

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

Course Profile

Course Number : HSS 331	Course Title : Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
Required / Elective: elective	Pre / Co-requisites : -
Catalog Description: The central ideas, methods, and debates in the anthropological study of human thought and behavior. Surveys of ways of life in many different societies. The ways anthropologists have tried to understand societies. Hands-on ethnographic research. Tools and techniques for research and analysis.	Textbook / Required Material :
Course Structure / Schedule : (3+0+0) 3 / 6 ECTS	
<p>Extended Description : Cultural anthropology is a field that is concerned with the understanding and analysis of the diverse cultures of the world. It is based on the idea that all levels of social interaction are mediated by culture, an invisible field of practices and meanings which we only see clearly when confronted with other cultures. In the current study of cultures two basic premises are fundamental: firstly, everyone is a bearer of culture and secondly, all cultures are equally worthy of analysis and attention. Anthropology emerged as a field of study in the 19th century during European discovery and colonial expansion. Earlier studies focused on small scale ‘primitive’ societies but throughout the 20th century and the 21st, it has become a multi-faceted field focusing on urban communities, corporations, markets, on media and the arts, violence and injustice stemming from global change. Cultural anthropology and its methods provide us with excellent tools to understand the cultural underpinnings of a broad range of social and political phenomena and can help us become equipped to understand local and global transformations around us.</p>	
Design content : none	Computer usage: No special usage required
<p>Course Outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe how the idea of cultural construction applies to oneself and others (12,14) 2. Describe how the culture concept and cultural relativity informs anthropological thinking. (6,9) 3. Summarize the emergence of cultural anthropology and how knowledge making is shaped by political and scientific contexts. (5,6) 4. Apply knowledge of fieldwork practice and the ethical debates surrounding this methodology to a short project (7, 12, 9, 14) 5. Describe the different applications of cultural anthropology to global problems (1,14) <p>1. Apply analytical and critical thinking to current global issues.</p> <p>5. Explain historical, political, and material conditions in which artistic and cultural expression emerge.</p> <p>6. Analyze how modes of thought are shaped by socio-political, historical, and economic variables.</p> <p>7. Apply discipline-relevant methods to HSS research projects.</p> <p>9. Recognize ethical issues and social responsibilities in the contemporary world.</p>	

10. Synthesize complex ideas in clear, concise ways.
12. Recognize relevance of coursework to personal experiences.
14. Demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively with written, oral, and visual means.

Recommended reading

Teaching methods

Some lecture, mostly hands-on work

Assessment methods

Midterm

Final

Short ethnographic projects

Student workload:

Preparatory reading40 hrs

Lectures and workshop 45 hrs

Fieldwork 40 hrs

Writing 25 hrs

TOTAL 150 hrs

Prepared by : Meltem Türköz

Revision Date : 03.03.2010