Sociocultural Anthropology

At the heart of sociocultural anthropology is an exploration of the possibilities of difference and the craft of writing. Sociocultural anthropology at Columbia has emerged as a particularly compelling undergraduate liberal arts major. Recently, the number of majors in sociocultural anthropology has more than tripled.

Students come to sociocultural anthropology with a wide variety of interests, often pursuing overlapping interests in, for example, performance, religion, writing, law, ethnicity, mass-media, teaching, language, literature, history, human rights, art, linguistics, environment, medicine, film, and many other fields, including geographical areas of interest and engagement. Such interests can be brought together into provocative and productive conversation with a major or concentration in sociocultural anthropology. The requirements for a major in sociocultural anthropology reflect this intellectual expansiveness and interdisciplinary spirit.

Archaeology

Archaeologists study the ways in which human relations are mediated through material conditions, both past and present. Particular emphases in the program include the development of ancient states and empires, especially in the indigenous Americas; the impact of colonial encounters on communities in the American Southwest, the Levant and Africa; and human-animal relations in prehistory, religion and ritual, and the archaeology of the dead.

Themes in our teaching include the political, economic, social, and ideological foundations of complex societies; and archaeological theory and its relationship to broader debates in social theory, technology studies, and philosophy. Faculty members also teach and research on questions of museum representations, archaeological knowledge practices, and the socio-politics of archaeology. The program includes the possibility of student internships in New York City museums and archaeological fieldwork in the Americas and elsewhere.

Advising

Majors and concentrators should consult the director of undergraduate studies when entering the department and devising programs of study. Students may also seek academic advice from any anthropology faculty member, as many faculty members hold degrees in several fields or positions in other departments and programs at Columbia. All faculty in the department are committed to an expansiveness of thought and an independence of intellectual pursuit and advise accordingly.

Honors Thesis

Anthropology majors with a minimum GPA of 3.6 in the major who wish to write an honors thesis for departmental honors consideration may enroll in ANTH UN3991 The Senior Thesis Seminar in Anthropology. Students should have a preliminary concept for their thesis prior to course enrollment. Normally no more than 10% of graduating majors receive departmental honors in a given academic year.

Professors

Nadia Abu El-Haj (Barnard)
Lila Abu-Lughod
Partha Chatterjee
Myron L. Cohen
Terence D’Altroy
Steven Gregory
Ralph L. Holloway
Claudio Lomnitz
Mahmood Mamdani
Anthropology

Brinkley Messick
Rosalind Morris
Elizabeth Povinelli
Nan Rothschild (Barnard, emerita)
David Scott, Department Chair
Lesley A. Sharp (Barnard)
Michael Taussig
Paige West (Barnard)

Associate Professors
Zoe Crossland
Catherine Fennell
Severin Fowles (Barnard)
Marilyn Ivy
Brian Larkin (Barnard)
John Pemberton
Audra Simpson

Assistant Professors
Vanessa Agard-Jones
Naor Ben-Yehoyada
Hannah Rachel Chazin
Maria Jose de Abreu

Lecturers
Ellen Marakowitz
Karen Seeley

Adjunct Research Scholar

Guidelines for all Anthropology Majors and Concentrators

Grading
No course with a grade of D or lower can count toward the major or concentration. Only the first course that is to count toward the major or concentration can be taken Pass/D/Fail.

Courses
Courses offered in other departments count toward the major and concentration only when taught by a member of the Department of Anthropology. Courses from other departments not taught by anthropology faculty must have the approval of the director of undergraduate studies in order to count toward the major or concentration.

Sociocultural Focus
Students interested in studying sociocultural anthropology are required to take the following courses:

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH UN1002</td>
<td>The Interpretation of Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH UN2004</td>
<td>Introduction to Social and Cultural Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH UN2005</td>
<td>Ethnographic Imagination</td>
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Archaeology Focus
Students interested in studying archaeological anthropology are required to take the following courses:

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH UN2004</td>
<td>Introduction to Social and Cultural Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACLG UN2028</td>
<td>Pasts, Presents &amp; Futures: An Introduction to 21st Century Archaeology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: Students wishing to pursue an interdisciplinary major in archaeology should see the Archaeology section of this Bulletin.

