ANTH 42 Course Outline as of Summer 2025

CATALOG INFORMATION

Dept and Nbr: ANTH 42 Title: CANNABIS & CULTURE
Full Title: Cannabis and Culture
Last Reviewed: 5/8/2023

Units		Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours Total	
Maximum	3.00	Lecture Scheduled	3.00	17.5	Lecture Scheduled	52.50
Minimum	3.00	Lab Scheduled	0	4	Lab Scheduled	0
		Contact DHR	0		Contact DHR	0
		Contact Total	3.00		Contact Total	52.50
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 105.00 Total Student Learning Hours: 157.50

Title 5 Category:	AA Degree Applicable
Grading:	Grade or P/NP
Repeatability:	00 - Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP
Also Listed As:	
Formerly:	ANTHRO 42

Catalog Description:
In this course, students will examine cannabis use through time from an anthropological perspective. Topics include the archaeological and ethnobotanical evidence for cannabis use, symbolic and cultural meanings of cannabis, institutional ideologies, and ethnographic studies of cannabis-related behaviors.

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended Preparation:
Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent

Limits on Enrollment:

Schedule of Classes Information:
Description: In this course, students will examine cannabis use through time from an anthropological perspective. Topics include the archaeological and ethnobotanical evidence for cannabis use, symbolic and cultural meanings of cannabis, institutional ideologies, and ethnographic studies of cannabis-related behaviors. (Grade or P/NP)
Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent
Limits on Enrollment:
Transfer Credit: CSU;UC.
Repeatability: Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:

AS Degree:	**Area**		Effective:	Inactive:
	D	Social and Behavioral Sciences	Fall 2025	
	L4	Social and Behavioral Sciences		
	D	Social and Behavioral Sciences	Fall 2024	Fall 2025
CSU GE:	**Transfer Area**		Effective:	Inactive:
	D	Social Science	Fall 2024	
	D1	Anthropology and Archeology		
IGETC:	**Transfer Area**		Effective:	Inactive:
	4	Social and Behavioral Science	Fall 2024	
	4A	Anthropology and Archeology		

CSU Transfer:	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 2024	Inactive:
UC Transfer:	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 2024	Inactive:

CID:

Certificate/Major Applicable:
Major Applicable Course

COURSE CONTENT

Student Learning Outcomes:
At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:
1. Identify methods and theoretical frameworks for studying cannabis and cannabis use through an anthropological lens.
2. Apply anthropological vocabulary and concepts to human cannabis use and users.
3. Analyze contemporary issues surrounding cannabis use from a biocultural perspective.

Objectives:
At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:
1. Explain the anthropological approach to studying human cannabis use.
2. Recognize and describe the biocultural nature of anthropological inquiry and its applications to studies of cannabis.
3. Identify the nature of scientific inquiry and its applications in anthropological studies of cannabis.
4. Compare and contrast the various types of evidence anthropologists use to evaluate cannabis usage: biological, archaeological, sociocultural, and linguistic.
5. Recognize and describe the early evidence for human cultural practices relating to cannabis cultivation and consumption.
6. Identify and describe human cannabis use cross-culturally, both ancient and contemporary, through legal, ethical, and global contexts.

Topics and Scope:

I. Introduction to Anthropology
II. Scientific Method and Anthropological Research
III. Anthropological Approaches to Studying Cannabis
IV. Biology, Evolution, and Ecology of Cannabis
    A. Hemp vs. cannabis
    B. Cannabis and human biology
    C. Medicinal, alimentary, and recreational consumption
V. Biological Anthropology and Cannabis
    A. Bioarchaeology
    B. Paleogenetics
    C. Medical anthropology
    D. Forensic anthropology
VI. Archaeology of Cannabis
    A. Excavation and recovery techniques
    B. Ethnobotany
    C. Residue analysis
    D. Paleogenetics and biogeography
VII. Sociocultural Anthropology and Cannabis
    A. Ethnography and fieldwork
    B. Medical Anthropology
    C. Ethnomusicology
    D. Religion, altered states, and shamanism
VIII. The Linguistic Anthropology of Cannabis
    A. Sociolinguistics
    B. Historical linguistics
IX. Cannabis in Popular Culture
    A. Visual arts
    B. Music
    C. Literature
X. Cannabis Around the Globe
XI. Cannabis and the Law

Assignment:

1. Reading assignments (between 10-40 pages per class per week).
2. Writing assignments, such as:
    A. Short-answer and essay responses (250-400 words each) based on assigned reading.
    B. Students may also be expected to complete a research project on a related topic or to produce an academic poster (1500-2000 words) and brief presentation.
3. Exam(s) or quiz(zes) (1 minimum)
4. Optional assignments, such as:
    A. Mini-research projects and presentations on assigned readings or relevant topics
    B. Hands-on skills exercises
    C. Analytical exercises.

Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:

Writing: Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

Writing assignments	Writing 20 - 40%

Problem Solving: Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

Optional assignments	Problem solving 0 - 20%

Skill Demonstrations: All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

Optional assignments	Skill Demonstrations 0 - 20%

Exams: All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

Exam(s) or quiz(zes)	Exams 20 - 40%

Other: Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

Optional assignments	Other Category 0 - 10%

Representative Textbooks and Materials:

Weed Rules: Blazing the Way to a Just and Joyful Marijuana Policy. 1st ed. Wexler, Jay. University of California Press. 2023.

Ancient Psychoactive Substances. Fitzpatrick, Scott M., editor. University of Florida Press. 2018 (classic).

Cannabis: Evolution and Ethnobotany, 1st ed. Clarke, Robert C. and Merlin, Mark D. University of California Press. 2013 (classic).

Consuming Habits: Global & Historical Perspectives on How Cultures Define Drugs, 2nd ed. Goodman, J. and Lovejoy, Paul and Sherratt, Andrew. Routledge. 2014 (classic).

Plants of the Gods: Their Sacred, Healing & Hallucinogenic Powers, 2nd ed. Schultes, Richard E. and Hoffman, Albert and Rätsch, Christian. Healing Arts Press. 2001 (classic).