



UNDERSTANDING CULTURE, SOCIETY AND POLITICS

Grade 12 - TVL

Subject Teacher : Ferdinand C. Nebreja

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course uses insights from Anthropology, Political Science, and Sociology to develop students' awareness of cultural, social and political dynamics, and sensitivity to cultural diversity; provide with an understanding of how culture, human agency, society and politics work; and engage in the examination of the country's current human development goals.

At the end of the course, you should acquire ideas about human cultures, human agency, society and politics; recognize cultural relativism and social inclusiveness to overcome prejudices; and develop social and cultural competence to guide your interactions with groups, communities, networks, and institutions.

LEARNING COMPETENCY

Discuss the nature, goals and perspectives in anthropology, sociology and political science.

Lesson 1: Anthropology and the Study of Culture

Defining Anthropology, its goals and perspectives

DEFINING THE NATURE OF ANTHROPOLOGY

- Every individual differs in various ways. So, putting your lens closer to these differences reveal how individuals are alike in terms of their physical features, routines and interaction with each other. The differences and similarities by which individuals live, act and interact is a manifestation of the numerous aspects of human existence. One of these aspects is man's unique social behavior tied to their cultural backgrounds.

DEFINING THE NATURE OF ANTHROPOLOGY

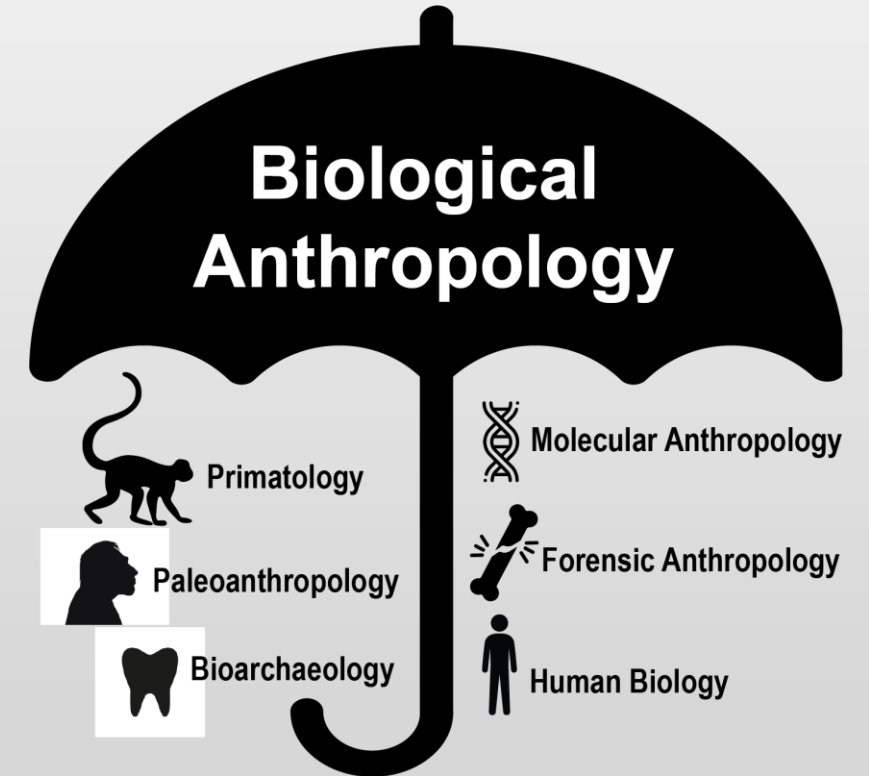
- Culture is the invisible bond which ties people coming from the same society together. It affects our judgment skills, perceptions, attitudes and even our emotions. It has a direct impact on our behavior. Thus, the culture we have shapes our values and belief systems which influences our personalities. Furthermore, our culture gives us our identity and sense of belongingness to our community. It is for this reason that understanding culture is important and this is the focus of one field in social sciences called cultural anthropology.

DEFINING THE NATURE OF ANTHROPOLOGY

- Anthropology is defined as the study of humanity. It is derived from the two Greek words “**anthropos**” which means man and “**logos**” means study.

SUBDISCIPLINES OF ANTHROPOLOGY

- **Physical or biological anthropology** –the study of human biological variation in time and space including genetics, growth, development and primatology.