Biological/Physical Focus
Students interested in studying this field should refer to the major in evolutionary biology of the human species in the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology.

Concentration in Anthropology
The anthropology concentration requires 20 points in the Department of Anthropology.

Sociocultural Focus
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Archaeology Focus
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Biological/Physical Focus
Students interested in pursuing study in this field should refer to the concentration in evolutionary biology of the human species in the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology.

Major in Anthropology
The requirements for this program were modified on January 29, 2016.

The program of study should be planned as early as possible in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies.

The anthropology major requires 30 points in the Department of Anthropology.
Fall 2019
Sociocultural Anthropology
ANTH UN1002 The Interpretation of Culture. 3 points.
The anthropological approach to the study of culture and human society. Case studies from ethnography are used in exploring the universality of cultural categories (social organization, economy, law, belief system, art, etc.) and the range of variation among human societies.

ANTH UN1007 The Origins of Human Society. 3 points.
Mandatory recitation sections will be announced first week of classes.

ANTH UN2004 Introduction to Social and Cultural Theory. 3 points.
Introduces students to crucial theories of society, paying particular attention to classic social theory of the late 19th and 20th centuries. Traces a trajectory through writings essential for an understanding of the social: from Saussure, Durkheim, Mauss, Marx, Freud, and Weber, on to the structuralist ethnographic elaboration of Claude Levi-Strauss, the historiographic reflections on modernity of Michel Foucault, and contemporary modes of socio-cultural analysis. Explored are questions of signification at the heart of anthropological inquiry, and to the historical contexts informing these questions.

ANTH UN2026 On Precarity. 3 points.
The topic of precarity is a growing field in the social sciences. The main purpose of this course is to explore the wide semantics and potentials of the term in relation to domains such as labour, law, ethics, technology, health, relationships, moods, shifts in opinion, in fashions or the durability of goods. Our interest in precarity is grounded in two interrelated key motives: the first addresses it as an object of study in its own right. Judging from recent unemployment rates of the industrialized west, the mass scale displacement of populations or the corrosion of security, there is enough reason to put precarity into context. Yet, we might also proceed by inquiring about its potentials as a methodology, one might even call it “a style of reasoning”. Given how much history relies on causation, sequence and linearity how to relate to precarity as a temporal structure in light of the complexities of the present? How does such multilateral present redefines the very conception of that present, of the historical and the now?

We will be relating to precarity not just as a condition of existence but also as an infrastructure with which to think societies across space and time. The course will focus on narratives, practices and structures that problematize and displace prima facie logics of the either/or. Instead, we want to highlight conjoined operations of the both/and which are changing the very nature of how we think norms, time and episteme. Taking a clue from the proliferation of forms of precarity, the course will be organized around specific themes. Within each two-week section, the first sessions will be a lecture and the remaining will combine lecture and discussion of the assigned items. As a whole, the course aims to sensitize students to the complexities and conditioning possibilities involved in the process of knowledge-making and to provide students with tools to better structure and critically access the information they receive and generate.

ANTH UN3151 Living with Animals: Anthropological Perspective. 4 points.
This course examines how humans and animals shape each other’s lives. We’ll explore the astounding diversity of human-animal relationships in time and space, tracing the ways animals have made their impact on human societies (and vice-versa). Using contemporary ethnographic, historical, and archaeological examples from a variety of geographical regions and chronological periods, this class will consider how humans and animals live and make things, and the ways in which humans have found animals “good to think with”. In this course, we will also discuss how knowledge about human-animal relationships in the past might change contemporary and future approaches to living with animals.
ANTH UN3465 Women and Gender Politics in the Muslim World. 3 points.
CC/GS/SEAS: Partial Fulfillment of Global Core Requirement
Practices like veiling that are central to Western images of women and Islam are also contested issues throughout the Muslim world. Examines debates about Islam and gender and explores the interplay of cultural, political, and economic factors in shaping women’s lives in the Muslim world, from the Middle East to Southeast Asia.

