

COURSE DETAIL

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Country

Netherlands

Host Institution

Utrecht University - University College Utrecht

Program(s)

University College Utrecht

UCEAP Course Level

Lower Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Anthropology

UCEAP Course Number

25

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

UCEAP Transcript Title

INTROSOC&CULTRANTH

UCEAP Quarter Units

6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

Course Description

This course provides an anthropological perspective on the cultural variation among human societies by examining the history, foundations, and some key cases of the discipline. The course consists of two parts. Part I introduces the history and development of some of the basic concepts, approaches, and research methods of social and cultural anthropology. It does this using a critical reading of Evans-Pritchard's classic *Witchcraft, Oracles and Magic among the Azande* which is used as an instrument to understand the discipline's historical development and its relevance today. Selected readings from Nanda and Warms' textbook, *Cultural Anthropology*, establish the principal areas of anthropological inquiry. Students gain insight into ethnographic methodology through a field visit involving preparation, and observation description. Part II develops the conceptual and ethnographic insights acquired in Part I through the study of globalization and Brazilian urban culture. Donna Goldstein's ethnography of a Rio de Janeiro shantytown demonstrates the continuing relevance of cultural anthropology for the study of contemporary post-industrial society. Goldstein portrays the lives of the poor in a Brazilian favela, conveying the most intimate and hidden details of their lives: from crime and sexuality to responsibilities of kinship and friendship, to childhood dreams of riches and the search for dignity. This focus on problems of the inner city shows the consequences of polarized race, class, and gender relations, the relationship between culture and the economy, and between individual responsibilities, and agency structural constraints. Relevant chapters of Nanda and Warms' textbook and several articles provide a conceptual framework for Goldstein's ethnography. Students gain further insight into ethnographic methodology and questions of representation through a field visit to an ethnographic museum.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

UCSSCANT11

Host Institution Course Title

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Host Institution Course Details

<https://cursusplanner.uu.nl/Curriculum>

Host Institution Campus

University College Utrecht

Host Institution Faculty

Social Sciences

Host Institution Degree**Host Institution Department**

Anthropology

Course Last Reviewed

2024-2025

[Print](#)