

RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE

ANTH 101 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: ANTH-101 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

B. New or Modified Course: Modified

C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Spring Year: 2022

D. Effective Term: Fall 2023

E. Sponsoring Department: Humanities, Social Sciences, Social Work, & Education

F. Semester Credit Hours: 3 credits

G. Weekly Contact Hours: 3 Lecture: 3
Laboratory: 0
Out of class student work per week: 6

H. Prerequisites/Corequisites: Placement into ENGL 111 English Composition I with ENGL 070 English Composition I Workshop, or higher.

I. Laboratory Fees: None

J. Name and Telephone Number or E-Mail Address of Department Chair and Divisional Dean at time of approval:

Chair: Dr. Isabel T. Gutierrez-Bergman, Isabel.Gutierrez@raritanval.edu
Divisional Dean: Dr. Patrice Marks, Patrice.Marks@raritanval.edu

II. Catalog Description

Prerequisites: Placement into ENGL 111 English Composition I with ENGL 070 English Composition I Workshop, or higher.

Anthropologist's study human lives to make sense of a number of relationships: between the individual and society, structure and agency, and between ideas about the universal and the particular. This course will introduce students to the field of anthropology by focusing on essential topics in cultural anthropology such as religion, kinship, race and ethnicity, gender, language, food procurement, economy, and political organization. In this class, we explore how

culture operates in our daily lives and gives rise to difference, grounds similarity, and changes throughout time and space.

III. Statement of Course Need

- A. The course is one of two general introductory courses in anthropology and serves as a prerequisite for further courses of study in anthropology, especially area courses. The course also fulfills a Diversity Requirement.
- B. There is no lab component.
- C. Please describe the transferability of this course.
 - 1. This course serves as a General Education course in Social Science and Global & Cultural Awareness
 - 2. This course generally transfers as an Anthropology and/or Social Science program requirement.
 - 3. This course generally transfers as a Social Science and Liberal Arts program elective.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. This course meets a program requirement for
 - 1. Social Sciences, AA in Liberal Arts
 - 2. Education P-12, AA
- B. This course serves as a General Education course in the Social Sciences and can be used to satisfy the Diversity Requirement.
- C. Free Elective
- D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

- A. The concept of culture
 - 1. Historic Definitions within the discipline.
 - a. History of the Discipline
 - b. Colonialism and Anthropology
 - 2. Descriptive, Adaptive, and Symbolic Definitions
 - 3. Theoretical perspectives
 - a. Functionalism
 - b. Structuralism
 - c. Cognitive/Psychological
 - d. Symbolic
- B. The four-field approach/The American School

1. Cultural anthropology
 2. Physical anthropology
 3. Linguistics
 4. Archeology
 5. Applied Anthropology
- C. Methodology/ Ethnography
1. Participant-Observation
 2. Fieldnotes
 3. Interviewing
 4. "Writing" Ethnography
 5. Quantitative and Qualitative Methods
 6. Ethics in Anthropology
 7. Counter-Narratives
- D. Language
1. Importance of Language to Human Culture.
 - a. Whorf-Sapir Hypothesis
 - b. Symbolic Anthropology
 2. Descriptive Linguistics: Structures of Language
 3. Language Variation
 4. Language in Context: Language and Identity
 - a. Dialects, Language, Vernacular, Codeswitching
- F. Subsistence Strategies
1. Foraging
 2. Pastoralism
 3. Horticulture
 4. Intensive agriculture
- G. Economic systems
1. Reciprocity
 - a. Generalized
 - b. Balanced
 - c. Negative
 2. Redistribution
 3. Market economies
 4. Money
- H. Political Anthropology
1. Egalitarian, Ranked, Stratified
 2. Band, Tribe, Chiefdom, State
 - a. power, authority, and legitimacy.
 3. The inter-relatedness of subsistence, economic, and political systems.
 - a. Contemporary and historic examples
- I. Kinship and social organization
1. Kinship systems
 2. Marriage and family forms
 3. Incest taboo

J. Gender and Sexuality

1. Sex, gender, and sexual orientation.
2. Kinship and gender roles
3. Gender as a social construct
 - a. Cross-Cultural Comparisons
4. Gender Fluidity
5. Feminist Anthropology and Intersectionality

K. Race and Ethnicity

1. History of the Race within Anthropology
 - a. Scientific Racism and Colonialism
 - b. Race: Discredited Concept in Human Biology
2. Race as a Social Construct
 - a. Cross-cultural Comparisons
 1. How does race materialize in various cultures?
 2. Power and Race
3. Ethnicity
 - a. How is ethnicity self-defined and articulated by various cultures?
4. Ethnic Difference and Society
 - b. Acculturation
 - c. Assimilation
 - d. Amalgamation
 - e. Multiculturalism
5. The intersections and differences between race and ethnicity.

