

PSY-301 General Anthropology (3 CHs)

Pre-requisite: None

Course Description:

This course aims to introduce students to the field of Anthropology. The field of Anthropology aims to construct a holistic understanding of the human species by integrating research on the cultural, biological, evolutionary, linguistic, and historical aspects. The course will expose students to various sub disciplines of anthropology such as biological anthropology, archaeology, sociocultural and linguistic anthropologists.

Course Objectives:

The course will facilitate students to:

- Understand evidence and theories of biological and cultural evolution.
- Analyze role of cultural adaptations in human behaviors.

Course Learning Outcomes:

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

- Understand the origin and evolution of our species using fossils, material remains (stone tools), and genetics.
- Gain insights into the life ways of our ancestors, and important perspectives on those aspects of our bodies and minds that make our species such a unique part of nature.
- Understand the role of archaeologists in tracing our ancient history by studying the spread of humans across the globe and the emergence of agriculture, complex societies, and “civilizations”.
- Learn about diversity of human life ways, modes of thought, beliefs, and languages.

Course Contents:

- Introduction. What is Anthropology? The holistic study of humanity.
- Introduction to Genetic Evolution: Processes and Mechanisms

- Human Origins
- The Emergence of Anatomically Modern Humans
- The Last 10,000 years in Broad Perspective
- The Agricultural Revolution and Life in the Holocene
- The Rise and Spread of Food Production
- Culture and Cultural Evolution
- Emerging Societal Complexity
- Language
- Race and Ethnicity
- Religion, Myth and Magic
- Medical and Applied Anthropology
- Recent trends in General Anthropology

Textbook:

- Haviland, W. A., Harold E. L. Prins, Dana Walrath, & Bunny M. (2012) *The Essence of Anthropology*, Third Edition. Wadsworth. Belmont.

Reference Books:

- Eller, J. D. (2016). *Cultural anthropology: Global forces, local lives*. Routledge.
- Boas, F. (2021). *Anthropology and modern life*. Taylor & Francis.