

Northern Marianas College
CURRICULUM ACTION REQUEST

Effective Semester / Session: Spring 2012

Type of Action:

- New
- Modification
- Move to Inactive (Stop Out)
- Cancellation

Course Alpha and Number: AN 105

Course Title: Cultural Anthropology

Reason for initiating, revising, or canceling:

This course is designed to give students an opportunity to study people in terms of culture, thereby understanding world cultures in a deeper, more objective way. This course also enhances the student's knowledge of differing worldviews, helping the student to better understand current events both locally in the CNMI and on the international stage. Currently the college has no offerings in Anthropology and this course introduces an opportunity for anthropological studies.

Kaitlyn R. Neises-Mocanu  4/18/11

Proposer Date

Thomas D. Sharts  4/18/11

Department Chair Date

Barbara Merfalen 

Dean of Academic Programs and Services Date

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1. Department

Social Sciences and Fine Arts

2. Purpose

This course is designed to give students an opportunity to study people in terms of culture, thereby understanding world cultures in a deeper, more objective way. Currently the college has no offerings in Anthropology and this course introduces an opportunity for anthropological studies. This course also enhances the student's knowledge of differing worldviews, helping the student to better understand current events both locally in the CNMI and on the international stage.

3. Description

A. Required/Recommended Textbook(s) and Related Materials

Kottak, Conrad. *Mirror for Humanity: A Concise Introduction to Cultural Anthropology*. 7th ed. N.p., 2009.

Reading Supplement:

McCurdy, David, and James Spradley. *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*. 13th ed. N.p.: Allen and Bacon, 2008.

Readability level: Grade 9

B. Contact Hours

1. **Lecture:** 3 hours per week / 45 per semester
2. **Lab:**
3. **Other:**

C. Credits

1. **Number:** 3
2. **Type:** Regular degree credits

D. Catalogue Course Description

Cultural anthropology is the study of people in terms of their culture: learned and shared ideas and practices held in common with others. Based on participation and observation, anthropological methods have helped humankind to understand that few features of culture are universal. This course will be offered every Spring semester. Additionally, through the examination of anthropological case studies and/or ethnographies taken from a wide variety of cultural groups,

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comparative analysis will be used to highlight the fundamental differences and similarities among cultural groups. This course will also cover the origins and development of human culture and the study of contemporary societies and their ways of life. Students will study a range of topics and issues dealt with by anthropologists through instructional mediums such as: stories, interviews, film (both ethnographical and otherwise) and art, etc. In addition, anthropological research helps humankind understand the conflicts and injustice in the modern world and shed some light into those controversies closer to home in the CNMI. Through studying how cultures relate to each other and organize themselves as groups, the student will gain insight into the inner workings of his or her own culture. Prerequisite: None. English Placement Level: EN 101. Math Placement Level: MA 091. (Offered Spring)

E. Degree or Certificate Requirements Met by Course

Elective social science course for any AA degree program.

F. Course Activities and Design

The student will have a weekly reading schedule to be completed outside of class. The readings will include both anthropological case studies and chapters from the textbook in order to familiarize the student with a given course subject prior to lecture. Anthropological case studies will focus on a wide variety of different cultures and will provide real-world examples of concepts covered in class and the text. During class, the student will be encouraged to ask the instructor questions at any time as well as participate in class discussions.

Projects include but are not limited to: conducting an interview, constructing a kinship chart and writing an essay concerning some aspect of culture in the CNMI.

Instructional mediums used to present learning materials to students include: PowerPoint presentations, film, music, art, and guest speaker(s).

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**4. Course Prerequisite(s); Concurrent Course Enrollment;
Required English/Mathematics Placement Level(s)**

Prerequisites: None

English Placement Level: EN 101

Math Placement Level: MA 091

5. Estimated Cost of Course; Instructional Resources Needed

Cost to the Student: Tuition for a 3-credit course and textbook.

Cost to the College: Instructor's salary.

Instructional resources needed for this course include cited textbook, projector screen, dry erase board.

6. Method of Evaluation

Student grades will be based on the regular letter grade system as described below:

A: Excellent – grade points: 4.0;

B: Above average – grade points: 3.0;

C: Average – grade points: 2.0;

D: Below average – grade points: 1.0;

F: Failure – grade points: 0.0.

NMC's grading and attendance policies will be followed.

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7. Course Outline

This is a topical outline and does not necessarily indicate the sequence in which the material will be presented.

- 1.0 What is Anthropology?
 - 1.1 Human diversity
 - 1.2 Four major divisions
 - 1.3 Applied anthropology
 - 1.4 Sub-fields of cultural anthropology

- 2.0 Ethics and Methods
 - 2.1 Research methods
 - 2.2 Survey research
 - 2.3 Ethnography
 - 2.3.1. Techniques
 - 2.3.2. Participant observation
 - 2.3.3. Questioning
 - 2.4 Ethics in research

- 3.0 Culture
 - 3.1 What is culture?
 - 3.1.1. Learned, shared symbols
 - 3.2 Culture as adaptive or maladaptive
 - 3.3 Ethnocentrism and cultural relativism
 - 3.4 Culture change
 - 3.5 Globalization

- 4.0 Ethnicity and Race
 - 4.1 History of anthropology
 - 4.2 Ethnic groups/ethnicity
 - 4.3 Race
 - 4.3.1. Race as cultural category
 - 4.4 Social race
 - 4.5 Ethnic tolerance
 - 4.5.1. Multiculturalism and ethnic identity
 - 4.6 Ethnic conflict
 - 4.6.1. Prejudice and discrimination
 - 4.6.2. Hegemony and oppression

