

# Texas State University

## Outcomes Report

### General Information

<b>Academic Year:</b>	2022-2023
<b>College:</b>	Liberal Arts
<b>Department:</b>	Anthropology
<b>Program:</b>	ANTH 1312
<b>Program Code:</b>	8.00
<b>Outcome Type:</b>	General Education
<b>Degree:</b>	Other
<b>Coordinator/Contact:</b>	Emily Brunson
<b>Status:</b>	Data Entry Closed

### Mission Statement

The mission of the general education core curriculum at Texas State University is to provide students with a broad academic foundation in the component areas of communication; mathematics; life and physical sciences; language, philosophy and culture; creative arts; American history; government/political science; and social and behavioral sciences.

#### Social and Behavioral Sciences Mission:

The mission of the social and behavioral sciences component is to focus on the application of empirical and scientific methods that contribute to the understanding of what makes us human.

### Evidence of Improvement

Comparing results of the current year with those of the previous year in the general education course "Cultural Anthropology" improvement in student learning was evident for Outcome 1 ("Basic Concepts in Cultural Anthropology"), Outcome 2 ("Critical Thinking"), and Outcome 5 ("Social Responsibility") with increases of 11.4%, 6.5%, and 1.8% respectively. We continued to meet our goal of 80% of students meeting expectations for Outcome 2 ("Critical Thinking") and Outcome 3 ("Communication"). As outlined in the previous Action Plan, faculty devoted more time in class to discussing and providing examples of fundamental concepts in cultural anthropology as well as the specific concepts of cultural relativism and ethnocentrism; all of which resulted in an improvement in student performance in Outcomes 1 and 5.

### Action Plan

After making the methods more challenging in an earlier Action Plan and a resultant decrease in student success, last year's Action Plan was to devote more time in class to discussing fundamental concepts in cultural anthropology as well as the specific concepts of cultural relativism and ethnocentrism with more examples of these concepts to enhance student understanding. Faculty and instructional assistants also offered optional out-of-class discussion hours to provide students with additional instruction on these topics. The implementation of this plan resulted in an increase in student success for Outcomes 1, 2 and 5. We also achieved our goal of 80% of students meeting expectations for two of those Outcomes (Outcome 2 "Critical Thinking" and Outcome 3 "Communication") and faculty will continue the current instructional approaches for these Outcomes. Compared to the previous year, there was a decrease in student success for Outcome 4 ("Empirical and Quantitative Skills") and for Outcome 5 ("Social Responsibility"), we did not achieve our goal of 80% of students meeting expectations. To improve student learning, faculty will devote more time in class to discussing the economic aspects of culture and the nature of gender in human societies and utilize multiple instructional tools to present examples of these concepts to meet the needs of all students. Faculty and instructional assistants will continue to offer optional out-of-class discussion hours to provide students with additional instruction on these topics.

### Outcome 1

Students in the course "Cultural Anthropology" will explore behavior and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, and/or events, including their impact on the individual, society and/or culture.

#### Outcome 1 - Method 1

Students will describe basic concepts in cultural anthropology and apply them to different social groups and social processes on 5 multiple choice questions. The faculty who teach this course collectively developed the questions. The same questions are used in all sections, and professors evaluate student answers. Students who answer all 5 questions correctly will exceed expectations, those with 4 correct answers will meet expectations, and those with 3 or fewer correct answers will fail to meet expectations. Our goal is for 80% of students to meet or exceed expectations.

#### Outcome 1 - Method 1 - Result

In fall and spring semesters, a total of 466 undergraduate students were assessed using 5 multiple-choice questions in order to measure students' abilities to explore behavior and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, and/or events, including their impact on the individual, society and/or culture. The faculty members found that 143 students (30.7%) exceeded expectations, 215 students (46.1%) met expectations, and 108 students (23.2%) failed to meet expectations. Thus, 76.8% of students in "Cultural Anthropology" met expectations by demonstrating the ability to describe and apply the basic concepts and methods of cultural anthropology, and we did not exceed our goal of at least 80% of students meeting expectations. Nevertheless, the percent of students meeting expectations this year has increased by 11.4% from last year's result (65.4%) likely

due to the implementation of the Action Plan. To continue this trend in student learning, faculty will continue to emphasize the fundamental concepts of Cultural Anthropology in class and faculty and instructional assistants will continue to offer optional out-of-class discussion hours to provide students with additional instruction on these concepts and methods.

#### **Outcome 2**

**Competency:** Critical Thinking

Students in the course "Cultural Anthropology" will demonstrate creative thinking innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information.

#### **Outcome 2 - Method 1**

Students will critically apply their understanding of the history, methodology and central concepts of cultural anthropology on 5 multiple-choice questions at the end of the semester in class. The faculty who teach this course collectively developed the questions. The same questions are used in all sections, and professors evaluate student answers. Students who answer all 5 questions correctly will exceed expectations, those with 4 correct answers will meet expectations, and those with 3 or fewer correct answers will fail to meet expectations. Our goal is for 80% of students to meet or exceed expectations.

#### **Outcome 2 - Method 1 - Result**

In fall and spring semesters, a total of 466 undergraduate students were assessed using 5 multiple-choice questions in order to measure students' abilities to develop critical thinking skills through exposure to class materials and discussions that promote innovation, inquiry and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information. The faculty found that 316 students (67.8%) exceeded expectations, 102 students (21.9%) met expectations, and 48 students (10.3%) failed to meet expectations. Thus, 89.7% of students in "Cultural Anthropology" met expectations by demonstrating the ability to evaluate the history, methodology and central concepts of anthropology, and we exceeded our goal of at least 80% of students meeting expectations. We more than achieved our goal of having at least 80% of undergraduate students meeting expectations with more students meeting expectations compared to the previous year (83.2%). The increase in percentage of undergraduate students meeting expectations reflects the implementation of last year's Action Plan and faculty will continue this approach.

