

Anthropology 130

NM HED Area IV. Social and Behavioral Sciences Competencies

UNM Area 4. Social and Behavioral Sciences

Student Learning Objectives

1. Students will be able to identify the thinkers and ideas associated with the central theoretical traditions in sociocultural anthropology, including: functionalism, structural functionalism, (post)structuralism, symbolic anthropology, and political economy. (Competency 1, 2, 3, 4)
2. Students will be able to define, explain, and critique the following approaches: ethnographic fieldwork, participant observation, linguistic elicitation, life history narrative and qualitative interviewing. (Competency 1, 4)
3. Students will be able demonstrate their understandings of the many forms of power and the possible responses to control and domination. (Competency 2, 4)
4. Students will be able to discuss economic, cultural, and political interdependencies and commodification. (Competency 2, 3, 4)
5. Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding that the values of anthropological concepts and practices depend upon applying them with an awareness of their political associations and the circumstances of the study. (Competency 1, 2, 3)
6. Students will be able to describe socio-cultural anthropology's approach to developing evidence in order to better understand complex human behaviors and describe how socio-cultural anthropologists study people. (Competency 2, 3)
7. Students will be able to identify the strengths and weaknesses of ethnographic fieldwork as an approach. (Competency 4)
8. Students will be able to see that anthropological ideas (such as the idea of 'culture') have been influenced by the society in which they were developed. (Competency 1, 4)
9. Students will be able to differentiate socio-cultural anthropology from other disciplines that study people. (Competency 4)

Assessment Questions:**Competency 1:**

1. Capitalism as a social formation refers to which two of the following?
 - a) the shift from subsistence to a market economy guided by the principle of supply and demand
 - b) the way of life that grows in service and response to the market
 - c) the production of goods directly for use rather than for sale
 - d) the social connections of community and family which give individuals meaning and status

2. True/False: The development of agriculture as a subsistence strategy brings with it an increase in malnutrition and disease.
3. True/False: The belief that women are better caregivers and therefore better suited to the helping professions like nursing, social work, and teaching is an example of the gendered allocation of labor.
4. Which of the following statements best describes how anthropologists think about the relationship between language and culture?
 - a. Different languages construct entirely distinct and different cultural universes that cannot be compared.
 - b. Language and culture mutually reinforce one another and are necessary for one another's existence.
 - c. Language systems are so culturally diverse that social scientists have no way of documenting them in a systematic fashion.
 - d. Language wholly determines culture.
5. Which of the following often characterize the non-market exchange of good and labor?
 - a. Reciprocity
 - b. Bartering
 - c. Redistribution
 - d. All of the above.
 - e. None of the above.

Competency 2:

1. Choose which of the following statements best describes cultural relativism:
 - a. Cultural relativism means that there is no basis upon which to judge one's own and other cultures.
 - b. Cultural relativism means that anthropologists try to adopt the cultures of other people while they do field work.
 - c. Cultural relativism leads anthropologists to judge religious fundamentalists harshly.
 - d. Cultural relativism allows anthropologists to accord validity to different forms of cultural expression in order to understand how people in other cultures know about and behave in the world.

2. True/False: Both sex and gender are determined by your genetic make-up. False

3. True/False: All societies divide gender into two categories, male and female, based on anatomy. False

4. A new guy joins your friends group and even though he isn't overbearing or boastful everyone is following his suggestions for how to spend time. His power to influence people is an example of:
 - a) coercive power
 - b) persuasive power
 - c) political power
 - d) tribal power

5. Sally goes to live in Brazil on exchange and expects to have an easy time because she has been studying Portuguese for two semesters at UNM. When she arrives she notices that her host family treats her like a small child, much more like her six-year-old host brother than her college age host brother. This breakdown in intercultural communication is fueled by her lack of _____ competence.
 - a) communicative
 - b) linguistic
 - c) morphological
 - d) semantic

Competency 3:

1. Kinship is a central organizing feature in society. Which of the following are examples of how kinship is embedded in social and cultural systems. (select all that apply)
 - a) kinship can determine how land is owned and shared
 - b) kinship cements ties of mutual support and aid
 - c) kinship determines who one can or cannot marry
 - d) kinship is our first basis of social membership and enculturation

2. True/False Human sexual behavior is primarily driven by the need to procreate.

3. True/False Holding a baby shower prior and presenting gifts to a child prior to its birth is an example of social birth occurring before physical birth.

4. True/False Early child-rearing practices, like feeding, sleeping arrangements, weaning, and social stimulation reflect cultural priorities and are the first stages in enculturation.

5. Ethnicity
 - a. Entails identification with a given ethnic group but it also involves the maintenance of a distinction from other groups.
 - b. Is easier to define than race.
 - c. Is not typically used on census forms and other forms that gather demographic data.
 - d. All of the above.
 - e. None of the above.

6. Gender and sex are:
 - a. Experienced in a like fashion by people of all cultures throughout the world.
 - b. Biological facts.
 - c. Generally defined in the United States by a binary system of male/female.
 - d. Naturally correspond to the presence of certain genital organs.
 - e. None of the above.

Competency 4:

1. Sally always borrows her friends' clothes and doesn't return them. When the friends get together they gossip about her and how annoying her behavior is. This is an example of maintaining social order through:
 - a) formal processes
 - b) informal processes
 - c) criminal processes
 - d) civil processes

2. The racist belief that it was the moral duty of colonizers to civilize the people and cultures they encountered through colonialism was known colloquially as:
 - a) imperialism
 - b) missionism
 - c) world systems theory
 - d) the white man's burden

3. True/False Particular languages and language forms are socially valued or devalued because of power differentials between the groups that speak them.

4. True/False Kinship systems are flexible and shift and adapt to incorporate new biomedical technologies like IVF or sperm donors or new social movements like same-sex marriage.

5. Which of the following statements best describes how anthropologists understand the phenomenon of race:
 - a) Race is a system of categories by which sociocultural significance is assigned to phenotypic differences that are genetically insignificant.
 - b) Races develop in response to differing geographical and climatological conditions.
 - c) Race explains how different cultures have developed over time and across the world.
 - d) Racial differences explain differences in intellectual and physical abilities.

6. Which of the following best illustrates the concept of language ideology?
 - a. The belief that people in the U.S. South speak a deficient form of English.
 - b. The Sapir-Whorf hypothesis.
 - c. The practice of code-switching between Spanish and English.
 - d. African-American children speaking African American Vernacular English, sometimes called "Ebonics," with a group of peers.
 - e. None of the above.

Essay Questions

What is the anthropological definition of culture? Which aspects of behavior interest anthropologists and what is their goal?

Socio-cultural anthropologists differentiate between overt, tacit, and covert signaling in behavior. Explain the differences among them using examples.

Which kinds of groups can socio-cultural anthropologists identify? Can we identify savage, barbarian, or civilized people? Can we delineate types of groups based on different kinds of signaling? Explain.

What is the anthropological approach known as ethnography, who developed it, and what are its key goals and methods?

Why are behaviors centering on place and space, time, kinship, and rituals and important peoples and places of great interest to socio-cultural anthropology?

Assessment Procedure:

At the end of each term, all students in each section of Anthropology 130 will take an online exam consisting of five questions randomly drawn from each of the four competencies, for a total of 20 questions. The average grade for each competency will be collated by members of the undergraduate committee. The committee will report the grades to the Anthropology 130 professors, who will meet to evaluate the results. The professors will identify the competency with the lowest average score, and will work together develop curricular changes to improved instruction.