- 5.0 Biological and Cultural Evolution of Homo Sapiens
 - 5.1 Biological origins

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- 5.2 Cultural origins
 - 5.2.1. First material forms of cultural expression
 - 5.2.2. Early trade and social networks
- 5.3 Culture as means of adaptation
- 5.4 Transmission of knowledge as a means of survival
- 5.5 Tool use
 - 5.5.1. Tools as material culture
 - 5.5.2. Group identification

- 6.0 Economic Systems
 - 6.1 Adaptive strategies
 - 6.2 Foraging
 - 6.3 Cultivation
 - 6.3.1. Horticulture
 - 6.3.2. Agriculture
 - 6.4 Pastoralism
 - 6.5 Distribution and exchange

- 7.0 Language
 - 7.1 Basic features of human language
 - 7.2 Sociolinguistics and linguistic diversity
 - 7.3 Language and thought
 - 7.3.1. Language as expression of worldview

- 8.0 Families, Kinship, and Marriage
 - 8.1 Basic types of kinship
 - 8.2 Marriage systems
 - 8.2.1. Marriage across cultures
 - 8.3 Descent

- 9.0 Gender
 - 9.1 Recurrent gender patterns
 - 9.1.1. Gender across cultures
 - 9.1.2. Gender across economic systems
 - 9.2 Gender and oppression/violence
 - 9.3 Sexual orientation

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10.0 Political Systems

10.1 Power and authority in various societies

10.1.1. Tribes and bands

10.1.2. Chiefdoms

10.1.3. States

11.0 Systems of Order

11.1 Normative behavior and mores

11.2 Systems of law

11.3 Breakdown of order

12.0 Religion

12.1 Religious expression/art

12.2 Magic

12.3 Rituals and rites

12.4 Religion and social control

12.5 Types of religion

12.6 Religion and worldview

13.0 Culture in the CNMI/Micronesia

13.1 Micronesian history/archaeology

13.2 Current issues in the CNMI concerning conflict/diversity

14.0 Colonialism and Development

14.1 Colonialism and imperialism

14.2 Development

14.2.1. Concepts of first, second, third world

15.0 Culture Change/Modern World

15.1 Contact and domination

15.2 Resistance and cultural survival

15.3 Religious change

8. Instructional Goals

This course will introduce students to:

- 1.0 The four major fields and some of the various subfields of anthropology and the growing importance of anthropology as a science which studies human diversity;

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- 2.0 The principles, methodologies, value systems and ethics employed in anthropological scientific inquiry;
- 3.0 The defining attributes of culture and the mechanisms of cultural change;
- 4.0 The differences between ethnicity and race along with various sources and consequences of ethnic conflict;
- 5.0 The biological and cultural evolution of modern humans and the transmission of knowledge through culture as one of the greatest human adaptations;
- 6.0 The variety of economic systems found in human societies focusing on distinctions between foraging, horticulture, agriculture, and pastoralism and the principles that govern distribution and exchange;
- 7.0 Basic categories and definitions used to study language and the role language plays in thought and worldview;
- 8.0 The roles of families, kinship, and marriage in society;
- 9.0 Gender roles and gender stratification across economic systems and cross-cultural variation of sexual norms;
- 10.0 The four basic types of political systems and the social and cultural features correlated with each type;
- 11.0 How societies use systems of laws and norms to maintain order;
- 12.0 The role of religion in society and various types of religion and religious expression;
- 13.0 The rich history and culture of the CNMI;
- 14.0 The history and effects of colonialism as well as various aspects of development; and
- 15.0 The contact between groups and the acculturation and/or cultural change which results.

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9. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1.0 Describe the four major fields and some of the various subfields of anthropology and the growing importance of anthropology as a science which studies human diversity;
- 2.0 Demonstrate an understanding of the principles, methodologies, value systems and ethics employed in anthropological scientific inquiry;
- 3.0 Define the attributes of culture and the mechanisms of cultural change;
- 4.0 Distinguish the difference between ethnicity and race and identify various sources and consequences of ethnic conflict;
- 5.0 Demonstrate an understanding of the biological and cultural evolution of modern humans and appreciate the transmission of knowledge through culture as one of the greatest human adaptations;
- 6.0 Discuss the variety of economic systems found in human societies focusing on distinctions between foraging, horticulture, agriculture, and pastoralism and identify some of the principles that govern distribution and exchange;
- 7.0 Define the basic categories and definitions used to study language and discuss the role which language plays in thought and worldview;
- 8.0 Recognize the roles of families, kinship, and marriage in various societies;
- 9.0 Identify gender roles and gender stratification across economic systems and demonstrate an understanding of the cross-cultural variation of sexual norms;
- 10.0 Characterize the four basic types of political systems and the social and cultural features correlated with each type;
- 11.0 Examine how societies use systems of laws and norms to maintain order;

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- 12.0 Discuss the role of religion in society and characterize various types of religion and religious expression;
- 13.0 Describe the rich history and culture of the CNMI;
- 14.0 Outline the history and effects of colonialism as well as various aspects of development; and
- 15.0 Explain how contact between groups can result in acculturation and/or cultural change.

10. **Assessment Measures**

Assessment of student learning may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- 1.0 The student's presentation of some aspect of culture in the CNMI in and objective and well-written essay showing their own analysis of the subject.
- 2.0 The student's ability to express their ideas effectively in class.
- 3.0 A student conducted interview using basic anthropological method learned in class.
- 4.0 A kinship diagram, constructed by the student, using basic kinship symbols.
- 5.0 A midterm and final exam, in addition to quizzes throughout the semester. These exams will include multiple choice, short answer and essay questions. Both the quizzes and the exams will cover terms and ideas covered in the textbook and in class.