

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College  
Course Content Summary**

**Course Prefix and Number:** SOC 211    **Credits:** 3

**Course Title:** Cultural Anthropology

**Course Description:**

Examines the origins, development, research, diversification and evolution of human cultures. Includes exposure to the variability of both Western and Non-Western aspects of culture. Provides an introduction to the nature of culture and its relationship to various social institutions and societies. This is a Passport and UCGS transfer course. Lecture 3 hours. Total 3 hours per week. 3 credits

**General Course Purpose:**

Cultural Anthropology is intended to introduce students to the complex culturally diverse world around them. It provides students with exposure to the investigation, interpretation and comparison of culture. Students define culture and how various cultural systems operate and are interconnected and interdependent both locally and globally. Students will systematically explore numerous cultural aspects of family structures, politics, religion, health, sexuality, language, technology, communication and social change. Faculty will encourage students to appreciate cultural diversity and cross-cultural engagements.

**Course Prerequisites/Corequisites:**

None

**Course Objectives:**

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

Critical Thinking

Describe the connection between culture, society, and individuals.

Communication

Demonstrate the ability to develop, convey, and exchange ideas in writing to a given

### Characteristics of Culture

Identify characteristics common to all cultures.

Explain how cultures are learned and transmitted.

Identify material and non-material culture.

Describe relationships between the physical environment and aspects of culture.

### Language and Communication

Explain the emergence of language, speech, and writing.

### Social Institutions

Contrast family and household forms across cultures.

Articulate how religion is related to other parts of a cultural system.

Compare political and economic systems.

### Social Change

Identify the key mechanisms of cultural change.

### **Major Topics to be Included:**

- Theory and Application
- Characteristics of Culture
- Language and Communication
- Social Institutions
- Social Change

**Effective Date/Updated:** January 1, 2022