

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
INSTITUTE OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND GENDER STUDIES
2014/2015 Academic Year
NAF 402: PSYCHOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
Course Outline

Instructor: Khamati Shilabukha, PhD

Objective

This course is tailored to provide students with an understanding of the relationship between anthropology as discipline interested in culture and psychology as a discipline interested in human behaviour. It aims at equipping students with the necessary tools for examining, analysing and understanding human perception, motivation and action.

Course content

1. Definition of psychological anthropology

- What is psychological anthropology
- Why study psychological anthropology
- Contributors to the development of psychological anthropology

2. The study of human action

- Psychoanalysis
- Elements of psychoanalysis
- Behaviour and culture
- Motivation and perception
- Defence mechanisms
- Taboos and totems
- Fetishes
- Ambivalence
- Sensations and perception

3. The quest for happiness

- Psychological explanations
- Is ideal happiness possible?
- Happiness, ambition and achievement
- Happiness and focal time
- Happiness and age

4. The concept of personality

- What is personality
- Personality in culture and culture in personality
- Structure of personality
- Components of personality

5. Theories about personality

- Socio-psychological interpretation of projective systems
- Psychodynamic theories
- Moral and cognitive theories
- Humanistic theories
- Shame resilience

- Behaviourism and social learning
- Symbolic interactionism

6. Identity and measurement of personality

- Measuring personality traits
- Identification of personality traits
- Personality disorders

7. Personality in change

- Causes and consequences of induced personality change
- Causes and consequences of altered states
- Physical change
- Environmental change
- Religious conversion and personality

Reading List

Bock, P. K. 1980

Re-thinking psychological anthropology: Continuity and change in the study of human action. New York: W. H. Freeman and Co.

Harris, M. 1991

Cultural anthropology, New York: Harper Collins Publishers.

Howard, R. 1993

Contemporary cultural anthropology, New York: Harper Collins Publishers.

Nunnally Jr., J. C. 1970

Introduction to psychological measurement, New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company.

Sciepin, R. 1995

Cultural anthropology: A global perspective, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall.

Steward, J. H. 1952

Theory of culture change: The methodology of multi-linear evolution, Urbana: University of Illinois Press.

* Note that this reading list is not exhaustive. You are expected to check with the Institute Library or any other sources for additional and relevant material on psychology and anthropology.

Mode of Presentation

1. Lectures and class discussions and debates
2. A personal take home assignment on an area to be given will account for 20 Marks of the Continuous assessment Marks.
3. A sit-in Continuous Assessment Test will account for 10% of the total score.
4. The final examination will account for 70% of the total score