Spring 2020: ANTH UN3465
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
ANTH 3465 001/11189 T Th 2:40pm - 3:55pm 717 Hamilton Hall Lila Abu-Lughod 3 54/75

ANTH UN3661 South Asia: Anthropological Approaches. 4 points.
Not offered during 2019-20 academic year.
This course draws on ethnography, history, fiction, and other genres to think about diverse peoples and places in the region known as South Asia. Rather than attempt to fix or define “South Asia” as a singular category, we will explore how particular social and scholarly categories through which dimensions of South Asian life have come to be known (such as caste, class, religion, gender, sexuality, disability, and kinship) are experienced, negotiated, and reworked by actual persons in specific situations. By examining both categories and practices, we will ask: What kinds of relationships exist between the messiness of everyday life and the classifications used by both scholars and “local” people to describe and make sense of it? How do scholarly and bureaucratic ideas not merely reflect but also shape lived realities? How do lived realities affect the ways in which categories are named and understood? In addressing such questions, categories sometimes thought of as stable or timeless emerge as, in fact, contingent and embodied.

ANTH UN3821 Native America. 4 points.
CC/GS/SEAS: Partial Fulfillment of Global Core Requirement
Enrollment limited to 40.
This is an undergraduate seminar that takes up primary and secondary sources and reflections to: a) provide students with an historical overview of Native American issues and representational practices, b) provide students with an understanding of the ways in which land expropriation and concomitant military and legal struggle have formed the core of Native-State relations and are themselves central to American and Native American history and culture, and c) provide students with an understanding of Native representational practices, political subjectivity, and aspiration.

Spring 2020: ANTH UN3821
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
ANTH 3821 001/11619 M 2:10pm - 4:00pm 963 Ext Schermerhorn Hall Audra Simpson 4 38/40

ANTH UN3823 Archaeology Engaged: The Past in the Public Eye. 4 points.
Enrollment limited to 15. Enrollment Priorities: Seniors and Juniors in ARCH or ANTH
This course provides a panoramic, but intensive, inquiry into the ways that archaeology and its methods for understanding the world have been marshaled for debate in issues of public interest. It is designed to examine claims to knowledge of the past through the lenses of alternative epistemologies and a series of case-based problems that range from the academic to the political, legal, cultural, romantic, and fraudulent.

Fall 2019: ANTH UN3823
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
ANTH 3823 001/45251 M 4:10pm - 6:00pm 951 Schermerhorn Hall Terence 4 14/15

ANTH UN3828 The Anthropology of War. 4 points.
In this class, we will think about the various ways in which philosophers, social theorists, historians and anthropologists have thought about war, violence, and responsibility. The course focuses on a set of themes and questions: for example, the nature of violence and the question of responsibility or accountability, shifting technologies of warfare, and the phenomenology and aftermath of warfare, for civilians and for combatants. The reading list incorporates different approaches to such questions—from historical to philosophical to ethnographic accounts.

Spring 2020: ANTH UN3828
Course Number Section/Call Number Times/Location Instructor Points Enrollment
ANTH 3828 002/00426 W 2:10pm - 4:00pm 963 Altschul Hall Nadia Abu El-Haj 4 25/34

ANTH UN3829 Absent Bodies. 4 points.
Enrollment limited to 15.
Prerequisites: Open to undergrad majors; others with the instructor’s permission.
Across a range of cultural and historic contexts, one encounters traces of bodies - and persons rendered absent, invisible, or erased. Knowledge of the ghostly presence nevertheless prevails, revealing an inextricable relationship between presence and absence. This course addresses the theme of absent bodies in such contexts as war and other memorials, clinical practices, and industrialization, with interdisciplinary readings drawn from anthropology, war and labor histories, and dystopic science fiction.
ANTH UN3861 Anthropology of the Anthropocene. 4 points.
Enrollment limited to 20. Priority given to majors in Anthropology.

