ANTH 2351: Cultural Anthropology Sample Syllabus

Houston Community College offers an “anthropology major” with an Associates of Arts Specialty Degree in Anthropology. Consult advisers for degree plan. ANTH2351 fulfills one of the degree requirements.

Course Description
Cultural Anthropology is the intimate and humanistic study of human cultures, societies and the changing social, economic and political situations of a globalized world. Over the course of more than a century, anthropologists have sought to document the varieties of human practices and experience; the course is designed to take this wealth of information and expose students to the beliefs and practices of other cultures. It shows students how to use anthropological approaches to make sense of conflicts and controversies that may touch their own lives and communities. Broad course themes include race and ethnicity, systems of exchange, ritual and religion, gender and sexuality, ways of communicating, families and kinship. All of these subjects are interwoven into the complex whole that is human culture.

In sum, ANTH 2351 uses the best methods and models of modern anthropological research to provide students with a global perspective and a fundamentally sound appreciation for different cultures.

ANTH2351
Key concepts, methods and theory in the study of cultural diversity, social institutions, linguistics, and culture change among world peoples. (ACGM)

ANTH2351
This course focuses on culture, the ways people live and give meaning, form and organization to their lives as they adapt to various environments and conditions both in and beyond the borders of the U.S. Study of the descriptions and analysis of cultural diversity provide the basis for evaluating cultural components of everyday life including recognition of ethnocentrism, intercultural communication and understanding local and ‘global’ culture in a multicultural and transforming world. Core Curriculum Course.

(HCC Course Catalog)

Transfer Information
Cultural Anthropology (ANTH2351) is a fully accredited university course with transferable credit. As an elective in the Houston Community College academic Degree Core, it transfers as a Social Science OR Cross-Cultural Core Course. While there is no specific course prerequisite, this course is a sophomore (2000) level course and assumes commensurate reading and writing skills.

Prerequisites
a) Reading: Placement in co-requisite GUST 0342;
b) Writing: Placement into ENGL 0310/0349

Required Textbook
**Houston Community College Mission Statement**

The Houston Community College is an open-admission, public institution of higher education offering associate degrees, certificates, academic preparation, workforce training, and lifelong learning opportunities that prepare individuals in our diverse communities for life and work in an increasingly international and technological society. HCC will provide affordable and accessible education, university transfer and general education, workforce development, customized training, continuing education, adult literacy and developmental programs, personal enrichment opportunities, comprehensive student support services, and an environment conducive to learning.

**HCC Core Curriculum**

All students seeking an Associate in Arts (AA), Associate in Science (AS), or Associate of Arts in Teaching (AAT) degree are required to complete the core curriculum or a state-approved field of study curriculum. (See guidelines, HCC 2012 College Catalogue.)

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Course outcomes include that students should be able to:

1. Think critically about why cultures have unique and particular histories, beliefs, and practices.
2. Think about how different aspects of cultures (e.g. religion, family structure, etc.) are interwoven and do not exist as completely separate components.
3. Engage and analyze other cultures, both through course instruction and via lateral learning with peers from diverse cultural backgrounds.
4. Describe the collection of observational data and write a mini-ethnography of a microculture that has importance in their own lives.
5. Evaluate their own values and beliefs and reduce their ethnocentrism as in an increasingly globalized world this is a key component of social responsibility.
6. Push beyond their own social and cultural boundaries by conducting interviews, observations, and other projects designed to view the world from an anthropological perspective.

**Learning objectives**

After successfully completing the course, students should be able to:

1. Describe the history, subfields, and characteristics of anthropology, including its holistic perspective, comparative view, and focus on culture.
2. Compare and contrast anthropology with the other social and biological sciences.
3. Discuss the concept of culture and its major characteristics from an anthropological perspective.
4. Identify the underlying similarities as well as the wide range of variability of human cultures as valid approaches to universal human challenges, and relate this to student’s personal experience.
5. Describe anthropological fieldwork methods, emphasizing participant observation, interviewing strategies, and related ethical issues.
6. Describe the component parts of culture and their integration including: economic systems, modes of subsistence, marriage and kinship, social organization, political systems, language, religion, and art.
7. Describe how an anthropological perspective and approach can contribute to the
development of intercultural understanding and appreciation of contemporary social
issues and relate this to personal experience.
8. Evaluate the essential nature of human language and its relationship to human culture
and describe the role of linguistic anthropology in the study of human culture.
9. Demonstrate familiarity with some of the cultural and ethical issues confronting human
societies and how anthropology addresses those issues.
10. Describe global culture and globalization as a process shaping and shaped by local
cultures of human communities throughout the world.
11. Have had experience and developed skills in use of the computer, Internet and library
resources developed for use in anthropological research.
12. Have expanded individual competencies in each of the core component areas
including critical thinking, communication skills, social responsibility, and personal
responsibility.