#### **Outcome 3**

**Competency:** Communication

Students in the course "Cultural Anthropology" will effectively develop, interpret, and express ideas through written, oral, and visual communication.

#### **Outcome 3 - Method 1**

In a short, out of class writing assignment in the second half of the semester, students will discuss one of the following topics: cultural relativism, fieldwork/ethnography, kinship, political organizations and issues of power, or applied cultural anthropology. The faculty who teach this course collectively developed the topics. The same topics are used in all sections, and professors evaluate student papers. Students will exceed expectations if their discussion is complete and compelling, they will meet expectations if their discussion is complete, and they will fail to meet expectations if they are unable to discuss the assigned topic. Our goal is for 80% of students to meet or exceed expectations.

#### **Outcome 3 - Method 1 - Result**

In fall and spring semesters, a total of 476 undergraduate students were evaluated as to their ability to develop communication skills including the effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, aural and visual communication. The faculty found that 210 students (44.1%) exceeded expectations, 192 students (40.3%) met expectations, and 74 students (15.6%) failed to meet expectations. Thus, 84.5% of students in "Cultural Anthropology" met expectations by demonstrating their ability to communicate effectively through writing about an anthropological topic (e.g., cultural relativism, fieldwork/ethnography, kinship, political organizations and issues of power, or applied cultural anthropology). We more than achieved our goal of having at least 80% of undergraduate students meeting expectations despite a slight decrease (-1.4%) compared to the previous year's results (85.9%); thus, this year's results are essentially the same as last year and faculty will continue with the current approach to sustain this trend in the ability of students to discuss important issues in cultural anthropology.

#### **Outcome 4**

**Competency:** Empirical and Quantitative Skills

Students in the course "Cultural Anthropology" will manipulate and analyze numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed conclusions.

#### **Outcome 4 - Method 1**

Using data from ethnographic studies, students will empirically analyze similarities and differences across several cultures for characteristics such as group size, division of labor, food acquisition strategy, economy, political system, technology, and social structure on 5 multiple-choice questions at the end of the semester in class. The faculty who teach this course collectively developed the questions. The same questions are used in all sections, and professors evaluate student answers. Students who answer all 5 questions correctly will exceed expectations, those with 4 correct answers will meet expectations, and those with 3 or fewer correct answers will fail to meet expectations. Our goal is for 80% of students to meet or exceed expectations.

#### **Outcome 4 - Method 1 - Result**

In fall and spring semesters, a total of 466 undergraduate students were evaluated using 5 multiple-choice questions as to their ability to develop empirical skills, including the analysis of observable facts resulting in informed conclusions. The faculty found that 203 students (43.6%) exceeded expectations, 153 students (32.8%) met expectations, and 110 students (23.6%) failed to meet expectations. Thus, 76.4% of students in “Cultural Anthropology” met expectations by demonstrating their ability to empirically analyze similarities and differences across several cultures for characteristics such as group size, division of labor, food acquisition strategy, economy, political system, technology, and social structure. Based on these results, we did not meet our goal of having at least 80% of undergraduate students meeting expectations and there was a 6.5% decrease in success from the previous year’s results (82.9%). Of the 5 questions, considerably less students correctly answered a question evaluating their understanding of the economic aspects of culture and faculty will expand their discussions of this topic during class to improve student performance.

**Outcome 5**  
**Competency:** Social Responsibility

Students in the course “Cultural Anthropology” will demonstrate intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities.

**Outcome 5 - Method 1**

Students will demonstrate their understanding of the concepts of cultural relativism and ethnocentrism, in a comparison of regional, national and/or global communities on 5 multiple-choice questions at the end of the semester in class. The faculty who teach this course collectively developed the questions. The same questions are used in all sections, and professors evaluate student answers. Students who answer all 5 questions correctly will exceed expectations, those with 4 correct answers will meet expectations, and those with 3 or fewer correct answers will fail to meet expectations. Our goal is for 80% of students to meet or exceed expectations.

**Outcome 5 - Method 1 - Result**

In fall and spring semesters, a total of 466 undergraduate students were assessed using 5 multiple-choice questions in order to measure their understanding of intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities. The faculty determined that 134 students (28.8%) exceeded expectations, 187 students (40.1%) met expectations, and 145 students (31.1%) failed to meet expectations. Thus, 68.9% of students in “Cultural Anthropology” met expectations by demonstrating an understanding of the concepts of cultural relativism and ethnocentrism, and we did not exceed our goal of at least 80% of students meeting expectations. However, this result is a slight increase in percentage of students meeting expectations over last year’s results (67.1); thus, results are essentially the same as last year. Nevertheless, students performed poorly on 1 question evaluating their understanding of gender in human societies as a component of intercultural competence and faculty will devote additional class time to discussing this concept to enhance their understanding. An increase in student performance regarding this concept should improve overall student learning for this Outcome.

<b>Approval History</b>	
<b>Approval History Event</b>	<b>Approver</b>
Outcomes Approved Level 1	Emily Brunson (eb32)
Outcomes Approved Level 2	Mary Cavitt (mc58)
Outcomes Audit Report Submitted	Lisa Chrans (lc19)
Results Approved Level 1	Emily Brunson (eb32)
Results Approved Level 2	Mary Cavitt (mc58)
Results Audit Report Submitted	Lisa Chrans (lc19)