This course focuses on the political ecology of the Anthropocene. As multiple publics become increasingly aware of the extensive and accelerated rate of current global environmental change, and the presence of anthropogenesis in ever expanding circumstances, we need to critically analyze the categories of thought and action being developed in order to carefully approach this change. Our concern is thus not so much the Anthropocene as an immutable fact, inevitable event, or definitive period of time (significant though these are), but rather for the political, social, and intellectual consequences of this important idea. Thus we seek to understand the creativity of "The Anthropocene" as a political, rhetorical, and social category. We also aim to examine the networks of capital and power that have given rise to the current state of planetary change, the strategies for ameliorating those changes, and how these are simultaneously implicated in the rhetorical creation of "The Anthropocene".

ANTH UN3880 Listening: An Ethnography of Sound. 4 points.
Prerequisites: the instructor’s permission.
This course explores the possibilities of an ethnography of sound by attending to a range of listening encounters: in urban soundscapes of the city and in natural soundscapes of acoustic ecology; from histories of audible pasts and echoes of auditory cultural spaces; through repeated listenings in the age of electronic reproduction, and through chance encounters at the limits of listening with experimental music. Sound, noise, voice, reverberation, and silence, from the technological resonances produced by Edison, Bell, and others, to the theoretical reflections of John Cage and beyond: the course turns away from the screen and dominant epistemologies of the visual, for an extended moment, in active pursuit of sonorous objects and cultural sonorities.

ANTH UN3933 Arabia Imagined. 4 points.
CC/GS/SEAS: Partial Fulfillment of Global Core Requirement
This course explores Arabia as a global phenomenon. It is organized around primary texts read in English translation. The site of the revelation of the Quran and the location of the sacred precincts of Islam, Arabia is the destination of pilgrimage and the direction of prayer for Muslims worldwide. It also is the locus of cultural expression ranging from the literature of the 1001 Nights to the broadcasts of Al Jazeera. We begin with themes of contemporary youth culture and political movements associated with the Arab Spring. Seminar paper.

ANTH UN3949 Sorcery and Magic. 4 points.
Enrollment limited to 40.
Prerequisites: the instructor’s permission.
What is sorcery? What is shamanism? Role of storytelling in healing New World and Old based on instructor’s experience.
ANTH UN3997 Supervised Individual Research Course In Anthropology. 2-6 points.
Prerequisite: the written permission of the staff member under whose supervision the research will be conducted.

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<td>Lesley Sharp</td>
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ANTH UN3999 The Senior Thesis Seminar in Anthropology. 4 points.
Enrollment limited to 15. Open to CC and GS majors in Anthropology only.

Prerequisites: The instructor's permission. Students must have declared a major in Anthropology prior to registration. Students must have a 3.6 GPA in the major and a preliminary project concept in order to be considered. Interested students must communicate/meet with thesis instructor in the previous spring about the possibility of taking the course during the upcoming academic year. Additionally, expect to discuss with the instructor at the end of the fall term whether your project has progressed far enough to be completed in the spring term. If it has not, you will exit the seminar after one semester, with a grade based on the work completed during the fall term.

This two-term course is a combination of a seminar and a workshop that will help you conduct research, write, and present an original senior thesis in anthropology. Students who write theses are eligible to be considered for departmental honors. The first term of this course introduces a variety of approaches used to produce anthropological knowledge and writing; encourages students to think critically about the approaches they take to researching and writing by studying model texts with an eye to the ethics, constraints, and potentials of anthropological research and writing; and gives students practice in the seminar and workshop formats that are key to collegial exchange and refinement of ideas. During the first term, students complete a few short exercises that will culminate in a substantial draft of one discrete section of their senior project (18-20 pages) plus a detailed outline of the expected work that remains to be done (5 pages).

The spring sequence of the anthropology thesis seminar is a writing intensive continuation of the fall semester, in which students will have designed the research questions, prepared a full thesis proposal that will serve as a guide for the completion of the thesis and written a draft of one chapter. Only those students who expect to have completed the fall semester portion of the course are allowed to register for the spring; final enrollment is contingent upon successful completion of first semester requirements.

