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

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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

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