

J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary

Course Prefix and Number: SOC 211

Credits: 3

Course Title: Principles of Anthropology I

Course Description: Inquires into the origins, development, and diversification of human biology and human cultures. Includes fossil records, physical origins of human development, human population genetics, linguistics, cultures' origins and variation, and historical and contemporary analysis of human societies. Part I of II. This is a Passport Transfer course. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose: This course is required for the A.S. Social Science Pre-Social Work degree specialization, and is an SBS elective for all programs. Principles of Anthropology I is for students whose college and career paths necessitate knowledge of the operation of the social world. Emphasis will be placed on how human societies and human culture have evolved over time, and how and why societal and cultural development and expression vary globally. Students will develop an appreciation of the need for sound social science to understand and more fully appreciate social life and global diversity.

This course supports the following general A.S. Social Science learning outcomes

- a. Utilize a scientific approach to analysis of society, culture, and the student's own life;
- b. Meaningfully use social science concepts in oral and written communications;
- c. Derive tentative conclusions based upon critical analysis of interrelated facts;
- d. Demonstrate effective, college-level speaking and writing skills; and
- e. Demonstrate competency in locating, understanding, organizing, and applying information.

Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:

None

Student Learning Outcomes: 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, and explain how these subfields relate to each other, other social sciences, and the humanities;
- b. Identify and discuss examples of diversity that exist within and between human cultures. Explain the relationship between language and culture;
- c. 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;
- d. Explain the theoretical foundations and ethics of anthropology, and identify and explain the major research methods used by anthropologists;
- e. Identify and describe the major components of modern societies (i.e., economic systems, family systems, political systems, and religion/spirituality); and
- f. Explain how and why the major components of societies develop differently depending on various physical, cultural, and social conditions.

Major Topics to Be Included:

- a. Physical/biological anthropology, with a focus on human development and variation
- b. Language and culture
- c. Evolution of societies, including diversity in economic and political organization
- d. Family and kinship ties
- e. Stratification, sex, and gender
- f. Medicine, religion, and magic
- g. Anthropology in modern life

Date Created/Updated (Month, Day, and Year): February 2020