



**Core Concepts**

**Basic Definitions**

<b>Anthropology:</b>	The study of humanity, encompassing its evolutionary history, present biology, society, and culture.
<b>Culture:</b>	The learned and shared behaviors, beliefs, and values that characterize a group of people.
<b>Ethnography:</b>	The systematic study of people and cultures. It is a descriptive work produced from participant observation.
<b>Holism:</b>	The anthropological commitment to consider the full scope of human life, including culture, biology, history, and language, across space and time.
<b>Ethnocentrism:</b>	The tendency to view one's own culture as superior and to apply one's own cultural values in judging the behavior and beliefs of people raised in other cultures.
<b>Cultural Relativism:</b>	The principle that all cultural beliefs are equally valid and that behavior in one culture should not be judged by the standards of another.

**Key Approaches**

<b>Evolutionary Approach:</b>	Focuses on the biological and cultural evolution of humans over time.
<b>Cultural Ecology:</b>	Studies how humans adapt to their environment and the ecological consequences of human actions.
<b>Interpretive Anthropology:</b>	Focuses on understanding culture as a system of meaning and symbols.
<b>Critical Anthropology:</b>	Examines power structures and inequalities within and between cultures.

**Subfields of Anthropology**

**Cultural Anthropology**

Examines cultural variation among humans. Focuses on understanding how people in different societies live and make meaning of their worlds. Employs ethnographic methods.
<b>Key Topics:</b> kinship, religion, economics, politics, art, and social change.

**Archaeology**

Involves the study of past peoples and cultures by excavating and analyzing material remains.
<b>Key Topics:</b> prehistoric and historic archaeology, cultural resource management, and heritage studies.

**Linguistic Anthropology**

Studies language in its social and cultural context, across space and time.
<b>Key Topics:</b> language acquisition, language change, sociolinguistics, and linguistic relativity.

**Biological Anthropology**

Focuses on the biological and behavioral aspects of humans, their extinct hominin ancestors, and related non-human primates.
<b>Key Topics:</b> human evolution, primatology, human genetics, and human variation.

**Theoretical Perspectives**

**Early Theories**

<b>Unilineal Evolutionism:</b>	The 19th-century theory that all societies pass through a series of progressive evolutionary stages.
<b>Diffusionism:</b>	The theory that cultural traits spread from one culture to another.
<b>Historical Particularism:</b>	The idea that each culture has its own unique history and development.

**Later Theories**

<b>Functionalism:</b>	The theory that all aspects of a culture serve a function and contribute to the overall stability of the society.
<b>Structuralism:</b>	The approach that sees culture as a system of binary oppositions and underlying structures.
<b>Post-Structuralism:</b>	A theoretical development that critiques structuralism, emphasizing power, discourse, and the instability of meaning.

**Research Methods**

**Qualitative Methods**

<b>Participant Observation:</b>	Immersing oneself in a culture to gain a deep understanding of its practices and beliefs.
<b>Interviews:</b>	Conducting structured or unstructured conversations with individuals to gather information and perspectives.
<b>Focus Groups:</b>	Facilitating group discussions to explore specific topics and gather diverse opinions.

**Quantitative Methods**

<b>Surveys:</b>	Distributing questionnaires to collect data from a large sample of individuals.
<b>Statistical Analysis:</b>	Using statistical techniques to analyze numerical data and identify patterns and relationships.
<b>GIS Mapping:</b>	Using Geographic Information Systems to analyze spatial data and map cultural phenomena.

**Ethical Considerations**

<b>Informed Consent:</b>	Ensuring that research participants understand the purpose, risks, and benefits of the study and freely agree to participate.
<b>Confidentiality:</b>	Protecting the privacy of research participants by keeping their identities and personal information secure.
<b>Cultural Sensitivity:</b>	Respecting the cultural values and norms of the communities being studied and avoiding harm or offense.