

Cultural Anthropology, ANTH 1023, CORE

The purpose of the social science core is to introduce students to the breadth of inquiry in the social sciences—such as the study of ideas, the behavior of individuals, groups, institutions, and their interactions. The core should expose students to the history of and the challenges encountered in our complex, culturally diverse world.

General Education Core Curriculum course: ANTH 1023, Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

WHAT UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION OUTCOMES GUIDE STUDENT LEARNING IN COURSES THAT CARRY SOCIAL SCIENCES CREDIT?

Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of nine hours of social science courses, students will be able to:

- (SSLO1) Identify and/or explain a method of inquiry in one of the social sciences
- (SSLO2) Identify and/or explain human organization and behavior
- (SSLO3) Identify and/or explain challenges associated with the diversity encountered by individuals, organizations, and/or societies
- (SSLO4) Identify and/or explain how technology affects individuals, groups, and/or social institutions
- (SSLO5) Identify and/or explain the changes caused by the increasing interconnectedness of today's world

HOW DOES THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY INTEND TO ASSESS STUDENT LEARNING OF THESE OUTCOMES IN ANTH 1023?

ANTH 1023: Core Information and Goals

The Department of Anthropology offers multiple sections of ANTH 1023, ranging from 25-150 students per section. Classes are taught by an instructor who leads the lecture component of the course. The course additionally has a drill component under the direction of the course instructor.

This course is designed to introduce students to current trends and theories in cultural anthropological research and its design deeply integrates the general social science core goals, as visible in the various course assessments that embed these goals. This is achieved by building their foundational knowledge of the core concepts and terminology used by cultural

anthropologists, by exposing them to the general development and history of the field, and by utilizing key case studies of diverse cultural examples.

Students are then tasked with learning various social institutions by which societies are organized (e.g., kinship structures, economies, and socio-political groupings) and how these help to structure group and individual behavior and perspectives. By the end of the course students are able to demonstrate their knowledge of root historical conditions that have shaped populations and cultures today and they are further able to identify and/or describe some of the challenges that we face with globalization trends that seek to integrate diverse cultures.

Core Assessment Goals: To assess student progress in understanding the University's core social science goals, a pre and post semester examination was used to test various skill and knowledge development. These are administered to the class using the Blackboard system. They have been designed to measure knowledge of the learning outcomes specified in the University's core social science goals.

Pre and Post Semester Tests: Students are asked to complete a pre and post semester assessment. Students are prompted to answer twenty questions that test their knowledge of some of the topics that they will be discussing in the course. Identical questions are administered in the beginning and end of the semester and the responses are recorded. **Keyed to the University's core social science by enabling the course instructor and/or department to view how these concepts are being understood by students entering and exiting the course. Along with the other assessments that are designed to help achieve the University's social science core goals, these enable the instructor to gain data from students about their initial assumptions about human diversity, behavior, and organization and how the presentation of the course materials challenges their preconceptions. Assessment is specifically keyed to meet the identification goals of SSLO1, SSLO2, SSLO3, SSLO4, and SSLO5.**

Sample Questions from the Anthropology 1023 Core Assessment

- _____ 1. In what ways do cultures enable people to be adaptive to many different physical and social environments?
- a. through technologies
 - b. through shared skills
 - c. through shared knowledge
 - d. all of the above
 - e. b and c only

Question 1 is keyed to SSLO2, SSLO3, SSLO4, and SSLO5.

- _____ 2. Cultural anthropologists spend most of their field time _____.
- a. digging up relics from the past
 - b. singing campfire songs
 - c. building working relationships with community members
 - d. engaging in the daily activities of a community
 - e. c and d only

Question 2 is keyed to SSLO1.

- _____ 3. Anthropologists can explore globalization processes and analyze their impact.
a. true b. false

Question 3 is keyed to SSLO1 and SSLO5.

- _____ 4. Cultural anthropology strives to help us understand contemporary issues such as war, ethnic conflict, hunger, and environmental degradation.
a. true b. false

Question 4 is keyed to SSLO2, SSLO3, SSLO4, and SSLO5.

- _____ 5. Contemporary anthropologists are mostly concerned with remote cultures and rarely work in the global sphere.
a. true b. false

Question 5 is keyed to SSLO1 and SSLO5.

HOW WILL THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROLOGY USE THE DATA GENERATED BY THIS INSTRUMENT TO PLAN CURRICULAR AND PEDAGOGICAL CHANGES THAT MIGHT BE NECESSARY IN ANTH 1023?

Analysis of student performance in achieving the Social Science Learning Objectives is based on their overall performance on the pre and post semester assessment tests, not on the individual questions. The anthropology faculty member who administers these assessments will review a portion of the results this instrument annually, and will modify questions for the assessment to better respond to the Social Science Learning Outcomes. A brief statement about the results will be discussed with the Director of Undergraduate Studies in Anthropology. If needed, the curriculum and pedagogies employed may be adjusted to further enable students in meeting the learning outcomes set forth by the University.