

\*SAMPLE\*

ANT-101: CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY  
Fall Semester 2013, Berkshire Community College  
Section 01: Mon/Wed/Fri 12:00 pm – 12:50 pm, Melville 215

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TEXTS: Required: *Annual Editions: Anthropology 13/14*, Angeloni (ed.), McGraw-Hill  
Required: *The Gebusi*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 2013, Knauft, McGraw-Hill  
Optional: *Human Culture*, 2nd edition, 2012, Ember & Ember, Pearson

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

From the catalog: “An introduction to the peoples and cultures of the world. This course investigates the factors that produce different ways of life, belief systems, and behavior patterns, and examines what is considered ‘normal’ from the perspective of different cultures.”

Skills Prerequisite: ENG 010.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Anthropology is, simply, the study of humanity in all of its aspects. There are four main subfields in anthropology: sociocultural, archaeology, physical/biological, and linguistics. These subfields overlap in scope and rely upon each other in order to be fully realized. Archaeology is the study of the human cultural past (mainly the last 10,000 years) through the examination of material remains and artifacts. Linguistics encompasses the study of the nature, development, interaction, and use of human language. Physical anthropology concerns humanity’s evolution, anatomy, physical variation, biology, and relation to the primate world. Sociocultural anthropology focuses on the study of modern humanity through the concept of “culture”.

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the concept of “culture” in all its facets and to teach students how to utilize this concept in the analysis of human societies. We will study a variety of topics as they relate to cultural anthropology, ranging from an individual’s role in his/her family to a family’s role in its community, all the way to the interaction of nation-states in the international realm. We will cover subjects such as kinship, sex and gender, religion and ritual, economics, politics, class, tradition, art, cultural change, and human rights. One of the main goals of this course is to convey the idea of “cultural relativism”: that although all humans share universal traits, different societies/cultures have very different ways of viewing, interacting with, and experiencing the world. It is hoped that students will learn to appreciate the wealth of human cultural variety and will gain an awareness of their own cultural situation.

TEACHING PROCEDURE:

The instructor will provide lectures based around, and expanding upon, the current textbook readings. The instructor will present additional information in lecture that will not be found in the textbook. In addition to lecture, the instructor will lead discussion of articles from *Annual Editions*. Discussion will consist of an open format where students will be expected and encouraged to demonstrate their understanding of the assigned readings, and more importantly, to analyze and evaluate the themes, arguments, and issues raised in the readings. Finally, the instructor will periodically show films related to the current topics of the course that will also be utilized for class discussion. Copies of all films will be on reserve at the college library.

## TEACHING/LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- I. Practicing how to think critically
- II. Utilizing discussion to elucidate ideas
- III. Grasping the art of relevant notetaking
- IV. Recognizing historical, cultural, and personal perspectives in texts and films
- V. Analyzing the contexts that have created humanity's variable cultural circumstances
- VI. Enjoying anthropology and cultural diversity!

## ASSIGNMENTS/GRADING:

Students are expected to complete the readings for each class session. These will consist of both the *recommended* textbook chapters and the *required* articles in *Annual Editions*. As discussion of many of these readings is significant to the course, participation in class dialogue is highly encouraged. There will be three exams (including the final), each covering one-third of the course material. The final exam will NOT be comprehensive. The exams will consist of 40-50 multiple-choice questions, plus an *optional* extra-credit section. Questions will be drawn from readings, lecture, and films. In the extra-credit section, students will choose one of three or four topics and write a short paragraph demonstrating their thoughts on, or understanding of, the topic; credit will range from four to seven points, depending on the quality of the response. If a student misses an exam, his/her grade on that exam will drop 5 points for each day that it is not completed. The final course grade will be determined as follows:

|                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| - Participation in class discussion | 10% |
| - Exam One                          | 30% |
| - Exam Two                          | 30% |
| - Exam Three (Final)                | 30% |

## ATTENDANCE:

It is imperative that students not miss more than one unexcused class meetings. It is official BCC policy that a student may be dropped from this course for exceeding that limit, at the instructor's discretion. If you are unable to attend class, you **MUST** notify me **BEFORE** the class meets. If special circumstances occur and you must miss an abnormal number of classes or an exam, you **MUST** notify me in advance so that we can discuss appropriate handling of the situation. Students are still responsible for all material, homework, and discussion presented in class if they are absent. Copies of all films will be on reserve at the college library. Get to know your fellow classmates so that if you miss class, you can borrow their notes.

