

**Course: Interdisciplinary Minor**  
**Course Title: Fundamentals of Social Anthropology**  
**Course Code: SOC-406**  
**Credits: 2**  
**Total Hours: 20 (Theory)**

**Course Description:**

This course provides an introductory exploration of Social Anthropology, focusing on the fundamental concepts, methods, and approaches that define the discipline. It offers a comparative perspective on human societies, cultures, and social institutions across the globe, helping students from various disciplines understand the diverse ways in which humans live and organize their social lives. This interdisciplinary course is designed to equip students with a foundational understanding of social anthropology, useful in a wide range of academic and professional contexts.

**Learning Objectives:**

- To introduce the basic concepts and theoretical frameworks of social anthropology.
- To familiarize students with the methodologies used in anthropological research.
- To explore key social institutions and cultural practices across different societies.
- To develop a comparative understanding of human societies and cultures.
- To enhance critical thinking skills by examining the diversity of human social life.

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand and articulate the basic concepts and theories of social anthropology.
- Apply anthropological methods to analyze social and cultural phenomena.
- Compare and contrast different social institutions and cultural practices.
- Critically engage with anthropological texts and discussions.
- Demonstrate an awareness of the diversity and complexity of human societies.

**Unit 1: Introduction to Social Anthropology (4 hours)**

- Definition and Scope of Social Anthropology
- Key Concepts: Culture, Society, and Social Structure
- The Historical Development of Social Anthropology

**Unit 2: Research Methods in Social Anthropology (4 hours)**

- Ethnography and Participant Observation
- Comparative Method
- Fieldwork Ethics and Reflexivity

**Unit 3: Kinship, Marriage, and Family (4 hours)**

- Theories of Kinship
- Marriage Practices Across Cultures
- Family Structures and Social Organization

**Unit 4: Economic and Political Systems (4 hours)**

- Modes of Production and Exchange
- Political Organization: Bands, Tribes, Chiefdoms, and States
- Power, Authority, and Social Control

### **Unit 5: Religion, Ritual, and Symbolism (4 hours)**

- Anthropological Approaches to Religion
- Rituals and Rites of Passage
- Symbols and Meanings in Social Life

#### **List of Readings:**

1. Barnard, Alan. (2000). *History and Theory in Anthropology*. Cambridge University Press.
2. Eriksen, Thomas Hylland. (2015). *Small Places, Large Issues: An Introduction to Social and Cultural Anthropology*. Pluto Press.
3. Ember, Carol R., Ember, Melvin, & Peregrine, Peter N. (2015). *Anthropology* (14th Edition). Pearson.
4. Haviland, William A. (2013). *Cultural Anthropology: The Human Challenge* (14th Edition). Cengage Learning.
5. Kuper, Adam. (2014). *Anthropology and Anthropologists: The Modern British School*. Routledge.
6. Malinowski, Bronislaw. (1922). *Argonauts of the Western Pacific*. Routledge & Kegan Paul.