

KINGSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY 03700

Course Description: A comparative study of the human condition in various societies and its application in solving practical problems. Topics include: human evolution, the meaning of our physical diversity, communication, miscommunication, and past and present cultural diversity.

Anthropology Defined: Anthropology is the study of human culture, biology and language in modern times and in the past. It identifies, explains and interprets patterns and processes of human culture. The discipline has four subfields: physical anthropology, cultural anthropology, archaeology and linguistics. It provides alternative views on the nature of society and explores the individual's relationship to the social world.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will evaluate anthropological information from a variety of sources, utilize critical thinking about what it means to be human and examine information from multiple cultural perspectives. They will produce written and oral arguments using these sources and perspectives.
2. Students will explain and analyze the diversity of economic, political, religious, gender, kinship, language and cultural change in the modern world and the past using the anthropological holistic perspective.
3. Students will analyze and discuss the role of race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexual orientation and beliefs in a cross-cultural perspective. They will compile examples of cultural bias, ethnocentrism and social injustice; they will be able to demonstrate how cultural relativism will foster respect for other behaviors.
4. Students will debate the effects/impacts of globalization and global cultural diversity on peoples and cultures around the world.
5. Students will increase their awareness of racial and/or cultural diversity, and develop reflexivity about their own place in society.
6. The students will gain competency in understanding key anthropological concepts, methods and terminology. They will recognize the four-field approach and define each sub-discipline.
7. Students will recognize the scientific process of discovery. Students will discover the major changes in primate and human evolution over the last 65 million years.
9. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the use of material culture in exploration of past cultures and analyze the historical development of non-western societies.

Required Text: *Human Evolution and Culture: Highlights of Anthropology* by Carol R. Ember, Melvin Ember, Peter N. Peregrine. Pearson, Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ. Used books are recommended; there is also an on-line book.

Course Requirements:

Exams: There will be three multiple choice and true/false exams in this course: one of which will be your final. The first and second exam will be held during the regular scheduled class. The third exam or final exam will not be cumulative and will be held during the announced final exam schedule. These exams will account for 75% of your grade. Missed or Late Exams: Students who miss an exam or are over 30 minutes late on the day of any exam (including the final) will be given a fill-in-the-blank and essay exam. They will not be allowed to take the exam given to the rest of the class.

Immigration Project: You will be required to complete the immigration interview and analysis project. This project will count for 15% of your class grade.

Participation: Participation will count for 10% of your grade. This is basically a grade awarded to students who pay attention, have good attendance and are respectful to other students in class. Like the other grades, you must earn it. Come into class ready for class, do not come in late, do not leave during the class and silence your phones.

- Students are allowed 6 absences. Attendance will be taken at the very beginning of class. Do not come up after class and explain your absences, there are no excused absences. Students who miss six or more classes will be assigned a “WU” mark at the end of the semester. No exceptions! Students who miss 5 classes will lose points.
- Use of your cell phone will significantly lower your conduct score. Texting on occasion is acceptable and will result in no point loss. Constant texting, allowing your phone to ring, answering the phone while in class, leaving to talk on the phone will significantly lower your conduct score.
- Respect for each other is a requirement of this class! While in class, all discussion and talking should be on an anthropological topic and shared with the entire class.

Plagiarism: All class projects will be sent to “SafeAssign”, the anti-plagiarism software. Any student with a score 11% or higher (and up to 39%) will have to re-write the copied sections of the project. Any student with a score of 40% or higher will have to pick a completely different topic and write a brand new project. All assignments must be the original work and ideas of the student. Any assignment or part of an assignment that is copied from another source will be grounds for failing the course. This includes information from the internet or another student. Cheating on an exam is an automatic failure of the exam and course. The professor will turn all plagiarized work into the Dean’s office.

Reading and Exam Schedule for the week of:

Feb 27: The Concept of Culture, History of Anthropology
Readings- Ember Chapters 1 and 4

March 5: Culture, Economics and Social Structure
Readings- Chapters 11 and 12

March 12: Culture Diversity, Religion
Readings- Chapters 9 and 10

March 19: Culture- Family, Marriage and Sex
Readings- Chapters 13 and 14

March 26: Evolution; **First Exam Tuesday, March 27.**
Readings- Chapter 3

April 2: Evolution and Primates
Readings- Chapter 5

Spring Break!

April 16: Primate Behavior
(Preview of Immigration Projects)
Readings- Chapter 2

April 23: Early Human Evolution
Readings- Chapter 6

April 30: Early Human Evolution continued...;
Second Exam- Tuesday, May 1
Readings- Chapter 6

May 7: Human Evolution;
Readings- Chapter 7
Immigration Project due May 10.

May 14: Modern Humans and Neanderthals;
Additional Readings will be required.

May 21: Development of Agriculture, Growth of Civilizations
Readings- Chapters 8;

May 28: Contact Between the New and Old World; Colonialization
Additional Readings will be required.

June 4 - 10: Final Exam- see schedule for date, place and time