

**Eastern Illinois University**  
**Revised Course for General Education Program**  
**and Inclusion as Cultural Diversity Course**  
**ANT 2200G, Introduction to Anthropology**

**1. Catalog Description**

- a. Course level: ANT 2200G
- b. Title: Introduction to Anthropology
- c. Credit: (3-0-3)
- d. Term to be offered: (F, S, Su)
- e. Short Title: Intro Anthro
- f. Course Description: A comparative and scientific study of world cultures. Includes origins and development of human culture and the study of contemporary societies and their ways of life. S1 900N
- g. Prerequisite: none
- h. Course is writing active

**2. Student Learning Objectives**

- a. Learning objectives which help students achieve goals of the general education program.
  - 1. Understanding humans from a holistic point of view, which combines biological, cultural, social and linguistic aspects of humanity. (critical thinking)
  - 2. Understanding that the concept of race is a cultural construct rather than a biological reality. Learning to recognize the problems with the ways this term is often used in our society. (critical thinking, citizenship)
  - 3. Learning about the diversity of human cultures and developing greater understanding of why differences exist and tolerance for the differences that do exist. (critical thinking, global citizenship)
  - 4. Learning to appreciate the creativity and resourcefulness of humans throughout the world as they have adapted to their environments. (global citizenship)
  - 5. Learning to respect other societies and their cultural systems to the point that the student will understand that other societies have much to teach us. (citizenship)
  - 6. Learning to avoid ethnocentric ideas. Becoming aware of the results of imposing ideas from our cultural system on others. Learning to recognize such impositions by the U.S. and other modern nations. (global citizenship)
  - 7. Understanding of human biological and cultural universals; understanding those features which create a common humanity (critical thinking, citizenship)
  - 8. Learning to appreciate our place in nature. Learning about the interactions between culture and environment and how they affect one another. Learning to understand how we can live in better harmony with our environment. (critical thinking, citizenship)
  - 9. Becoming aware that tensions between societies and ethnic groups may be the result of misunderstandings between groups with different cultural systems. (citizenship)
  - 10. Becoming aware of the globalization of culture and learning about its effects on other nations and on tribal societies. (critical thinking, global citizenship)
  - 11. Writing papers which discuss important issues in U. S. society and involve comparisons to other cultural systems (writing ability, critical thinking, citizenship)
- b. Additional student learning objectives:
  - Achieving an elementary understanding of the biological and cultural evolution of humans.

**3. Course Outline:** (based on 150 minutes of class per week for 15 weeks)

The course begins with an introduction to and definition of anthropology. This is followed by a fairly rapid coverage of linguistics, human biological and cultural evolution and race and ethnicity. The third part of the course compares the life ways of various societies. The last part of the course discusses the modern world and cultural changes that are occurring at the present time.

**INTRODUCTION**

**Weeks 1 and 2**

Definition of anthropology and discussion of its four major divisions (Ethnology, Biological Anthropology, Archaeology and Linguistics). Anthropology as a holistic field of study. Relationship of anthropology to biological sciences, social sciences and humanities. The concept of culture. Problems of racism and ethnocentrism. Discussion of cultural relativism and ethical issues. Field work methods in anthropology.

**BRIEF OVERVIEW OF FUNDAMENTAL IDEAS OF LINGUISTICS, BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY AND ARCHAEOLOGY.**

**Week 3**

Language and communications. Non-verbal communication. Basic features of human language. Concepts of descriptive linguistics. Historical linguistics and language change. Sociolinguistics and linguistic diversity within modern nations.

**Week 4**

Issues of ethnicity and race. Definitions of the terms. Problems with defining human races and modern anthropology's objections to use of the term. Ethnic conflicts and "racial" conflicts in the U.S. and other nations. Explanations of biological differences among human populations.

**Weeks 5 and 6**

A brief overview of the biological and cultural evolution of Homo sapiens. Relationship of human beings to other primates. The origins and development of the hominids. The origins and development of culture (up to 10,000 years ago).

**STUDY OF VARIOUS ASPECTS OF HUMAN CULTURE**

**Weeks 7 and 8**

The material side of life. Adaptive strategies. The origins of agriculture. The natures of foraging, horticultural, pastoral and intensive agricultural societies. Ownership of productive resources and organization of labor. Exchange systems.

**Week 9**

Kinship and descent. Basic types of kinship systems. Comparisons of U.S. kinship system with those found in other societies.

**Week 10**

Political systems. Discussion of power and authority in various societies. Social control and systems of law. Comparison to U.S. society. War.

**Week 11**

Cross-cultural discussion of concepts of love and marriage. The economic and familial roles of men and women in various societies.

**Week 12**

Religion and magic. Ideas about the supernatural that are found in various societies. Similarities and differences among societies. Discussion of the role of the arts in human societies.

## CULTURE CHANGE AND THE MODERN WORLD SYSTEM

Weeks 13, 14, 15

The origins of the modern world system. The effects of colonialism. Discussion of how the modern world system has changed many aspects of culture which were studied in part 3 of the course. Globalization of culture. Problems of cultural survival. Anthropological perspective on some modern human problems. Applications of anthropology in today's world.

### 4. Evaluation of Student Learning

- a. Three exams and two quizzes will be given. These exams and quizzes will comprise about 80% of the total grade. The other 20% of the grade will be based primarily upon three short writing assignments.
- b. In addition to the writing assignments described above, each major exam will include an essay question.

### 5. Rationale

- a. As a holistic science, anthropology covers all aspects of the human condition, including biology, language, culture and social organization. Since the focus of this course is on the non-biological aspects of anthropology, it should be placed in the social and behavioral science segment of the general education program.

This course should definitely be included as a cultural diversity course. The course focuses on ethnology (cultural anthropology) which is the study of cultural diversity.

- b. The diversity of topics covered and the course requirements are appropriate for a 2000 level course. There are no prerequisites.
- c. This course is a revision of ANT 2200C and should maintain the same curriculum i.d as ANT 2200C.
- d. This course is currently required for sociology majors. It is also required for the anthropology minor.

### 6. Implementation

- a. Faculty members to whom this course will initially be assigned: Joanne Magalis and Richard Swartzbaugh.
- b. Textbooks: Cultural Anthropology (8<sup>th</sup> edition, 2000) by Conrad Kottak.  
Talking About People (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 1999) by William A. Haviland and Robert J. Gordon
- c. Specify additional costs to students: none
- d. Term to first be offered: Spring, 2001

### 7. Communication College Transfer

A community college course may be judged equivalent to this course.

8. **Date Approved by the Department:** February 28, 2000

9. **Date Approved by the College Curriculum Committee:** March 24, 2000

10. **Date Approved by the CAA:** October 19, 2000