INFO LINK COLLEGE – HAWASSA CAMPUS

Social Anthropology Course Outline

Course code: Anth 1012 CrH**: 3** **Pre-Requisites: None** **Instructor:** Beza T

Course Description

This course is designed to acquaint students with the essential concepts, perspectives, and explanations of anthropology, covering a wide array of questions revolving around our very existence. By covering anthropological approaches to culture, society and humanity, in general, the course will enable students grasp the different ways of being human by dealing with fascinating themes such as human origin, culture and ties that connect society, race, ethnicity, identity and multiculturalism, power relations and inequality, local systems of governance, legal pluralism, indigenous knowledge systems and practices.

Course Outcomes: after completion of this course, students will able to:

- define and explain the nature of anthropology, its subject matter & its broader scope in making sense of humanity in a global perspective;
- explain the nature of cultural, linguistic & biological diversity of humanity and unity in diversity across the world and in Ethiopia;
- explain how historical and cultural factors, and physical environments shaped the present biocultural variability among human populations;
- Understand nature of identities & social categories and discuss the problems of ethnocentrism against the backdrop of cultural relativism;
- discuss the customary systems of governance and conflict resolution institutions of the various ethnic groups of Ethiopia;
- explain the culture area of peoples of Ethiopia and the forms of interaction developed over time among themselves;
- discuss some of the applications of anthropological knowledge and perspectives to address social adversities in the contexts of Ethiopia;
- develop broader views and skills to deal with people from a wide variety of socio-economic and cultural backgrounds

Course Content

Chapter One
Introduction: Anthropology and its Subject Matter

- **What is Anthropology – a Mirror for Humanity?**
  - ✓ Sketching the subject matter, scope and concerns of anthropology
  - ✓ Unique Features of Anthropology
  - ✓ Misconception about anthropology
  - ✓ The relationship between anthropology and other Disciplines
  - ✓ Contributions of Anthropology

Chapter Two
Sub-Fields of Anthropology: Four Mirrors for Understanding Humanity

- ✓ Socio-Cultural Anthropology
- ✓ Linguistic Anthropology
- ✓ Archaeological Anthropology
- ✓ Physical/Biological Anthropology

Chapter Three
Human Culture and Ties that Connect Society

3.1. Conceptualizing Culture: What Culture is and What it isn't?

- ✓ Characteristics Features of Culture: what differentiate culture from other traditions?
- ✓ Aspects of Culture –material & non-material (values, beliefs & norms)
- ✓ Cultural Unity and Variations: universality, generality & particularity of culture

- ✓ Evaluating Cultural Differences: ethnocentrism, cultural relativism, and human rights
- ✓ Culture Change

3.2. Ties that Connect: Marriage, Family and Kinship

- ✓ Marriage -rules, functions and forms of Marriage
- ✓ Family -types and functions of Family
- ✓ Kinship System -types of kin groups and rules of descent

3.3. Culture Areas and Culture Contact

Chapter Four
Marginalized, Minorities, and Vulnerable Groups-

- ✓ Definition of concepts
- ✓ Gender-based marginalization
- ✓ Marginalized occupational groups
- ✓ Age-based vulnerability
- ✓ Religious and ethnic minorities
- ✓ Human right approaches and inclusiveness: Anthropological perspectives

Chapter Five

Ethnicity, Ethnic Identity and Inter-Ethnic Relations

5.1. Ethnicity: Identification and Social Categorization -What's in a name?

- ✓ Ethnicity – A short Historical Overview
- ✓ Conceptualizing Ethnicity: What's it?

5.2. Ethnic Groups & Ethnic Identity
5.3. Theories of Ethnicity: Primordialism, Instrumentalism & Social Constructivism

Chapter Six
Customary and Local Governance Systems and Peace Making

6.1. Indigenous and local governance

- ✓ Intra-ethnic conflict resolution institutions
- ✓ Inter-ethnic conflict resolution institutions

6.2. Legal pluralism: Interrelations between Customary, Religious and State Legal systems

Chapter Seven
Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices

- ✓ Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKs)
- ✓ Significance of Indigenous Knowledge
- ✓ Indigenous Knowledge and Development
- ✓ Preservation, challenges and Limitations of IK

References

Lavenda, R. and Emily S. (2015). Anthropology. What Does It Mean to Be Human?. (3rd ed.). Oxford. Oxford University Press.
Cameron, M.Smith and Evan T. Davies (2008). Anthropology for Dummies. Wiley Publishing, Inc., Indianapolis, Indiana.
Kottak, C. P. (2004) – Anthropology: the Exploration of Human Diversity (10th ed.).McGraw Hill, New York.
Eriksen, T. H. (2004). What is anthropology? London: Pluto Press.
Rosman, A., Rubel, P.G. and Weisgrau, M. (2009). The Tapestry of Culture: an Introduction to Social Anthropology. Lanham: Rowman and Little field.
Scupin and DeCorse (2005). Anthropology: A Global Perspective (2nd ed.). New Jersey: Prentice Hall.
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Richard Jenkins. (2006). Rethinking Ethnicity. London Sage Publication.
Dunif-Hattis and Howard C. (1992). Anthropology: Understanding Human Adaptation. New York: Harper Collins, Inc.
Donald N. Levine. (1974). Greater Ethiopia: The Evolution of A Multiethnic Society. Chicago & London., University of Chicago.
Donald Donham.(1986). Marxist Modern. The Ethnographic History of Marxist Ethiopia.
Triulzi et al. (2002). Remapping Ethiopia Easer African Studies:. Addis Ababa: AAU.
Zerihun Doda, (2005). Introduction to Socio-cultural Anthropology. Lecture Notes, A. A, The Carter center (EPHTI).

Mode of assessment:

- Continuous assessment 60% Final exam: 40%

❖ ***A student must attend a minimum of 80% of the class***