

New Paltz Central School District
Social Studies
Cultural Anthropology
(10 week course)

Time	Essential Questions/Content	Skills	Assessments
1 week	<u>Unit 1: History of Anthropology</u> • How did anthropology begin? • Who were the early anthropologists? • How has anthropology evolved from its inception to today? ----- • Definition of anthropology • Ethnocentric anthropology and armchair anthropology • 19th century anthropologists • Timeline of anthropological thought and theories	• Explain the history of anthropology • Understand the difference between old methods for conducting ethnography and the newer, accepted methods	• Anthropology timeline • Anthropologist biography • Written responses to essential questions
1.5 weeks	<u>Unit 2: Early Cultures, Cultural Models, Kinship, Human Interaction, and Survival</u> • What are the various cultural models? • How is kinship defined, and what role does it play in a society? • How have cultures interacted with their environments and what implications has this interaction had on the development of the cultures? -----	• Design an accurate and empirical kinship chart • Understand cultural models (linear, evolutionary, multifaceted, etc.) • Describe human interaction and survival	• Kinship chart • Quiz on cultural models • Class debate on human and environment interaction and survival

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	• Nature vs. nurture • Geography and influence-why? • Diffusion • Case Studies ◦ Bantu ◦ Egypt ◦ ! Kung San		
1.5 weeks	<u>Unit 3: Anthropology of Religion, Ritual, Rites of Passage, and Magic</u> • What cultural universals exist for the above topics? • Are the above topics a result of nature or nurture? • What cultures have unique examples of the above topics? ----- • Construction of religion • Ancient religions compared to modern religions (similarities and differences) • Importance and use of rituals ◦ Case study – Christianity • Importance and use of rites of passage ◦ Case study - Maori • Importance and use of magic and witchcraft ◦ Case study – Greco-Roman, African, Native American, Louisianan	• Understand the nature vs. nurture debate • Debate for or against the topics as cultural universals • Provide specific and unique examples of the topics in relation to a culture	• Free response to the nature vs. nurture debate • Responses to selected readings • Participation in class discussions

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1 week	<u>Unit 4: Gender Roles vs. Sex</u> - What is the difference between gender and sex? - How do these differences influence a culture? - What specific examples exist of a third gender? - How is a third gender typically received? ----- - The difference between gender and sex - Gender roles - A third gender - Case studies – Indian, Muslim, Polynesian	- Identify the difference between a sex and gender - Understand gender roles, and how/why cultures prescribe them differently - Discuss the possibility and acceptance of a third gender	- Gender roles worksheet - Third gender case study - Quiz on essential questions
1 week	<u>Unit 5: Ethnomusicology, Art, Media, Architecture, Symbolism</u> - In what ways do cultures express the above topics? - How does the expression of these topics represent beliefs within that culture? - What are the physiological impacts of the above topics? - What is the cultural significance of the above topics? -----	- Identify and analyze the ethnomusicology, art, media, architecture, and symbolism by cultures - Provide an empirical explanation for cultural universals in ethnomusicology, art, media, architecture, and symbolism - Compare and contrast ethnomusicology, art, media, architecture, and symbolism with specific case studies provided	- Written analysis of ethnomusicology, art, media, architecture, and symbolism - Assessment of ethnomusicology, art, media, architecture, and symbolism (written and discussion) - Examples of ethnomusicology, art, media, architecture, and symbolism and their cultural significance, use, interpretation, and implications

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	- Case studies - o Ancient sub-Saharan African music - o Urban American Hip-Hop - Cultural significance of music, art, media, architecture - The power of imagery and sounds		
1.5	<u>Unit 6: Cultural Research Assignment</u> How do geography, history, successes and failures, and current situation influence a specific culture?	- Research a selected culture as an anthropologist would - Prepare a paper and a presentation on the selected culture using a form of media	- Presentation on selected culture - Research paper on selected culture
2 weeks	<u>Unit 7: Economic Anthropology and Globalization</u> - How are economic anthropology and globalization defined? - What role can an anthropologist play in the economy and in globalization? - What impact is globalization having on traditional cultures? - Can traditional cultures be saved? - Should traditional cultures be saved? ----- - Impact of economic development on cultures	- Define globalization - Recognize and describe the pros and cons of globalization - Discuss the impacts of globalization on traditional cultures - Explain the role of an anthropologist in globalization	- Written response to essential questions - Responses to readings on case studies by environmental anthropologists

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	- o Case Study – diamond mines • Impact of environmental shift on cultures - o Case Study – deforestation • Solutions in sight • Endangered cultures • A single world culture? • Cultures 100 years from now		
.5 week	<u>Unit 8: Culmination</u> • What have you learned from this class? • How can your awareness of these topics influence your decisions and your future? • Why does ethnocentrism exist and should it exist?	• Understand ethnocentrism and the problems it creates • Explain how ethnocentrism perpetuates the problems of a globalizing world	• Final exam • Discussion/debate of the topics