GROSSMONT COLLEGE

Official Course Outline

ANTHROPOLOGY 127 – CULTURES OF LATIN AMERICA

1. Course Number Course Title Semester Units Semester Hours

ANTH 127 Cultures of 3 3 hours of lecture: 48-54 hours

Latin America 96-108 outside-of-class hours

144-162 total hours

2. Prerequisites

None

Corequisite

None

Recommended Preparation

None

3. Catalog Description

This course focuses on the ethnographic study of Latin American cultures. Students learn how various Latin American nation-states emerged and changed from the pre-Colombian period to today. Specific topics may include: colonialism, revolution, social movements, race, ethnicity, indigenous peoples, inequality, gender, health, religion, globalization, and popular culture. Throughout, we consider similarities and differences among the cultures of Latin America.

4. Course Objectives

The student will:

a. Describe cultural anthropological approaches, concepts, and methods.

b. Discuss the history of Latin America as a region.

c. Examine diverse cultural attributes and social identities within selected Latin American nations.

d. Determine areas of social tension and conflict within selected Latin American nations.

e. Evaluate the effects of globalization within Latin America and Latin American influences on other nations.

f. Critically reflect on readings and films.

5. Instructional Facilities

Standard classroom equipped with multimedia technology.

6. Special Materials Required of Student

None

7. Course Content

a. Introduction to the field of anthropology and culture concept

1) Anthropology and the four fields

2) Culture concept

3) Cultural relativism

b. Introduction to Latin America: overview

1) Geographic overview

2) Historical overview: nations and cultures

ANTHROPOLOGY 127 – CULTURES OF LATIN AMERICA Page 2

7. Course Content (continued)

c. Pre-contact: Latin America before the arrival of Europeans

Classic and post-classic civilizations

d. Conquest and colonialism

1) Violence and slavery

2) Ethnogenesis: mestizaje

3) Resistance

4) Independence and new nation-states

e. The state, military, and power

1) Political process

2) The state and the people

3) Conflict and civil wars

4) Everyday forms of resistance

f. Wealth and poverty

1) Regional economies

2) Agriculture

3) Maquiladoras

4) Social stratification

5) Poverty

6) Reform movements

g. Race and ethnicity

1) History and theory of “race”

2) Indigenous cultures

3) Mestizos and ladinos

4) African cultures

h. Gender roles and sexuality

1) Pre-European gender systems

2) Colonial gender systems

3) Contemporary gender systems

4) Women’s movements

5) Masculinity and the “machismo” stereotype

6) Sexualities

i. Religion: Church and everyday life

1) Indigenous religious systems

2) Missionaries and the diffusion of Christianity

3) Catholicism: the Church and popular Catholicism

4) Protestantism and Evangelical Churches

5) Religious syncretism

j. Health, illness, and healing

1) Folk illnesses and healing practices

2) Medical pluralism

3) Health epidemics in Latin America

4) Healthcare in Latin America

k. Globalization

1) Theories of globalization

2) European influence

3) U.S. influence

4) Latin American influence

5) Migration

6) Transnationalism

l. Popular culture

1) Food

2) Music and dance

3) Literature

4) Entertainment: telenovelas and films

5) Sports

ANTHROPOLOGY 127 – CULTURES OF LATIN AMERICA Page 3

7. Course Content (continued)

l. Popular culture (continued)

6) Celebrations

7) Tourism

8. Method of Instruction

a. Lecture

b. Group discussions

c. Multimedia presentations, such as videos and films

d. Guest speakers

e. In-class activities

9. Methods of Evaluating Student Performance

a. A minimum of one midterm exam

b. Final exam with objective and written components

c. Written assignments that may include: 2-3 page reflection papers on the readings, videos, or films, or an 8-10 page research paper.

d. Group project that may include an oral presentation on a Latin American culture, a significant cultural issue for the region such as indigenous rights or a cultural institution such as popular Catholicism.

10. Outside Class Assignments

a. Reading assignments from the textbook and supplementary articles.

b. Written assignments such as reflection papers or research papers.

c. Written analysis of a film or video.

d. Group project that may include an oral presentation on a Latin American culture, a significant cultural issue for the region such as indigenous rights or a cultural institution such as popular Catholicism.

11. Texts

a. Required Text(s):

(1) Green, Duncan with Sue Branford. *Faces of Latin America*. 4th edition. New York: Monthly Review Press, 2013.

(2) Gutmann, Matthew and Jeffrey Lesser (Editors).*Global Latin America: Into the Twenty-First Century.* Oakland: University of California Press, 2016.

b. Supplementary texts and workbooks:

Coe, Michael and Rex Koontz. *Mexico: From the Olmecs to the Aztecs*.7th edition. New York: Thames & Hudson, 2013

Addendum: Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, our students will be able to do the following:

a. Apply anthropological approaches to the study of selected Latin American cultures, past or present. b. Compare and contrast cultural similarities and differences among Latin American societies.

c. Analyze how globalization affects, and is affected by, Latin American societies.

Date approved by the Governing Board: December 12, 2017