

# Assessment Report for the Minor in Cultural Anthropology

November 2019

## Identifying Information

Program Name: Cultural Anthropology

Program Type: Minor

CAS Division: Social Sciences

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## Mission Statement

The mission of the Cultural Anthropology program is to give students the means to understand and respect the variety in human experiences and to develop a critical perspective on their own society. Our courses are aimed at enhancing critical thinking, social awareness, and a globally-oriented conception of inequality and justice. Anthropology helps prepare students for a range of career options, post-graduate educational opportunities, and a life of engaged, democratic citizenship.

## Program Goals

1. Develop an anthropological imagination – an understanding of anthropology’s holistic and cross-cultural perspective and its application to contemporary social issues and global problems.
2. Understand the causes of and breadth of cultural variation and develop a positive appreciation for the diversity of perspectives, practices, and beliefs found within each culture and across cultures.

## Program Learning Outcomes

1. Develop an understanding of core concepts in cultural anthropology including, but not limited to, culture, holism, ethnocentrism, and cultural relativity.
2. Learn and use anthropological methods, notably participant observation and interviewing, but also other research strategies and tools to collect ethnographic data.
3. Develop an understanding of ethical behavior in social science research.

## Summary of Assessment Plan for 2018-19

Five open-ended questions related to PLO 1 (“Develop an understanding of core concepts in cultural anthropology including, but not limited to, culture, holism, ethnocentrism, and cultural relativity”) were administered to students in two sections of Anth 210 “Cultures through Film” (n=64) at the beginning of the Fall semester (2018). The intent was to re-administer the same questions at the end of the semester and twice during the Spring semester (2019) to give us a measure of the degree to which students had mastered anthropology’s core concepts. After administering the first assessment quiz, however, we discovered that we did not have enough minors enrolled in Anth 210 to arrive at any meaningful conclusions and thus we did not re-administer the quiz at the end of the term. We began to develop a new plan at that time, outlined below.

### Assessment Plan for 2019-20

We (S. Gmelch, G. Gmelch, R. Kamal, and M. Buenafe-Ze) developed a new set of questions on the same PLO (“Develop an understanding of core concepts in cultural anthropology including, but not limited to, culture, holism, ethnocentrism, and cultural relativity.”) and decided to administer it in two sections of Anth 200 “Introduction to Cultural Anthropology” beginning this academic year (2019-20) and for the next two years--a three-year aggregate window--in order to acquire a larger sample of anthropology minors.

We developed an 8-question, open-ended quiz which has already been administered to students in two sections of the introductory course (n = approx. 70) and that will be re-administered at the end of the term. The on-line version of the quiz that students filled out can be found at:

<https://forms.gle/5ugGaS9jsvZjxEA69> . (A printed version for the assessment committees’ perusal is attached as Appendix I.) The results of the first quiz from one section of Anth 200 can be found at:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1oySk7DDRHe-6mZh0KhRRxIe4MYM89tJCfysRFIJx4C8/edit?usp=sharing>.

To repeat, our intent is to have students in Anth 200 “Introduction to Cultural Anthropology” take this quiz at the beginning and end of each semester for the next three years (2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22). We will then aggregate the data from minors and develop a rubric to assess students’ level of mastery of cultural anthropology’s core concepts.

### Appendix I: Assessment Quiz

#### Intro to Anthropology (ANTH 200) Beginning of Semester Assessment

This assessment will be used to help the Cultural Anthropology Program track how many students have declared Anthropology as their Minor, as well as the interest of students to declare it their minor, and finally to provide data to the University on how we are achieving our Program Learning Outcomes. This Assessment is done at the beginning of the course as well as at the end of the semester to see what students have learned, and to show the University's Administration that the Cultural Anthropology Program is relevant to students. Thank you for your participation.

\* Required

Full Name, Year (Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, or Senior) and current Major \*

I am currently an Anthropology minor: \*

Yes

No

If you are not an Anthro Minor, do you plan to declare an Anthropology minor? \*

Yes

No

Maybe

Define “culture” as an anthropologist would: \*

What is an ethnography? \*

In what way or ways do anthropologists use a holistic approach when studying other cultures? \*

Attempting to understand in a nonjudgmental fashion why members of another culture practice a particular custom or ascribe to a particular belief is a simple definition of \*

To use the values of your own society when attempting to understand the behavior or customs of members of another society is an example of \*

The anthropologist’s attempt to understand a culture in terms of its members’ (or insiders’) understanding of why they engage in a given cultural practice is an example of the attempt to acquire an (1)\_\_\_\_\_ perspective; adopting an outsider’s understanding would be to apply an (2)\_\_\_\_\_ perspective. \*

\_\_\_\_\_ refers to the anthropological practice of the researcher immersing himself/herself in another culture for a lengthy period of time in order to understand it or a particular aspect of it. \*

What data collection methodology--commonly used by anthropologists when conducting research in another society--involves actively engaging with the community and individuals? \*