In spring semester, weekly meetings will be devoted to the collaborative refinement of drafts, as well as working through issues of writing (evidence, voice, authority etc.). All enrolled students are required to present their project at a symposium in the late spring, and the final grade is based primarily on successful completion of the thesis/capstone project.

Note: The senior thesis seminar is open to CC and GS majors in Anthropology only. It requires the instructor's permission for registration. Students must have a 3.6 GPA in the major and a preliminary project concept in order to be considered. Interested students should communicate with the thesis instructor and the director of undergraduate study in the previous spring about the possibility of taking the course during the upcoming academic year. Additionally, expect to discuss with the instructor at the end of the fall term whether your project has progressed far enough to be completed in the spring term. If it has not, you will exit the seminar after one semester, with a grade based on the work completed during the fall term. Enrollment limit is 15.

Requirements: Students must have completed the requirements of the first semester of the sequence and seek instructor approval to enroll in the second.

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Spring 2020: ANTH UN3999

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Archaeology

ANTH UN1007 The Origins of Human Society. 3 points.
Mandatory recitation sections will be announced first week of classes.

An archaeological perspective on the evolution of human social life from the first bipedal step of our ape ancestors to the establishment of large sedentary villages. While traversing six million years and six continents, our explorations will lead us to consider such major issues as the development of human sexuality, the origin of language, the birth of “art” and religion, the domestication of plants and animals, and the foundations of social inequality. Designed for anyone who happens to be human.

Fall 2019: ANTH UN1007
Course Number | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
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ANTH 1007 | 001/06909 | T Th 2:40pm - 3:55pm 304 Barnard Hall | Severin Fowles | 3 | 130

Physical Anthropology

Spring 2020
Sociocultural Anthropology

ANTH UN1002 The Interpretation of Culture. 3 points.
The anthropological approach to the study of culture and human society. Case studies from ethnography are used in exploring the universality of cultural categories (social organization, economy, law, belief system, art, etc.) and the range of variation among human societies.

Fall 2019: ANTH UN1002
Course Number | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
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ANTH 1002 | 001/45160 | T Th 1:10pm - 2:25pm 614 Schermerhorn Hall | Audra Simpson | 3 | 88/120

Spring 2020: ANTH UN1002
Course Number | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
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ANTH 1002 | 001/11181 | M W 1:10pm - 2:25pm 833 Seeley W. Mudd Building | Paige West | 3 | 90/120
ANTH 1002 | 002/12201 | T Th 11:40am - 12:55pm 428 Pupin Laboratories | Vanessa Agard-Jones | 3 | 65/100

ANTH UN1008 The Rise of Civilization. 3 points.
CC/GS/SEAS: Partial Fulfillment of Global Core Requirement
Mandatory recitation sections will be announced first week of classes. $25.00 laboratory fee.

Corequisites: ANTH V1008

The rise of major civilization in prehistory and protohistory throughout the world, from the initial appearance of sedentism, agriculture, and social stratification through the emergence of the archaic empires. Description and analysis of a range of regions that were centers of significant cultural development: Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Indus River Valley, China, North America, and Mesoamerica. DO NOT REGISTER FOR A RECITATION SECTION IF YOU ARE NOT OFFICIALLY REGISTERED FOR THE COURSE.

ANTH UN1009 Introduction to Language and Culture. 3 points.
This is an introduction to the study of the production, interpretation, and reproduction of social meanings as expressed through language. In exploring language in relation to culture and society, it focuses on how communication informs and transforms the sociocultural environment.

Fall 2019: ANTH UN1009
Course Number | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
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ANTH 1009 | 002/06910 | T Th 10:00am - 11:25am 324 Milbank Hall | Gretchen Pfeil | 3 | 24/120

ANTH UN2005 Ethnographic Imagination. 3 points.
Introduction to the theory and practice of "ethnography"—the intensive study of peoples’ lives as shaped by social relations, cultural images, and historical forces. Considers through critical reading of various kinds of texts (classic ethnographies, histories, journalism, novels, films) the ways in which understanding, interpreting, and representing the lived words of people—at home or abroad, in one place or transnationally, in the past or the present—can be accomplished.