SUBDISCIPLINES OF ANTHROPOLOGY

- **Cultural anthropology** -the study of human society and culture which describes, analyzes, interprets and explains social and cultural similarities and differences. Its sub-categories are: **(a) archeological anthropology** which is the study of human behavior and cultural patterns and processes through culture's material remains; and **(b) linguistic anthropology**, which is the descriptive, comparative and historical study of language and of linguistic similarities and differences in time, space and society.



SUBDISCIPLINES OF ANTHROPOLOGY

- **Applied Anthropology** – the use of anthropological knowledge in solving contemporary problems through the application of theories and approaches of the discipline.

Applied Anthropology

DEFINITION

The application of anthropological data, concepts and strategies to the solution of social, economic and technological problems all around the world

Applications in

- Business
- Health Care
- Law Enforcement
- Government
- Social Services
- Education
- Political Policy



- These sub-disciplines of anthropology show that it takes a broad approach to holistically understand the various aspect of human experience. To understand and study humanity, anthropologists compare one society to the other society.

- It is also noteworthy that it is important to study anthropology because of the following reasons:

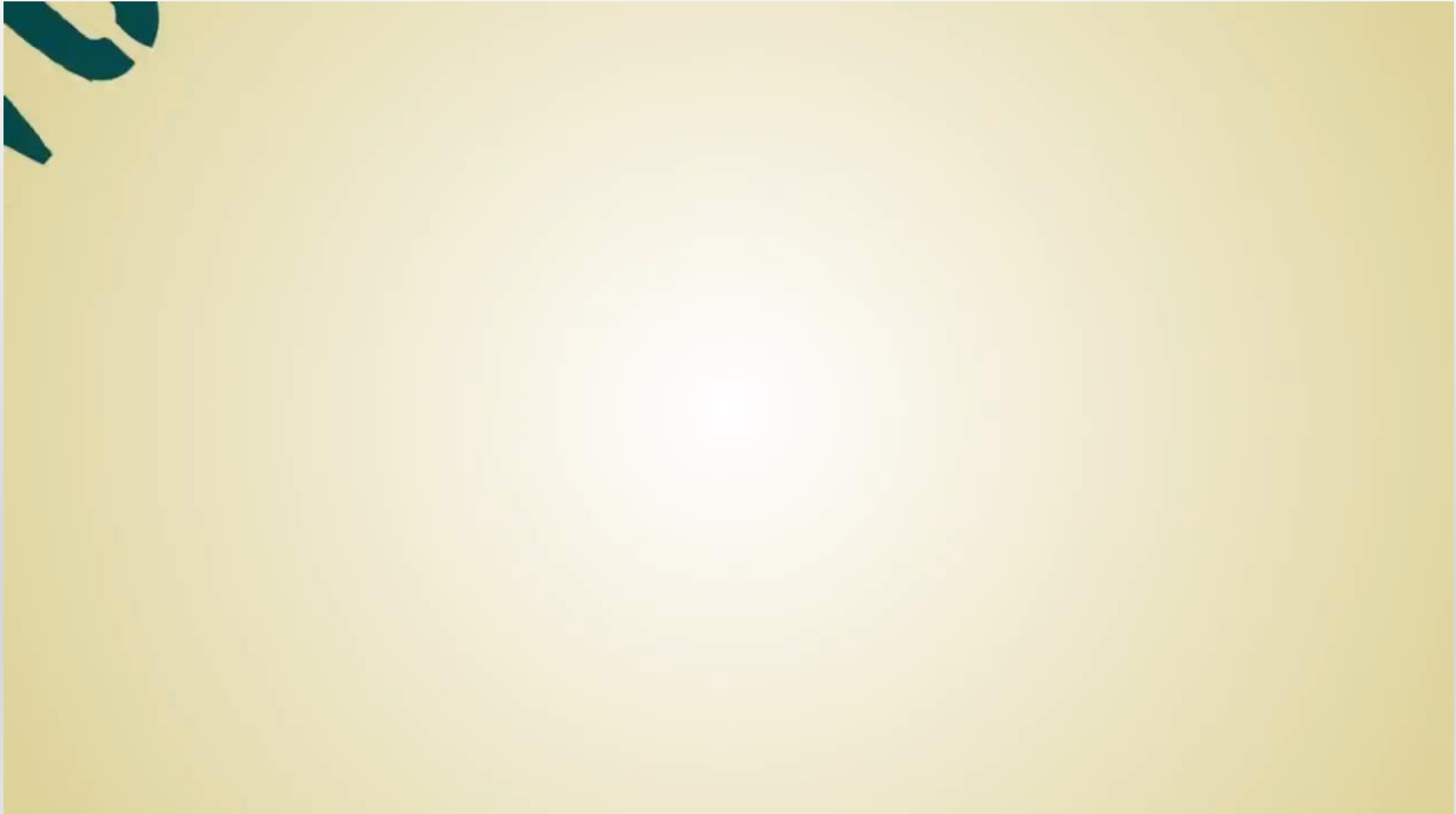
1. It broadens your knowledge and changes your perspective;

