

Introduction to Anthropology

Anthropology has been derived from two Greek words -anthroposø(man) and -logusø(study of science). It is thus the study of human beings scientifically. Specifically, it is the study of human beings and their works and behaviour. Kottak (2002) defines anthropology as the study of the human species and its immediate ancestors. It is an equally comparative and holistic science.

Anthropology is often portrayed as the study of fossils and non industrial, nonówestern cultures. While this is partly correct, it is much more than that. It is as comparative field that examines all societies, ancient and modern, simple and complex. Anthropology offers a unique cross-cultural perspective by constantly comparing the customs of one society with another.