L. Religion

1. Defining Religion
2. Theories of Religion
 - a. Functional (Malinowski)
 - b. Structural (Durkheim)
 - c. Psychoanalytic (Freud)
 - d. Economic (Marx)
 - e. Symbolic (Geertz)
3. Elements of Religion
 - a. Cosmology
 1. animatism
 2. animism
 3. gods (monotheistic and polytheistic)
 - b. Ritual
 1. rites of passage
 2. rites of intensification
 3. revitalization rituals
 - c. Practitioners

M. Globalization

1. Overview and Early Globalization

- a. Colonialism, Empires, Religions, Railroads/Infrastructure, International Trade.
- 2. The Acceleration of Globalization (Post-WWII)
 - a. World Organizations (United Nations, World Bank, World Trade Organization, World Health Organization, etc.)
 - b. Five “scapes” of Globalization (Appadurai)
- 3. The Local and Global
- 4. Globalization and Neoliberalism

VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes

A. General Education Learning Outcomes:

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

- 1. Compare and contrast cultural practices and perspectives in the context of history, geography, and related artifacts. (GE-8)
- 2. Explain and/or demonstrate how data is gathered, analyzed, and used to draw conclusions. (GE- 5)
- 3. Identify and analyze behavioral and/or societal issues using appropriate social science theories. (GE-5)

B. Course Learning Outcomes:

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

- 1. Provide examples of how cultural constructs of race, gender, and/or ethnicity are formed, expressed, and materialized within different cultures.
- 2. Identify differences and similarities in language, religion, kinship/marriage, economy, subsistence, gender, race, and/or ethnicity cross-culturally.
- 3. Identify how culture is present and operates in everyday life, shaping peoples’ experiences in society.

C. Assessment Instruments

- 1. ethnographic research projects
- 2. service-learning
- 3. artwork and film
- 4. research papers
- 5. essays
- 6. journals/reflections
- 7. tests
- 8. case studies
- 9. presentations
- 10. discussions

- 11. quizzes
- 12. group work

VII. Grade Determinants:

- A. essays
- B. projects
- C. tests
- D. presentations
- E. quizzes
- F. group work
- G. reflections
- H. class participation
- I. discussion
- J. research papers

Given the goals and outcomes described above, LIST the primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course:

- A. lecture/discussion
- B. small-group work
- C. guest speakers
- D. student oral presentations
- E. film, media, and art
- F. student collaboration
- G. independent study/research
- H. service learning

VIII. Texts and Materials

- A. At least one ethnography should be assigned each term. Suggestions include, but are not limited to:
 - Barracoon: The Story of the Last “Black Cargo”
 - a. Zora Neale-Hurston
 - b. Copyright Year: 2018
 - c. Publisher: HarperCollins
 - d. ISBN: 9780062748201
 - The Way to Rainy Mountain
 - a. N. Scott Momaday
 - b. Copyright Year: 2019
 - c. Publisher: University of New Mexico Press
 - d. ISBN: 978-0826361219
 - Righteous Dopefiend
 - a. Philippe Bourgois and Jeffrey Schonberg
 - b. Copyright Year: 2009

- c. Publisher: University of California Press
 - d. ISBN: 978-0520254985
- Forest People
 - a. Colin Turnbull
 - b. COPYRIGHT YEAR:1962
 - c. PUBLISHER: Simon & Schuster
 - d. ISBN:9780671640996
- B. General Introductory Text (suggested, but not limited to)
 - Human Culture
 - a. Ember
 - b. Edition: 3rd
 - c. Copyright Year: 2015
 - d. Publisher: Pearson
 - e. ISBN: 9780205957231
 - Perspectives: An Open Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
 - a. Brown, McIlwraith, and Gonzalez
 - b. Edition: 2nd
 - c. Copyright Year: 2020
 - d. Publisher: American Anthropological Association
 - e. ISBN: 978-1-931303-66-8
 - OER

Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.

IX. Resources

- A. Classroom
- B. Academic Support Center
- C. Testing Center
- D. Library databases and resources
- E. Internet Access
- F. Service Learning

X. Honors Options N/A