

Cultural Anthropology Concentration Guidelines

In the Social Science Area of Study

Note: The department of Social Science and Public Affairs approved guidelines for a concentration in Cultural Anthropology at our department meeting on 11-3-20. However, they were revised based on the new Social Science AOS guidelines and re-approved at our dept and CUP fall 2021.

Cultural anthropology is a discipline that is devoted to the study of how people organize and create cultural systems, and in turn are shaped by those beliefs, ideas, and physical environments. Students who develop programs in Social Science with a concentration in Cultural Anthropology are often curious about how and why people live the way they do, and they are interested in learning more about people in different parts of the world.

Bachelor's Degree programs in Social Science with a concentration in Cultural Anthropology must meet the six foundations listed below, while Associate Degree programs are required to meet the first three. It is suggested that one course not be used to fulfill more than one Foundation (with the exception of Foundation #6). Students will explain how they meet each relevant learning outcome in their rationale essay. Knowledge of each outcome can be demonstrated through transcript credit; individual prior learning assessment (iPLA), prior learning evaluation (PLE), or credit by examination; or specific courses at SUNY Empire State University.

Foundation #1: Broad Social Science Perspective

- Learning outcome: Students will be able to define Social Science vocabulary, questions and topics.
- Learning Outcome: Students will be able to examine relationships among different elements of social life (e.g., institutions, systems of belief, cultural patterns, or political and economic structures of society).
 - Required course: ANTH 1010 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

Foundation #2: Historical and Comparative Perspectives

- Learning outcome: Students will be able to describe how key elements of social life vary across time, place and culture.
 - Choose two courses that focus on geographic areas such as:
 - ANTH 3035 Latin American and Caribbean Societies
 - HIST 1055 East Asia
 - HIST 2010 Mexico: History & Culture
 - HIST 2015 Native American Histories & Cultures
 - HIST 3010 Africa: History and Culture
 - HIST 3140 Caribbean: Cruises, Carnival, Colonization
 - HIST 3330 Latin America in the Contemporary World
 - HIST 3340 Middle East
 - Or similar courses in consultation with your mentor.

Foundation #3: Perspectives on Power and Privilege

- Learning outcome: Students will be able to examine the dynamics of power and privilege in relation to race, class, gender, age, sexuality, etc.
 - Required courses: At least one of the following courses including:
 - ANTH 3122 Sex and Gender in Global Perspective
 - ANTH 3030 Immigration Today
 - SOCI 2010 Intro to Race, Class and Gender
 - SOCI 4030 Power and Privilege
 - Any GSST course
 - Or similar courses in consultation with your mentor.

Foundation #4: Theoretical Perspectives

In relation to their chosen topics, questions or problems:

- Learning outcome: Students will be able to define relevant concepts and theories.
- Learning outcome: Students will be able to analyze the strengths, limitations and significance of relevant concepts and theories.
 - Required courses: SOSC 3015 Great Conversations in Social Thought, and two additional courses that address topics in anthropological theory such as:
 - ANTH 3015 Environmental Anthropology
 - ANTH 3025 Health Illness and Society
 - ANTH 3045 Travel & Tourism
 - ANTH 3020 Families in Global Perspective
 - ANTH 3122 Sex and Gender in Global Perspective
 - ANTH 3030 Immigration Today
 - Or similar courses in consultation with your mentor.

Foundation #5: Social Science Research Methods

In relation to their chosen topics, questions or problems:

- Learning outcome: Students will be able to define tools and methods used in social-science research.
- Learning outcome: Students will be able to analyze strengths and limitations of social-science research methodologies.
- Learning outcome: Students will be able to analyze ethical issues embedded in social-science research.
 - Required course: SOSC 3020 Qualitative Research Methods
 - Other elective research methods courses include:
 - SOSC 3025 Social Science Research Methods
 - SOSC 2010 Statistics for the Social Sciences
 - Or similar courses in consultation with your mentor.

Foundation #6: Critical Thinking and Analysis

In relation to their chosen topics, questions or problems:

- Learning outcome: Students will be able to evaluate key concepts, assumptions, theories and research from a Social Science perspective.
 - Required course: Any advanced level course in Anthropology with the prefix ANTH.