Spring 2020: ANTH UN2005
Course Number | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
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ANTH 2005 | 001/11204 | T Th 4:10pm - 5:25pm 614 Schermerhorn Hall | Maria Jos de Abreu | 3 | 34/120

ANTH UN2007 Indian and Nigerian Film Cultures. 3 points.
This class places into comparative focus one of the oldest and one of the newest forms of global cinema outside of the U.S. It introduces and examines these film industries - their platforms, histories, aesthetics, and place in postcolonial life. We will explore how nonwestern contexts of film production and exhibition offer alternative histories of film. Topics include: aesthetics and genre; space and urbanization; colonialism and postcolonialism, shifting platforms of media exhibition, globalization, the notion of the popular and its relation to art.

ANTH UN2028 Think Like an Archaeologist: Introduction to Method & Theory. 4 points.
$25 mandatory lab fee.

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to methods and theory in archaeology – by exploring how archaeologists work to create narratives about the past (and the present) on the basis on the material remains of the past. The course begins with a consideration of how archaeologists deal with the remains of the past in the present: What are archaeological sites and how do we ‘discover’ them? How do archaeologists ‘read’ or analyze sites and artifacts? From there, we will turn to the question of how archaeologists interpret these materials traces, in order to create narratives about life in the past. After a review of the historical development of theoretical approaches in archaeological interpretation, the course will consider contemporary approaches to interpreting the past.

Spring 2020: ANTH UN2028
Course Number | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
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ANTH 2028 | 001/11187 | T Th 10:10am - 11:25am 364 Hamilton Hall | Camilla Sturm | 4 | 18/40
ANTH UN3040 Anthropological Theory I. 4 points.
Open to majors; all others with instructor’s permission.

Prerequisites: an introductory course in anthropology. Institutions of social life. Kinship and locality in the structuring of society. Monographs dealing with both literate and nonliterate societies will be discussed in the context of anthropological fieldwork methods. Required of all Anthropology majors (and tracks) within the Barnard Department. As of Fall, 2018, UN 3040 replaces the two semester sequence of 3040/4041 Anthropological Theory I/II). Intended only for Barnard majors and minors.

Fall 2019: ANTH UN3040
Course Number: 3040  
Section/Call Number: 001/06911  
Times/Location: M W 10:00am - 11:25am  
Instructor: Lesley Sharp  
Points: 4  
Enrollment: 15/40

ANTH UN3602 Stockholm Syndrome: Terror, Sympathy, Love. 4 points.
Why would the 1973 bank robbery that launched the term “Stockholm Syndrome” be invoked as an antecedent for a 2017 terror attack? How is it that talk about terrorism always seem to incite anxiety over errant sympathies, as per the adage “one person’s terrorist is another person’s freedom fighter”? This course explores how that which is done and said around terrorism over the course of the modern era has regimented our possibility of “feeling with” others, focusing particularly on the notion of sympathy developed by Adam Smith and David Hume in their seminal thinking about modern sociality. If every sentiment has a history, as Michel Foucault holds, what might a reading of terror, through sympathy, tell us about the shifting bounds of politics, kinship and love in the contemporary moment? The course will explore such questions through consideration of primary sources from across a range of historical eras and regions, including Europe, the Middle East, the Subcontinent, Africa, the Caribbean, and the US. We will consider contemporary films, newspaper accounts, novels and historical archival material - alongside weekly readings from anthropology, history, philosophy and literary criticism. Teaching will be case-driven, asking students to respond to events and questions raised in the primary material, and will sustain a number of interlocking themes across the semester. In tackling their readings students will help each other think critically about contemporary issues of global import, while also exploring or re-engaging - in the case of advanced students - longstanding anthropological concerns with selfhood and sociality, the taboo and the queer, violence and law; governance and expertise drawing on canonical as well as contemporary texts. One 1 hour 50 min seminar will be given each week, which will include a lecture, student commentaries, and engaged in-class group discussions.

