



## Internationalizing the Curriculum Project

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### ASB102 Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology—3 Credits

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- Course Description: Principles of cultural and social anthropology with illustrative materials from a variety of cultures. The nature of culture, social, political and economic systems; religion, esthetics and language.  

This course includes an introduction to fundamental concepts in cultural anthropology including ethics and fieldwork techniques. Cultural institutions such as systems of language and communication, ecology and subsistence, family and kinship, social roles and inequality, cultural economics, law and politics; as well as religion, myth, and magic are explored. Ethnological comparisons of over 123 different cultures and societies including micro cultures are pursued.
- Required Text: *Conformity and Conflict*  
Readings in Cultural Anthropology, 9th Edition  
James Spradley and David McCurdy

#### International Component Summary

The internationalized material utilized in ASB102 consists of a series of lectures focused on social problems of global dimension. Lectures are coordinated with dominant themes throughout the course. Encouraging students to openly participate in an informal and relaxed discourse evokes critical thinking.

In addition, each class session initiates with a brief discussion of current events, which revolve around issues relevant to the subject matter at hand. The instructor initiates the discussion with a summation of an event at the forefront in the news. Topics are local and global in nature. Once more, students are encouraged to openly participate.

No special instructional or supplemental materials are required. There are no special assignments involved in this international component. Activities include a free interchange of ideas and opinions in the classroom.

It is important that the instructor monitor time allocations for the international component and that the international component complement rather than replace basic core competencies. Establishing ground rules at the beginning of the semester is important. Students' contributions should be relevant to the discussion. Opinions and biases can be interjected but should be qualified and mutual respect should always be demonstrated.

A social problems focus is by definition, "negative." It is important to maintain an upbeat ambience in the classroom. Students often have contributed innovative and positive ideas for solutions to the world's problems. Invariably, students seem to feel empowered and demonstrate more optimism about the future when social problems are analyzed and pragmatic solutions to these problems are suggested.

The international component in this course includes the discussion of current events having local and global implication. These discussions are informal and occur at the beginning of each class session. In addition, the instructor includes in each class session, a mini lecture focusing on a social problem. A list of lecture titles follows:

"Do we learn from our past?"	"Human overpopulation"
"Lost languages"	"Poverty in a global society"
"Beyond sustainability"	"Global terrorism"
"The politics of economics"	"Lessons from our tribal superiors"

Lectures are coordinated with unit topics and are relevant to the subject matter at hand. Students are encouraged to participate and contribute. The classroom environment is informal and relaxed.

### **Tips/Suggestions to Instructor**

It is important for the instructor to monitor time allocations for the international components and that the components complement rather than replace basic core competencies. Sources (papers, magazines, etc.) should be easily available to students. It is also important to establish "ground rules" at the beginning of the semester so that student contributions are relevant to discussion. Opinions and prejudices are frequently interjected--these should be qualified while mutual respect is demonstrated.

When discussing social problems, which are by definition "negative," it is important to guide the discussion objectively and toward possible/pragmatic solutions.

### **Resources**

"Conformity and Conflict" Spradley and David McCurdy (9th ed).  
"Anthropology and Contemporary Human Problems" John H. Bodley 3rd Ed. (1996).  
Many sources of materials are daily newspapers, magazines, journals, internet sources, etc.

### **Syllabus/Course Outline**

#### **Course Objective**

To pursue an understanding of human behavior from the perspective of the cultural anthropologist. This course is concerned with the origins of human culture and the processes of cultural continuity and change. The instructor will demonstrate how culture is foremost, adaptive. Diversity of social and cultural systems from around the world will be explored and compared/contrasted. Practical applications to modern life in the Western domain will be emphasized. Lectures will focus on many global issues from a contemporary human problem perspective.

- Required Text: *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*, 9th Ed. James Spradley and David McCurdy

### **Course Competencies:**

1. Define anthropology as a discipline.
2. Define culture.
3. Define and contrast ethnocentrism and cultural relativity.
4. Explain the relationship between cultural areas and natural environment.
5. Define elements of an economic system in relation to societal types.
6. Define politics and the basic mechanisms of social control.
7. Define the concepts of social organization and its parts.
8. Explain the relationship of kinship descent.
9. Analyze the defining characteristic of marriage.
10. Identify gender issues as they relate to culture.
11. Contrast nonverbal communication and language, and describe the structural components of language.
12. Explain the functions of religion in culture.
13. Explain the impact of culture on the individual personality.
14. Describe the relationship of art and culture.
15. Explain the ways in which cultural change occurs and the principles of cultural evolution.
16. Compare and contrast developed and underdeveloped societies.

### **Topics**

*Introduction to the field of Anthropology.* (text) pp. I - 55 Lecture, video, discussion & review of selected readings.

*Research Techniques in the arena of Anthropology and a discussion on Physical Anthropology and Archeology.* Lecture ("Do we learn from our past"). video, discussion and review of selected readings.

*Language and Communication.* pp. 57 - 98 Lecture ("Lost languages"), video, discussion and review of selected readings.

*Cultural Ecology and Subsistence.* pp 101 - 150 - Lecture ("Beyond sustainability"), video, discussion & review of selected readings.

*Economic Systems.* pp. 153 - 1 89 - Lecture ("The politics of economics"), video, discussion and review of selected readings,

*Family and Kinship.* pp. 191 - 265 - Lecture ("Human over-population"), video, discussion and review of selected readings.

*Social Roles and Inequality.* - Lecture ("Poverty in a global society."). video, discussion and review of selected readings.

*Law and Politics.* pp. 267 - 305 - Lecture ("Global terrorism."). video, discussion and review of selected readings.

*Religion, Myth & Magic Culture Change and Applied Anthropology* - Lecture ("Lessons from our tribal superiors"), video, discussion and review of selected readings.