

J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary

Course Prefix and Number: SOC 210

Credits: 3

Course Title: Survey of Physical and Cultural Anthropology

Course Description: Examines physical characteristics and lifestyles of human ancestors and present populations. Explores cultures from around the world to study diverse adaptations made by humans.
Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in Co-requisites ENG 111 and ENF 3. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose:

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:

Prerequisite: Placement in ENG 111 or placement in **Co-requisites** ENG 111 and ENF 3

Course Objectives:

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- a. Identify and understand key concepts of the four major subfields of anthropology: physical anthropology, linguistics, archaeology, and cultural anthropology.
- b. Understand and explain how these subfields relate to each other, other social sciences, and the humanities.
- c. Understand and appreciate the diversity of human cultures.
- d. Explain the relationship between language and culture.
- e. Explain how anthropology is an applied science and how, in a culturally appropriate and sensitive manner, it can be instrumental in fostering understanding of and improvement in the lives of others.
- f. Explain the theoretical foundations and ethics of anthropology.
- g. Identify and explain the major research methods used by anthropologists (physical and cultural).
- h. Identify and describe the major components of modern societies (i.e., economic systems, family systems, political systems, religion/spirituality).
- i. Explain how and why the major components of societies develop differently depending on various physical, cultural, and social conditions.
- j. Utilize a scientific rather than “common sense” approach to analyzing and understanding society, culture, and his/her own life.
- k. Meaningfully use anthropological concepts in oral and written communications.
- l. Derive tentative conclusions based upon interrelated facts rather than opinions.
- m. Demonstrate effective, college-level speaking and writing skills.
- n. Demonstrate competency in locating, understanding, organizing, and applying information.

Major Topics to Be Included:

- a. Physical/biological anthropology
- b. Human development and variation
- c. Language and culture
- d. Economic and political organization
- e. Family and kinship ties
- f. Evolution of societies
- g. Stratification, sex, and gender
- h. Medicine, religion, and magic
- i. Anthropology in modern life

Effective Date of Course Content Summary: Spring, 2014