

Chapter Themes	Introduces the cultural domain of economics and the central or foundational role of economic practices in society. Discusses the main types of economic systems across cultures and the social and cultural characteristics most commonly associated with each.
Chapter Learning Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the need for humans to adapt their sustenance practices to their environments</li> <li>• Be able to explain what anthropologists mean when they suggest that the economic domain is the core or base of culture</li> <li>• Realize how humans culturize nature even as they naturalize culture</li> <li>• Discuss the concepts of “mode of production” and “relations of production” and the connection between the two concepts</li> <li>• Identify the three main phases of an economic system—production, distribution, and consumption</li> <li>• Describe in detail the four major cross-cultural production systems—foraging, pastoralism, horticulture, and intensive agriculture—and the cultural characteristics commonly associated with each</li> <li>• Recognize how gender relations are affected by economic practices and concepts</li> <li>• Appreciate the diversity within each of the major production systems</li> <li>• Explain the three main systems of distribution—reciprocity,</li> </ul>

	<p>redistribution, and market exchange—and how they relate to production systems and to social relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understand how consumption is culturally constructed, and be able to give examples of the diversity and cultural meaning and value of various consumption practices</li></ul>
Chapter Highlights	<p>Like all species, humans must adapt to their environment, but human sustenance practices entail organization and establish and perpetuate social relations, meanings, and values</p> <p>Anthropologists typically regard economics as the base or core of culture: culture is integrated, but economics plays an especially influential role in the cultural system</p> <p>The mode of production in a society leads to various and specific relations of production, the ways in which the society organizes itself to achieve productive functions</p> <p>An economic system involves natural resources, human labor, tools and technology, knowledge and skills, and capital or inputs</p> <p>Economic activity moves through three phases: production, distribution, and consumption. Each influences and is influenced by the others, as well as the broader culture</p> <p>There are four major historical cross-cultural production systems: foraging,</p>

	<p>pastoralism, horticulture, and intensive agriculture. Each generates a particular constellation of common cultural characteristics, although each is also diverse</p> <p>The production systems have distinct outcomes in terms of power and political organization, wealth and differences in wealth, gender relations, values and religious beliefs, etc.</p> <p>There are three main systems of distribution—reciprocity, redistribution, and market exchange—associated with particular production systems but also occurring within various relationships within any possible society (that is, even in societies where market exchange dominates, people in certain relationships may practice reciprocity or redistribution with each other)</p> <p>Consumption has been the least theorized and described aspect of economic behavior, yet it too is culturally constructed</p> <p>Consumption practices involve how and by whom goods are prepared, presented, shared, and used in social situations, e.g. who may eat which particular foods in the company of whom</p> <p>Social meanings, values, and consequences are attached to consumption practices, and people evaluate themselves and each other through consumption</p>
Chapter Key	Adaptation, Civilization, Division of labor, Domestication, Foraging,

Terms	Horticulture, Intensive agriculture, Market exchange, Mode of production, Neolithic, Pastoralism, Peasant, Reciprocity, Redistribution, Relations of production, Slash-and-burn, Swidden
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