

8.4 Content: Society and Culture Preliminary Course

Preliminary: The Social and Cultural World

(20% of course time)

The focus of this study is the interactions between persons, societies, cultures and environments, both in contemporary society and in societies across time.

Outcomes

A student:

- P1 describes the interaction between persons, societies, cultures and environments across time
- P3 describes cultural diversity and commonality within societies and cultures
- P5 investigates power, authority, gender and technology, and describes their influence on decision-making and participation in society
- P6 differentiates between, and applies, the methodologies of social and cultural research
- P7 applies appropriate language and concepts associated with society and culture
- P10 communicates information, ideas and issues using appropriate written, oral and graphic forms.

Content

Students learn about:

Concepts

The fundamental concepts of society, culture, persons, environment, time and the concepts of power, authority, gender and technology are to be integrated across The Social and Cultural World.

The key concepts to be integrated across The Social and Cultural World are:

- social and cultural literacy
- community
- groups
- communication
- conflict
- socialisation
- enculturation
- acculturation
- cooperation
- citizenship
- decision-making
- change
- continuity
- multiculturalism
- micro world
- macro world

The Nature of Society and Culture

How society and culture:

- is conceptually based
- applies social and cultural research methodologies
- integrates cross-cultural studies
- combines personal experience and public knowledge
- is interdisciplinary, drawing upon the following disciplines
 - anthropology
 - cultural studies
 - philosophy
 - social ecology
 - communication
 - media studies
 - psychology
 - sociology

The Social and Cultural World

Persons and their interactions with individuals, groups and the community within the contexts of the micro and macro worlds.

A cross-cultural study that compares Australia with an overseas culture in relation to:

- family
- roles and status
- conflict, cooperation and decision-making
- gender
- communication
- power, authority and influence

Social and Cultural Research

The process of social and cultural research involves:

- clearly defining a question, a problem or a topic of specific interest
- planning the research by breaking the question, problem or topic into sections that are manageable
- conducting a literature search by finding and reviewing appropriate secondary material about the research topic
- choosing appropriate methodologies for the research topic or question
- collecting facts pertinent to the problem, question or topic
- organising and interpreting collected data
- evaluating methodologies, instruments and their applicability to the research topic
- presenting findings using a variety of forms of communication

The methodologies and techniques of research are:

- qualitative
- content analysis
- questionnaire
- observation
- quantitative
- statistical analysis (data analysis)
- interview

Students learn to:

- apply the fundamental concepts to TWO social situations, for example:
 - the school
 - family
 - a selection from the media
 - a group of which the student is a member
- describe the stages in the process of social and cultural research
- distinguish between the advantages and disadvantages of qualitative and quantitative research methodologies for a particular research topic
- apply the methodology of case study to ONE of the aspects listed during their cross-cultural study
- distinguish between the micro world and the macro world.