Core Competencies

**Critical Thinking** – includes inquiry and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of
information, and creative thinking. Students will demonstrate critical thinking by
examining and evaluating data collected from cultures around the world on their beliefs,
values, and traditions. Students will be required to observe and describe cultural practices
as both outsiders and as insiders. Students will be evaluated on these topics through
papers, in-class assignments, long term projects, and discussions. Critical thinking will be
evaluated through 4-5 outside-of-class assignments that require students to apply
anthropological concepts to study cultures.

**Communications Skills** – includes effective development, interpretation and expression
of ideas through written, oral and visual communication. Students will participate in
group discussions and will complete four outside of class assignments where they will
have to analyze a topic, synthesize information, and effectively communicate it. The out-
of-class assignments, will require students to apply anthropological theory and methods
to their own lives. These projects will require students to effectively communicate their
understanding of course topics in a written format. There will also be one or more
exercises in which students will have to demonstrate their competency in written and/or
verbal communication skills with respect to class topics.

**Social Responsibility** - includes intercultural competence, knowledge of civic
responsibility, and the ability to relate effectively in local, regional, national, and global
cultural communities. Students will demonstrate social responsibility by reducing their
own ethnocentrism and learning appreciate other cultures. This concept is fundamental to
the course and will be incorporated into every class lecture. All students will be expected
to demonstrate tolerance of cultural practices with which they do not agree. Further,
students will have to demonstrate that they recognize how their own culture affects their
thinking and beliefs. Specifically, students will have to demonstrate social responsibility
by investigating and objectively reporting on a cultural practice that they might
personally find unusual or bizarre. Effective appreciation of other cultures will be
necessary in order for students to complete all assignments. All students will
demonstrate social responsibility by completing class assignments.
**Personal Responsibility**: includes the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making as demonstrated in successful completion of course. Students will take charge of their learning through effective time management and discerning choices in personal schedules and workloads. *Attending class, doing the assigned reading with care, completing assignments before due dates, taking notes, studying sufficiently for tests, and following oral and written instructions, asking questions and engaging the course material. *Appropriate use of “writing centers” and HCC tutoring services to improve assignments and enhance life long written communication skills. *Maintaining academic honesty and ethical standards in all aspects of student performance. *Development of self potential with responsible use of resources of the college. Students will demonstrate personal responsibility by completing outside of class projects that will require self-motivation, time management skills, and maturity. Specifically, students will demonstrate personal responsibility by completing one or more assignments which require multiple steps and responsible and ethical engagement:

Disclaimer: Course content may vary from this outline to meet the needs of particular class format.

**Grades.**
Your final grade will be based on your performance on the projects/tests/classwork that make up the course curriculum. There will be in-class activities and out-of-class assignments.  

**STUDENT ASSESSMENT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation For Grade</th>
<th>Grades</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation</td>
<td>Grades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities Workbook</td>
<td>90 or more = A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interview Assignment</td>
<td>80-89 = B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 1-10%</td>
<td>70-79 = C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2 -10%</td>
<td>60-69 = D</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 3 – 10%</td>
<td>Below 60 = F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam-20%</td>
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*Activities Workbook* - 36 pts. Attendance, graded class exercises (Internet and film), articles.

*Interview Assignment* - (14 pts.) Mini-ethnography/interview and write-up. Guidelines provided.

*Exams* - 50 pts. (3 exams and 1 final exam):
Objective questions (multiple choice, matching, true/false, etc.); term identification, and essay are typical elements of these exams. The final is cumulative.

*Optional Extra Credit Opportunity!* Read an ethnography approved by instructor.
Then complete ethnography review according to guidelines provided.

Student work will be evaluated for critical thinking, communication, social and personal responsibility according to the standards indicated above.
HCC POLICIES

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ADA – Disability Policy
Please inform me asap about any accommodation you will require for this course. Any student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the Disability Services Office at the respective college at the beginning of each semester. Faculty is authorized to provide only the accommodations requested by the Disability Support Services Office. For questions, please contact Donna Price at 713.718.5165 or the Disability Counselor at your college. To visit the ADA Web site, please visit www.hccs.edu then click Future students, scroll down the page and click on the words Disability Information. Northwest ADA Counselor – 713.718.5422

EGLS3 – Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System
At Houston Community College, professors believe that thoughtful student feedback is necessary to improve teaching and learning. During a designated time, you will be asked to answer a short online survey of research-based questions related to instruction. The anonymous results of the survey will be made available to your professors and division chairs for continual improvement of instruction. Look for the survey as part of the Houston Community College Student System online near the end of the term.

