

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (ANT 231)
3 Semester Hours
Department of Social and Cultural Analysis

Semester:	Instructor:
Section:	Office:
Time:	Phone:
Room:	Fax:
	E-mail:
	Office Hours:

Catalog Course Description

ANT 231: Cultural Anthropology (ANTH 2351) - introduction to the study of culture and its function in societies.

Program Learning Outcomes

ANT 231 is a required course in the Sociology Program for majors and minors. It supports the following program learning outcomes:

1. The student will possess sociological knowledge as evidenced by the identification of the major concepts involved with social stratification, demography, race and ethnic relations, deviance, and globalization.
2. The student will be able to apply sociological knowledge and skills to a variety of settings.
3. The student will recognize the implicit assumptions behind claims of knowledge about the social world, will be able to evaluate and distinguish between strong and weak arguments, and will be able to draw conclusions from a set of premises.

Core Curriculum Objectives

ANT 231 satisfies the university core curriculum requirement for three semester hours in the social and behavioral sciences. It supports four core curriculum learning objectives:

- A. **Critical Thinking Skills** including creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- B. **Communication Skills** including effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication

- C. **Empirical and Quantitative Skills** including the manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions
- D. **Social Responsibility** including intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to do the following things at a basic level:

- Identify structural elements (social, political, economic, and religious) of different cultures around the world (social responsibility).
- Recognize, apply, and critically evaluate anthropological methodology as it pertains to the study of our multicultural world (critical thinking, communication skills, and empirical and quantitative skills).
- Model the value of and practice of cultural relativism (social responsibility).
- Evaluate the ethical standards that anthropologists uphold (social responsibility, critical thinking skills, and quantitative skills).

Text and Materials (variations permitted with approval of department chair)

The following text is required for the:

Dettwyler, Katherine A. 2011. *Cultural Anthropology & Human Experience: The Feast of Life*. Waveland Press, Long Grove, IL.

Additional readings can be accessed through D2L.

Course Requirements: “Cultures in Crisis” Writing Assignment

Students are required to write a research paper in which they examine and critically evaluate how globalization is currently affecting one of four selected cultures (students choose one of the cultures that are provided by the professor). They will describe the history of the culture with regard to its values, politics, economy, and belief system(s). They then describe a crisis that is currently affecting the chosen culture as well as evaluating how a dominating culture that is imposing the crisis views the subject culture. The next section of the research paper is an evaluation of how the culture is responding to the crisis. In this section, students will produce a table and graph (visual skill-instructions about interpretation and construction will be provided by the instructor in class) demonstrating trends in the crisis over a period of at least 10 years. The trend will be comparing what is happening to the chosen culture specifically to the same crisis nationwide (for example, Inuit diabetes vs. diabetes in Canada). Finally, students will assume the role of a cultural anthropologist and provide a solution to the situation that is logical and informed by a critical evaluation of the crisis. (This assignment will be used to assess mastery of four core objectives: critical thinking, communication skills, quantitative and

empirical skills, and social responsibility.)

Course Requirements: Exams (variations permitted with approval of department chair)

There will be three exams for the course. The exams are not cumulative. Each exam will only cover the classroom material and readings since the previous exam. Exams will be a combination of multiple-choice and short-answer questions.

Course Calendar (variations permitted with approval of department chair)

Topics (At the start of the course the core objectives of critical thinking, communication skills, quantitative and empirical skills, and social responsibility will be directly addressed and then repeatedly reinforced as various topics are covered through the semester.)	% of Course Time
General Anthropological Concepts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics included: Culture, Race, Four Fields of Anthropology, Linguistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Critical Thinking: Race Project (AAA), US Census, Outside Readings Class Discussion ○ Communication Skills: Required Class Discussion, Short Answer Exam Questions ○ Empirical/Quantitative Skills: Compare and Contrast Social Data, Data Embedded in Lectures ○ Social Responsibility: Cross-Cultural Relativism vs. Ethnocentrism, Showing and Discussing Documentaries about Other Cultures, Relate Current Events to Course Content 	13%
Methods and Ethics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics included: Participant Observation, Surveys, Interviews, AAA Statement on Ethics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Critical Thinking: Outside Readings Class Discussion, Indigenous Cultures In Crisis Project, Short Answer Exam Questions ○ Communication Skills: Required Class Discussion, Indigenous Cultures In Crisis Project ○ Empirical/Quantitative Skills: Compare and Contrast Social Data, Class Exercises on Reading Statistics, Data Embedded in Lectures ○ Social Responsibility: Cross-Cultural Relativism, Showing and Discussing Documentaries about Other Cultures, Relate Current Events to Course Content 	12%