## EMBEDDED CORE COMPETENCIES:

- Community and Global Awareness
- Human Understanding and Interaction

## TUTORING:

Tutoring is available for this course. Students are encouraged to take advantage of this helpful resource. Inquire at the Tutorial Center (K214) or ask the instructor about your options.

## SCHEDULE:

### Week 1:

WED Sep 4: Course Introduction  
FRI Sep 6: Chapter 1 – “The Importance of Anthropology”

### Week 2:

MON Sep 9: AE 3 – “Eating Christmas in the Kalahari”  
WED Sep 11: AE 9 – “Shakespeare in the Bush”  
FRI Sep 13: Chapter 3 – “Explanation and Evidence” pages 48-54

### Week 3:

MON Sep 16: Chapter 2 – “Culture” pages 15-25  
WED Sep 18: Handout – “Doing Fieldwork Among the Yanomamo”  
FRI Sep 20: Chapter 7 – “Sex and Gender”

### Week 4:

MON Sep 23: Handout – “A Woman’s Curse?”  
WED Sep 25: AE 21 – “The Berdache Tradition”  
FRI Sep 27: Chapter 8 – “Marriage and Family” pages 154-167

### Week 5:

MON Sep 30: Marriage and Family (continued)  
WED Oct 2: AE 16 – “When Brothers Share a Wife”  
FRI Oct 4: AE 18 – “Arranging a Marriage in India”

### Week 6:

MON Oct 7: Chapter 8 – “Marital Residence and Kinship” pages 167-180  
WED Oct 9: Kinship (continued)  
FRI Oct 11: Kinship (continued)

### Week 7:

MON Oct 14: NO CLASS – Columbus Day  
WED Oct 16: **EXAM ONE**  
FRI Oct 18: Chapter 5 – “Food Systems” pages 82-94

### Week 8:

MON Oct 21: Chapter 5 – “Economics” pages 94-107  
WED Oct 23: Handout – “Too Many Bananas, Not Enough Pineapples ...”  
FRI Oct 25: AE 34 – “Why Can’t People Feed Themselves?”

### Week 9:

MON Oct 28: Chapter 6 – “Social Stratification”  
WED Oct 30: Stratification (continued)  
FRI Nov 1: Handout – TBA

SCHEDULE (continued):

Week 10:

MON Nov 4: Film  
WED Nov 6: Chapter 10 – “Religion and Magic”  
FRI Nov 8: Religion (continued)

Week 11:

MON Nov 11: NO CLASS – Veterans' Day  
WED Nov 13: AE 32 – “The Secrets of Haiti’s Living Dead”  
FRI Nov 15: Handout – TBA

Week 12:

MON Nov 18: **EXAM TWO**  
WED Nov 20: Chapter 4 – “Language and Communication”  
FRI Nov 22: Linguistics (continued)

Week 13:

MON Nov 25: Handout – TBA  
WED Nov 27: Chapter 2 – “Culture Change” pages 25-38  
FRI Nov 29: NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Break

Week 14:

MON Dec 2: Handout – “No Place to Call Home”  
WED Dec 4: Chapter 13 – “Applied Anthropology”  
& Handout – “Social Psychology of Modern Slavery”  
FRI Dec 6: AE 41 – “Being Indigenous in the 21st Century”  
& Handout – “Der Indianer”  
& AE 38 – “Last of Their Kind”

Week 15:

MON Dec 9: Film – Part One  
WED Dec 11: Film – Part Two  
FRI Dec 13: AE 40 – “We Are Going Underwater”  
& AE 39 – “The Tractor Invasion”

Week 16:

WED Dec 18: **EXAM THREE** (Final) 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm