

Disclaimer: This is an indicative syllabus only and may be subject to changes. The final and official syllabus will be distributed by the Instructor during the first day of class.

The American University of Rome
International Relations Program

Department or degree program mission statement, student learning objectives, as appropriate

Course Title: Introduction to Anthropology
Course Number: ANT 100
Credits & hours: 3 credits – 3 hours
Pre/Co-Requisites: None

Course description

This course introduces a series of classical and recent topics in social and cultural anthropology: language, economy, kinship, religion, politics, myth, symbolism, gender, social stratification, ethnicity and nationalism, globalization. Showing how anthropologists have approached these topics through cultural comparison, theoretical discussions will be combined with ethnographic examples taken from the variety of world cultures. Providing a basic vocabulary to the discipline, the course will invite a systematic questioning of taken-for-granted assumptions concerning human beings and their behavior. The course fulfils information technology and oral presentation requirements.

Required Textbook (subject to change)

- Hylland-Eriksen, Thomas: Small Places, Large Issues. An Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology. London: Pluto Press. 1998, 4th edition [1995]
ISBN: 978-0745330495

Recommended Readings (subject to change)

Additional hand-outs (see course plan below), to be given during course, either in class or posted electronically via MyAUR.

Course Learning Objectives

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. conceptualize culture
2. show awareness of the anthropological approach to the study of society
3. describe and analyze the ways in which different kinds of human societies are organized in terms of institutions such as family, economy, religion, language, etc.
4. reflect in a theoretically informed way on cultural diversity, engaging our own taken-for-granted beliefs and values
5. assess and critically discuss the ethical importance of cultural awareness in today's world
6. train students to analyze critically the role of social media in reference to the topics addressed (e.g. social media promote diversity or standardize patterns)

demanding the adherence to dominant models?). In class presentations, analysis, and discussions will be promoted

7. present on a topic related to their own struggles with issues arising from cultural diversity

Course Learning Activities

- A Classes will consist primarily of lectures involving presentations by the professor and joint discussions on the topics of the course. Discussions will focus on the concept of culture and its application to real-world situations in a comparative ethnographic context. The students are expected to do at least the required readings, and should be prepared to answer and discuss questions raised in class. In order to make the students aware of the anthropological approach to the study of society, they will be asked to carry out a small 'fieldwork' in the 7th week of the course, and to do a writing exercise on the basis of it
- The student will also be asked to write a term paper of a descriptive nature (describe and analyse a specific society, an anthropological author or a theoretical direction in anthropology). The papers must make reference to the relevant concepts and ideas presented in class. The paper can typically be a description and analysis of a specific culture, subculture, or one aspect of a specific culture. If students want to write innovative research papers, possibly using own data, they are more than welcome, but it is not at all expected. The writing of the research paper includes a one-page proposal and outline of paper
- The midterm and final written exams will address the culture concept and ask the students to discuss ways in which different kinds of human societies are organized in terms of institutions such as family, economy, religion, language etc. The final exam will require the student reflect in a theoretically informed way on cultural diversity, engaging our own taken-for-granted beliefs and values, and to assess and critically discuss the ethical importance of cultural awareness in today's world.
- Throughout the course the students are very welcome to introduce topics not included in course plan and to draw on their own experiences with cultural encounters.

Assessment tools

Class participation	10%
Writing exercise	10%
Mid-term examination	25%
Term paper	25%
Oral Presentation	10%
Final Examination	20%

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Reading
Week 1	Introduction: what is Anthropology? Overview of the course, introduction to main themes What is culture?	Chapter 1 in textbook
Week 2	Origins of anthropological theory, Evolutionism and beyond Fieldwork as method	Chapter 2 , A brief history of anthropology Chapter 3
Week 3	Self and roles: the social construction of personhood Person and society: Social systems	Chapter 4 Chapter 6
Week 4	Kinship and kinship-based societies Marriage and family in comparative perspective	Chapter 7 Chapter 8
Week 5	Gender and Age Caste and class	Chapter 9 Chapter 10
Week 6	Politics and power	Chapter 11
Week 7	Midterm exam Fieldwork exercise (individual) and writing assignment	Chapter 3
Week 8	Exchange and consumption Production and nature	Chapter 12 Chapter 13
Week 9	Religion and ritual Ibidem	Chapter 14
Week 10	Complexity and change What is ethnicity? And what is ethnic or national identity? Are there good and bad types of nation identity?	Chapter 16 Chapter 17
Week 11	Nationalism and identity politics Minorities	Chapter 18
Week 12	The local and the global; the anthropology of globalization	Chapter 19
Week 13	The role of anthropology today	
Week 14	FINAL EXAM	

ATTENDANCE POLICY

In keeping with AUR's mission to prepare students to live and work across cultures, the University places a high value on classroom experience. As a result attendance is expected in all classes and attendance records are maintained. The University's attendance policy is as follows:

1.0. Minimum Attendance Requirement: Students must attend a minimum of 70% of a course in order to be eligible to be considered for a passing grade.

1.1. Automatically Accepted Absences

Students will not be penalized for one absence from classes meeting once a week;
Students will not be penalized for three absences from classes meeting twice a week;
Students will not be penalized for four absences from classes meeting more than twice a week, as in the case of some intensive courses.

1.2. If further absences are recorded, grade penalties will be applied according to the Instructor's specific attendance policy, as stated in the syllabus, and following the institutional parameters given in the Note* below.

1.2.1. If the Instructor does not specify an attendance policy, there will be no grade penalty other than that attached to the minimum attendance requirement, and any penalized absences recorded above the basic 70% attendance requirement for the course will be invalidated.

1.3. During Summer sessions where courses are taught more intensively over a shorter period the following applies:

- Students will not be penalized for two absences from class.

2.0. Tolerated Absences

Certain categories of absence will not be penalized but they will be counted as an absence (for a 3-credit course meeting twice a week). These absences are:

- The Model United Nations (MUN);
- Permit to Stay,
- SG's "Ambassador Program" (Student Government initiative)
- Religious Holidays

The American University of Rome makes all reasonable efforts to accommodate students who must be absent from classes to observe religious holidays. (Please refer to the Provost's Office list of accepted absences for religious holidays)

Not attending a class due to the observance of a religious holiday will normally not be counted as an absence.

Students who will need to miss class in order to observe religious holidays must notify their Instructors by the end of the Add/Drop period (first week of classes), and must make prior arrangements with their Instructors to make up any work missed.

2.1. The list does NOT include academic field trips because these (including arrangements for travel) must not overlap with other classes.

3.0. Cases of prolonged absences caused by an emergency or a medical condition may require students to withdraw from some or all of their courses. Under such circumstances students should first consult their academic advisors.

*Note: No Instructor may penalize a student more than half a letter grade for each absence beyond the tolerated limit (e.g. from A- to B+).

Grade Point Average

A student's grade point average (GPA) is computed by multiplying the quality points achieved by the number of credits for each course. The result is then divided by the total number of credit hours taken. The Cumulative or Career Total Grade Point Average (CGPA) is the grade point average for all credit hours taken at the University and at approved study abroad programs. The GPA and CGPA are calculated by truncating after the second digit after the decimal point. Transfer credits have no effect on the CGPA at The American University of Rome.

Grades

Grades are posted on a secure area of the University's official website and are mailed to AUR degree students only upon written request. Grades are mailed to the various study abroad programs. Grades computed in the (GPA) reflect the following grade equivalents:

GRADE		GPA	
A	Excellent	4.00	94 – 100 points
A-		3.70	90 – 93.99 pts
B+	Very Good	3.30	87 – 89.99
B	Good	3.00	83 – 86.99
B-		2.70	80 – 82.99
C+		2.30	77 – 79.99
C	Satisfactory	2.00	73 – 76.99
C-	Less than Satisfactory	1.70	70 – 72.99
D	Poor	1.00	60 – 69.99
F	Failing	0.00	59.99 – 0
WU	Unofficial withdrawal counts as an F	0.00	
P	Applicable to development courses	0.00	
<i>Grades not computed into the grade point average are:</i>			
W	Withdrawal		
AUDIT (AU)	Only possible when the student registers for a course at the beginning of the semester as an audit student		
I	Incomplete work must be completed within the ensuing semester. Failure to do so results in automatically converting the I grade to the default grade, which is then computed into the grade point average		
P	Pass grade is applicable to courses as indicated in the catalog.		
WIP	Work in progress		