

ANTH 200

CULTURAL AND SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Karoline Guelke

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course provides students with an overview of social and cultural anthropology – its origins, its distinctive methods and concepts, and its contribution to contemporary challenges. Students will learn how to apply an anthropological perspective to understanding human beliefs and behaviours in different societies, as well as reflect on the cultural factors that shape their own lives. Specific topics examined include marriage and family systems, subsistence strategies, language, supernatural beliefs, inequality, culture change and globalization. We will also discuss how a cross-cultural understanding of culture and diversity can be applied constructively in solving contemporary problems.

Students will:

- gain an in-depth understanding of the concept of culture and its significance as the human mechanism for adapting to and transforming the world
- understand the historical developments that have shaped sociocultural anthropology and its current key concepts and theories
- apply concepts like cultural relativism and a holistic perspective to examining cross-cultural variations of human beliefs and behaviours
- learn to think about contemporary events from an anthropological perspective
- identify and challenge cultural biases, ethnocentric assumptions, and the foundations of discrimination
- gain a better understanding of Indigenous peoples, histories and cultures, and the impact of colonization on individuals, families and communities
- learn about ethnographic research and ethical standards

SKILLS DEVELOPEMENT

Because this is an introductory course, it will offer the opportunity to exercise a wide variety of skills that are crucial in students' academic and professional careers. These include critical reading, analytical thinking, intercultural communication and the ability to undertake effective secondary research using online and traditional research sources. In addition, the course will provide students with a supportive environment to develop effective communication skills. Through online discussions, written assignments, and presentations, students will learn to critically evaluate and synthesize data and to communicate their views clearly.

Note: Online Tutorials mandatory