSTRATE A COMPREHENSION OF ANTHROPOLOGY AS A DISCIPLINE BY:

- a. examining its aims and purposes.
- b. differentiating among physical anthropology, cultural anthropology, linguistics, archaeology, psychological anthropology, and applied anthropology.
- c. distinguishing among ethnography, ethnology, ethnohistory, and social anthropology.
- d. applying anthropological concepts in studying other cultures and relating them to his/her own culture.
- e. describing the adaptive and selective processes underlying both biological and cultural evolution.
- f. explaining the methodology of participant-observation.
- g. analyzing its theoretical foundations and comparing and contrasting several examples.

Competency 2. THE STUDENT WILL ACQUIRE AN APPRECIATION OF THE COMPLEXITY, ANTIQUITY, AND DIVERSITY OF THE HUMAN SPECIES BY:

- a. reading relevant media and magazine articles, viewing selected television programs, reading related books and regularly attending class.
- b. identifying various strategies of adaptation.
- c. comparing various societies, both ancient and modern.
- d. sharing the attitudes of empathy and cross-cultural tolerance in class discussions.

Competency 3. THE STUDENT WILL EVALUATE THE ROLE OF CULTURE IN SHAPING HUMAN BEHAVIOR BY:

- a. contrasting social behaviors that are both learned and shared.
- b. comparing diverse cultures.
- c. relating a definition of culture and applying it to personal behavior.
- d. discriminating between culture in general and a specific culture.
- e. relating ethnocentrism, cultural relativism, real culture, ideal culture, symbol, cultural shock, and enculturation to his/her own as well as other cultures.
- f. interpreting the role of culture as humankind's primary adaptive mechanism.

Competency 4. THE STUDENT WILL ANALYZE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF SOCIETY AND CULTURE BY:

- a. differentiating between multiple levels of primitive social organization.
- b. identifying the basic elements of society and culture.
- c. interpreting the social behavior of non-human primates as proto-cultural and explaining the relevance of primate research.

Competency 5. THE STUDENT WILL EXPLAIN CULTURE CHANGE BY:

- a. distinguishing among discovery, invention, diffusion, acculturation, assimilation, bi-cultural, and cultural lag.
- b. explaining several examples of change in society and culture.
- c. relating the role of language in symbolically acquiring and conveying human culture.

Competency 6. THE STUDENT WILL EXPLAIN DIVERSE CUSTOMS BY:

- a. discussing cross-cultural examples of marriage, post-marital residence, family types, descent systems, and other examples of human social organization.
- b. comparing the social, religious, political, and economic institutions of other cultures to his/her own culture.
- c. relating the characteristics of the band, tribe, chiefdom, and state levels of sociocultural integration.
- d. distinguishing several distinctive patterns of human kinship systems.