2. It is useful in understanding how society has evolved through time and the cultural changes that have taken place thereto;

3. It is relevant in tracing the transitions that societies went through leading up to its current state;

4. It helps us to deal with complexity and lastly, 5. It is interesting.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL CONCEPT OF CULTURE



CHARACTERISTICS OF CULTURE

Since culture is a design or a roadmap that guides the behavior of members in a society, it has the following characteristics:

- **Culture is Everything**

It is what a person has, does and think as part of society. This covers all of a person's belief systems, set of behaviors, and material possessions.

Culture therefore can be classified into two types:

- o **Material Culture** – includes all tangible and visible parts of culture like clothes, food, and even buildings.

- Objects are important in the study of human history because they provide a concrete basis for the prevailing ideas of the times and can be used to validate the existing realities.

- o **Non-Material Culture** – includes all intangible parts of culture, which consists of values, norms, laws, sanctions and knowledge among others.

- **Culture is Shared**

This implies that a particular behavior cannot be considered as part of culture if there is only one person practicing it. Culture is shared is intra and inter-generational.

- **Culture is Learned**

Culture is a set of beliefs, attitudes and practices that an individual learns through his or her family, school, church, and other social institutions.

Diffusion – is the spread of culture from one society to another.

- **Culture affects Biology**

Humans are born into cultures that have values on beauty and body. As such, they alter their bodies to fit physiological norms that are dictated by their culture.

- **Culture is Adaptive**

Culture is a tool for survival that humans use in response to the pressures of their environment.

- **Culture is Maladaptive**

People when manifesting a set of cultural practices, fail to adapt to the environmental changes leads to mal adaptation.

- **Culture Changes**

Culture is never static. This dynamism of culture is due to the changing needs of man as they interpret and survive in their environment.

Cultural Behavior :

Acculturation - the processes by which groups or individuals adjust the social and cultural values, ideas, beliefs, and behavioral patterns of their culture of origin to those of a different culture. It is an individual's attitudinal and behavioral adjustment to another culture, which typically varies with regard to degree and type.

Enculturation - the processes, beginning in early childhood, by which particular cultural values, ideas, beliefs, and behavioral patterns are instilled in the members of a society.

Deculturation - the processes, intentional or unintentional, by which traditional cultural beliefs or practices are suppressed or otherwise eliminated as a result of contact with a different, dominant culture.

Practice Task 1

Directions: Read and analyze the words in each item. Write **TANGIBLE** if it is a material culture and **INTANGIBLE** if it is a non-material culture. Do this in your answer sheet.

1. heirloom

6. values and traditions

2. antiques

7. Jose Rizal's monument

3. Mayon Volcano

8. Uyayi

4. folk songs

9. Myth of Bakunawa

5. superstitious beliefs

10. earthen jars

Practice Task 2

Directions: Analyze the situations in every item. Tell whether the following situations show Enculturation, Acculturation, and Deculturation. Do this in your answer sheet.

1. Jillian learned to become religious and obedient from her parents and friends. She learned it by observing the people that surrounds her.
2. Pedro is learning on how to use chopsticks before he flew to China for his internship.
3. Children nowadays prefer playing with their iPads, Xbox and mobile games rather than playing traditional games like “patintero”, “piko” and “tumbang preso.”
4. After Juana’s scholarship program in Michigan University, she prefers wearing crop-tops and other western-inspired clothing.
5. Before travelling to Korea, Kardo enrolled in a Basic Korean language tutorial.

Practice Task 3

Directions: Read the statements below and identify the sub-discipline of anthropology described in each item. Write the answers in your answer sheet.

1. Ana Marie studies the language of the indigenous people in the farthest mountains of Cordillera.
2. Juan Tamad Jr. seeks to examine the tombs of the Mummy Pharaohs in Egypt.
3. According to studies, the early Homo sapiens has larger skull than that of the present human.
4. Len-len idolizes the Korean's pop culture and drama.
5. Clifford Geertz' study on culture revealed that the webs of significance suggests that all humans create and modify their cultures, and in turn cultures define the context where the humans are.