HCC Course Withdrawal Policy
Beginning Fall 2007, the State of Texas imposes penalties on students who withdraw/drop courses excessively. Students are limited to no more than SIX total course withdrawals throughout their educational career at a Texas public college or university. Students are encouraged to review the HCC 6 Drop Policy. To help you avoid having to withdraw from any class, contact your professor regarding your academic performance. You may also want to contact your counselor to learn about helpful HCC resources (e.g. online tutoring, child care, financial aid, job placement, etc.).

How to Drop
If a student decides to withdraw from a class upon careful review of other options, the student can withdraw online prior to the deadline through their HCC Student Center. HCC and/or professors may withdraw students for excessive absences without notification. Students should check HCC’s Academic Calendar by Term for withdrawal dates and deadlines.

For this Class: Last day for administrative withdrawal is XXXXXX by 4:30 p.m.

COURSE POLICIES
Attendance: Attendance = being present in class for the full class period. Arrive for class on time! There is an attendance penalty for habitual tardiness. In cases of borderline grades, attendance in class is particularly important. Students are expected to attend and will be
evaluated for class participation. According to HCC policy, in a 3-credit course, students may be dropped after 6 hours (4 classes) of absence. Students are responsible for their enrollment status and dropping if they do not plan to complete the course. Points are deducted from the final numeric grade for the course for each class absence.

**Make-up Work:** All assignments are due and exams are to be taken on the posted dates. Missed class exercises cannot be made up. Make-up exams **may** be given at the discretion of the instructor - and with penalty (10%), but only to students with excused and documented absences. In any case, students may not request more than one make-up exam. Notify the instructor in advance if you anticipate a problem.

**Classroom Protocol:** Students will discuss protocol if doc.

Each student IS important and brings unique contributions to class discussion and learning. Make it a personal goal to "contribute actively" in class. *Laptops are permitted ONLY for taking notes or doing assigned Internet work in class!* *Electronic devices are prohibited during class and exams! Turn-off & put away cell phones! "No texting"! *Courtesy means: attention to class activity, speakers! Leaving class during lecture or film, dozing, reading homework or textbooks for other classes is rude and notable! *Arrive ON TIME! Habitual tardiness is disruptive to class and is noted on attendance record.

**Instructor Requirements**
As your Instructor, it is my responsibility to:

- Provide the grading scale and detailed grading formula explaining how student grades are to be derived
- Facilitate an effective learning environment through class activities, discussions, and lectures
- Description of any special projects or assignments
- Inform students of policies such as attendance, withdrawal, tardiness and make up
- Provide the course outline and class calendar which will include a description of any special projects or assignments
- Arrange to meet with individual students before and after class as required

**Student Requirements**
To be successful in this class, it is the student’s responsibility to:

- Attend class and participate in class discussions and activities
- Read and comprehend the textbook
- Complete the required assignments and exams
- Ask for help when there is a question or problem
- Keep copies of all paperwork, including this syllabus, handouts and all assignments
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Class Schedule</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unit I. INTRODUCTION: Studying Human Culture with Anthropology</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>[Print out Syllabus and Organize Notebook.]</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><em>What is Anthropology and Why Should I Care?</em></td>
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<td>2</td>
<td><em>Culture Counts</em></td>
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<td>3</td>
<td><em>Doing Cultural Anthropology: Theory and Method</em></td>
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<td>4</td>
<td><em>Communication &amp; Anthropological Linguistics</em></td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>EXAM</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>ETHNOLOGY: Systematic Description and Comparison of Human Cultures</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td><em>Making A Living</em></td>
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<td>8</td>
<td><em>Economics</em></td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>ETHNOLOGY (cont.): Social Identities: Marriage, Family, Kinship/ Gender</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td><em>Marriage, Family and Kinship</em></td>
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<td>11</td>
<td><em>Sex and Gender</em></td>
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<td>12</td>
<td><em>Political Organization</em></td>
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<td>13</td>
<td><em>Inequalities</em></td>
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<td>14</td>
<td><em>Religion</em></td>
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<td><strong>Making of the Modern World:</strong> Context for Anthropology &amp; Colonialism</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td><em>Power, Conquest and the World System</em></td>
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<td>16</td>
<td><em>Globalization and Change</em></td>
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<td>17</td>
<td><em>Applying Anthropology</em></td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Review for Final Exam. Final Exam</td>
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</table>
| **NOTE:** Instructor reserves the right to revise syllabus as needed!