Using film and text, this course introduces students to the substantive issues, methods, and concepts of cultural anthropology. Generally speaking, cultural anthropology is the study of how human beings organize their lives as members of society, and the ways in which they make these lives meaningful as cultural individuals. This study involves encountering, interpreting, and communicating about the human situation in all its variety. Essentially, what we will do is question the nature of "human nature" in our examination of human life, paying particular attention to the ways in which gender and sexuality are constructed across time and space. We will also look at economics, religion and ritual, social and political organization, kinship and marriage, and inequality across cultures, from non-Western indigenous groups to modern states. Our main method of exploring these concepts will be films, ranging from short YouTube clips to multi-part ethnographic films. We will also critically examine a few fictional films in order to better think critically about media and representation. In addition to watching films both in and outside of class, we will draw on written scholarly works.

Requirement filled for Arts & Sciences: Human Diversity

For more course descriptions go to: http://srap.colorado.edu/