<p>Social Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics included: Kinship, Marriage, Gender, Sexuality, Social Stratification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Critical Thinking: Outside Readings Class Discussion ○ Communication Skills: Required Class Discussion, Indigenous Cultures In Crisis Project, Short Answer Exam Questions ○ Empirical/Quantitative Skills: Compare and Contrast Social Data, Indigenous Cultures In Crisis Project, Class Exercises on Reading Statistics, Data Embedded in Lectures ○ Social Responsibility: Cross-Cultural Relativism, Showing and Discussing Documentaries about Other Cultures, Relate Current Events to Course Content 	20%
<p>Religious Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics included: Magic, Witchcraft, Religion, Cults, Rituals, Rites of Passage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Critical Thinking: Invented Holidays vs. Actual Evidence, Outside Readings Class Discussion ○ Communication Skills: Required Class Discussion, Indigenous Cultures In Crisis Project, Short Answer Exam Questions ○ Empirical/Quantitative Skills: Compare and Contrast Social Data, Class Exercises on Reading Statistics, Data Embedded in Lectures ○ Social Responsibility: Cross-Cultural Relativism, Showing and Discussing Documentaries about Other Cultures, Relate Current Events to Course Content 	25%
<p>Political Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics included: Egalitarian, Ranked, Stratified systems (Bands, Tribes, Chiefdoms, States) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Critical Thinking: Outside Readings Class Discussion ○ Communication Skills: Required Class Discussion, Short Answer Exam Questions ○ Empirical/Quantitative Skills: Compare and Contrast Social Data, Indigenous Cultures In Crisis Project, Class Exercises on Reading Statistics, Data Embedded in Lectures ○ Social Responsibility: Cross-Cultural Relativism, Showing and Discussing Documentaries about Other Cultures, Relate Current Events to Course Content 	10%
<p>Economic Organization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics included: Subsistence and Distribution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Critical Thinking: Outside Readings Class Discussion, Indigenous Cultures In Crisis Project, Short Answer Exam Questions ○ Communication Skills: Required Class Discussion ○ Empirical/Quantitative Skills: Indigenous Cultures In Crisis 	10%

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project, Class Exercises on Reading Statistics, Data Embedded in Lectures ○ Social Responsibility: Showing and Discussing Documentaries about Other Cultures, Relate Current Events to Course Content 	
<p>Globalization and Multicultural Patterns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Topics included: Recreation, Creativity, Art, Worldwide Change, Indigenous Struggle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Critical Thinking: Invented Holidays vs. Actual Evidence, Outside Readings Class Discussion ○ Communication Skills: Required Class Discussion, Indigenous Cultures In Crisis Project, Short Answer Exam Questions ○ Empirical/Quantitative Skills: Compare and Contrast Social Data, Indigenous Cultures In Crisis Project, Class Exercises on Reading Statistics, Data Embedded in Lectures ○ Social Responsibility: Cross-Cultural Relativism, Class Discussion about Globalization and Cultural Imperialism, Showing and Discussing Documentaries about Other Cultures, Relate Current Events to Course Content 	10%

Grading Policy (variations permitted with approval of department chair)

The final grade for the course is based on the three exam grades and the overall project grade. Each exam will determine 20% of the final grade. The project will determine the remaining 40%. The final letter grade will be assigned as follows:

<u>Final Average</u>	<u>Grade</u>
In the 90s or 100	A
In the 80s	B
In the 70s	C
In the 60s	D
Less than 60	F

Attendance Policy (variations permitted with approval of department chair)

Attendance is expected at all class meetings. Excessive absences will result in a reduction in your final course average.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Withheld Grades

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor and with the approval of the department chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities

To obtain disability-related accommodations, alternate formats, and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD), as early as possible in a semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to <http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/>.