**Anthropology**

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Classroom: #919 Phone number: (314)415-5914

Welcome to this exciting elective class! Anthropology is the study of human behavior. As a social science, this discipline attempts to explore humankind everywhere, throughout time. Anthropologists seek to produce reliable knowledge about what makes people different from one another and what things all people share in common.

As a class we will explore many amazing cultural phenomena ranging from cultural concepts of beauty, cultural taboos, differing economic and political practices, religious beliefs, and culture change.

**Class Format**

We will have lectures, small group and individual activities, readings, objective tests, one or two projects, short writing assignments, and we will watch several relevant anthropological films and movies.

**Topics**

1. The Essence of Anthropology

* What is Anthropology
* Subfields of Anthropology

1. The Characteristics of Culture

* What is culture?
* How is culture studied?
* Why do cultures exist?

1. Patterns of Subsistence

* What is adaptation?
* How do humans adapt?
* What sorts of cultural adaptions have humans achieved?

1. Economic Systems

* How do anthropologists study economic systems?
* How do the economies of nonindustrial peoples work?
* How and why are goods exchanged?

1. Spirituality, Religion, and the Supernatural

* What is religion?
* What are religion’s identifying features?
* What functions does religion serve?

1. Politics, Power, and Violence

* How are power and political organization different?
* How are social and political order formed and maintained?
* How do political systems obtain popular support?

**Mini Topics**

* Cultural concepts of beauty/cultural sub-groups
* Archaeology: Do you have the “mind” of an archaeologist? (painting, smashing, and rebuilding pottery)
* Gender models from a cross-cultural perspective
* Ethnic psychoses and culture-bound syndromes

**Grading**

Grading is based on a basic points system: everything graded receives a certain number of points. The more points a student accumulates then the higher their grade. Grades (percentile scores) are determined by dividing the number of points possible by the number of points each student earns. **Note: *Those students earning a 90% or higher will not have to take the final.***

**Classroom Procedures**

* Assignments are due at the beginning of class.
* Missed tests and quizzes should be made up as quickly as possible. However, this is an elective and therefore if you miss a test/quiz in a core class you should give that class priority.
* Cheating will result in an “F” grade.

**Phone/Electronics Policy**

* When class begins all forms of electronics should be put away.
* The absolute only time a phone should be out is if someone in the class has asked for the class if it would be “o.k.” to get out the phones and I have responded affirmatively.
* If you use your phone during class without permission, it will be confiscated.