COURSE DESCRIPTION

The goal of cultural anthropology is to understand human diversity in all its various manifestations around the world. We will also look at the historical development of social and economic systems, the role of language in culture, and various systems of political power. We will conclude by looking at globalization, the lingering effects of colonialism on power relations across the globe, and we will critically examine projects of international development. Following an overview of the history of cultural and social anthropology, the course will highlight the basic concepts of anthropology, such as culture, cultural relativism and fieldwork methods. Students will learn about various fields of special importance, including kinship studies, gender, economic anthropology, language and communication.

Sources

All articles from the book Conformity and Conflict are to be found either under my name in the library or in the book at the same location (two different editions! But you will find many of the articles in both versions) Introduction to cultural anthropology: fields of interest, approaches, history of the discipline. This concise introduction to social and cultural anthropology has become a modern classic, revealing the rich global variation in social life and culture. The text provides a clear overview of anthropology, focusing on central topics such as kinship, ethnicity, ritual and political systems, offering a wealth of examples that demonstrate the enormous scope of anthropology and the importance of a comparative perspective. Unlike other texts on the subject, Small Places, Large Issues incorporates the anthropology of complex modern societies. Using reviews of key monographs to illustrate his argument, this concise introduction to social and cultural anthropology has become a modern classic, introducing countless students to the field and the tools it offers for exploring some of the most complicated questions of human life and interaction. This fourth edition is fully updated, incorporating recent debates and controversies in the field, ranging from globalization and migration research to problems of cultural translation and the challenges of interdisciplinarity. Effortlessly bridging the gap between classic and contemporary anthropology, Small Places, Large Issues remains an essential text.