

**Course Objectives/Course Outline**  
**Spokane Community College**

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**Course Title: Cultural Anthropology**

**Prefix and Course Number: ANTH& 206**

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**Course Learning Outcomes:**

**By the end of this course, a student should be able to:**

- Identify and examine the economic, political, and social systems, language, religion, and the arts of a culture
- Evaluate the ways in which culture serves as a lens through which people view and act in the world
- Analyze the interaction of culture, biology, and the environment
- Assess the role of anthropology and the anthropological perspective in a globalizing world
- Acquire, analyze, and evaluate written source material critically

**Course Outline:**

- I. Anthropology?
  - a. Introduction to the four sub-fields of anthropology (biological, archaeological, linguistic, and cultural)
  - b. Introduction to how the field of anthropology is holistic, interdisciplinary, and global
- II. What is Cultural Anthropology?
  - a. Core themes and ideas in cultural anthropology
    - i. Inclusion of major historical and contemporary theoretical paradigms
  - b. Construction and use of ethnographic accounts
    - i. Inclusion of historical ethnographic accounts as well as contemporary accounts that utilize technology of communicate & conduct ethnographic research
- III. Economic Organization and the Environment
  - a. Sociopolitical Organizations
    - i. Bands, tribes, chiefdoms, and agricultural state
    - ii. Corresponding subsistence patterns
    - iii. Social stratification -- class and caste systems
    - iv. Warfare, Feuds, and Conflict Resolution
- IV. Kinship, Family, and Marriage
  - a. Kinship as a social structure: descent and alliance
  - b. Kinship as culture and process
  - c. Residence Patterns and Inheritance
  - d. Interconnections between kinship, economics, and subsistence patterns
- V. Globalization through an Anthropological Lens
  - a. Impact of Globalization (examples include but are not limited to consequences of neo-colonialism, world systems theory, forms of resistance among indigenous peoples, and uneven economic development)
  - b. Social inequality -- anthropological perspectives on race and ethnicity
- VI. Anthropology of Gender
  - a. Cultural construction of gender
  - b. gender multiplicity
  - c. Impact of Globalization (suggested focus: women's labor in peripheral industrial capitalism)
- VII. Worldview and Religion
  - a. Ritual, myth, and rites of passage
  - b. Religion among the different sociopolitical organizations (e.g. animism, shamanism, witchcraft, totemic, etc.)
  - c. Death and the Afterlife
- VIII. Anthropology of Migration
  - a. How do anthropologists study migration?

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- b. Exodus, dispersal, diaspora
- c. Case Study (Instructor's choice)

IX. Other course topics in Cultural Anthropology (at least two of these topics should be addressed)

- a. Anthropology of Food
- b. Aesthetics: Art & Music
- c. Medical Anthropology
- d. Urban Anthropology
- e. Cultural Ecology

X. Anthropology Today and Tomorrow

- a. Topics in this section are up to the Instructor of Record. It is recommended, however, that that are current in cultural anthropological literature and research be the focal point of this final section of the course.