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Types of anthropology

Anthropology is the study of humans, human behavior and societies in the past and present. Social anthropology studies patterns of behavior and cultural anthropology studies cultural meaning, including norms and values. Linguistics anthropology studies how language influences social life. There are now four major fields of anthropology: biological, cultural, linguistics and archaeology. Each focuses on a different set of research interests. Anthropologists take a broad approach to understanding the many different aspects of the human experience. They consider the past, through archaeology, to see how human groups lived hundreds or thousands of years ago.

Physical / biological anthropology is the study of the past and the present evolution of the human species concerned with understanding the causes of present human diversity. Within this broad definition it encompasses fields as disparate as human paleontology, evolutionary biology, human genetics, comparative anatomy and physiology, primate behavior, human behavioral ecology, and human biology. Human biology broadly covers the areas of modern human biological variation, human ecology, nutrition and demography. Evolutionary studies also extend to modern human biological and behavioral variation. One fascinating area of current interest is the degree to which human behavior is rooted in biology rather than culture.

Cultural anthropology is hallmarked by the concept of culture. Many definitions of “culture” have been offered and discussed in academic literature for 100 years; a simple, yet complete definition of culture is the knowledge people use to live their lives and the way in which they do so. Cultural anthropologists specialize in the study of culture and peoples’ beliefs, practices, and the cognitive and social organization of human groups, study how people who share a common cultural system organize and shape the physical and social world around them, and are in turn shaped by those ideas, behaviors, and physical environments.

Linguistic anthropology examines the links between language and culture, including how language relates to thought, social action, identity, and power relations. It is one of the four traditional subfields of American anthropology, sharing with cultural anthropology its aims of explaining social, cultural phenomena, with biological anthropology its concern over language origins, evolution, and with archaeology. Understanding cultural histories. Linguistic anthropology has developed through international work across social science disciplines, as researchers attend to language as a key to understanding social phenomena. In order to explain linguistic phenomena, linguistic anthropology aims to explain social and cultural phenomena by considering linguistic information.

Archaeology, or archeology, is the study of human activity through the recovery and analysis of material culture. The archaeological record consists of artifacts, architecture, bio facts or Eco facts and cultural landscapes. Archaeology can be considered both a social science and a branch of the humanities. There are several different kinds of archaeology: prehistoric, historic, classical, and underwater, to name a few. These often overlap. For example, when archaeologists studied the wreck of the Civil War ironclad, the Monitor, they were doing both historical and underwater archaeology. Archaeology provides us with the opportunity to learn about past cultures through the study of artifacts, animal bones and sometimes-human bones. Studying these artifacts helps to provide us with some insight about what life was like for people who left behind no written record.

Great job Caden! SO proud! Only thing to do now is to add a work cited to protect yourself from plagiarism. If you used any outside sources, and it looks like you did (which is GREAT!), you need to cite your sources at the bottom of the essay. So proud! Thank you for being a part of my anthropology family! :D