ANTH UN3728 Ethnographies of Black Life. 4 points.
This course explores themes that have shaped Anthropology’s (often fraught) engagement with Black life. We will critically examine texts that reveal the ways that the discipline and its practitioners have sought to interface with people and populations of African descent—and have sought to define the constitution of Blackness itself—in the Americas. Plumbing the dynamic relationship between historical and ethnographic inquiry, we will ask pressing questions not only about conditions of Black life (and Black death), but also about the production of knowledge about the people who live under Blackness’ sign. Finally, we will turn our collective attention to key issues in the practice, ethics, and politics of ethnography, while also immersing ourselves in the archives produced through ethnographic and auto-ethnographic practice, including those found in various NYC collections.

Spring 2020: ANTH UN3728
Course Number: 3728  
Section/Call Number: 001/11499  
Times/Location: T 2:10pm - 4:00pm  
Instructor: Vanessa Agard-Jones  
Points: 4  
Enrollment: 11/14

ANTH UN3888 Ecocriticism for the End Times. 4 points.
Prerequisites: the instructor’s permission.
This seminar aims to show what an anthropologically informed, ecocritical cultural studies can offer in this moment of intensifying ecological calamity. The course will not only engage significant works in anthropology, ecocriticism, philosophy, literature, politics, and aesthetics to think about the environment, it will also bring these works into engaged reflection on “living in the end times” (borrowing cultural critic Slavoj Zizek’s phrase). The seminar will thus locate critical perspectives on the environment within the contemporary worldwide ecological crisis, emphasizing the ethnographic realities of global warming, debates on nuclear power and energy, and the place of nature. Drawing on the professor’s long experience in Japan and current research on the aftermath of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant disaster, the seminar will also take care to unpack the notion of “end times,” with its apocalyptic implications, through close considerations of works that take on the question of ecocatastrophe in our times. North American and European perspectives, as well as international ones (particularly ones drawn from East Asia), will give the course a global reach.

Fall 2019: ANTH UN3888
Course Number: 3888  
Section/Call Number: 001/45267  
Times/Location: W 2:10pm - 4:00pm  
Instructor: Marilyn Ivy  
Points: 4  
Enrollment: 13/20

ANTH UN3912 Ethnographic China. 4 points.
Contemporary China through the writings of anthropologists who have done fieldwork there during the past decade.

Spring 2020: ANTH UN3912
Course Number: 3912  
Section/Call Number: 001/11415  
Times/Location: W 2:10pm - 4:00pm  
Instructor: Myron Cohen  
Points: 4  
Enrollment: 7/20
ANTH UN3946 African Cultural Production. 4 points.
Enrollment limited to 15.

This course examines new African popular music, fashion, film, and visual arts through course readings, film, and current exhibits and events in NYC.

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ANTH UN3947 Text, Magic, Performance. 4 points.
CC/GS/SEAS: Partial Fulfillment of Global Core Requirement

Prerequisites: the instructor's permission.

This course pursues interconnections linking text and performance in light of magic, ritual, possession, narration, and related articulations of power. Readings are drawn from classic theoretical writings, colonial fiction, and ethnographic accounts. Domains of inquiry include: spirit possession, trance states, séance, ritual performance, and related realms of cinematic projection, musical form, shadow theater, performative objects, and (other) things that move on their own, compellingly. Key theoretical concerns are subjectivity - particularly, the conjuring up and displacement of self in the form of the first-person singular "I" - and the haunting power of repetition. Retraced throughout the course are the uncanny shadows of a fully possessed subject --within ritual contexts and within everyday life.

ANTH UN3966 Culture and Mental Health. 4 points.
Enrollment limited to 20.

Prerequisites: the instructor's permission. Limited to juniors & seniors.

This course considers mental disturbance and its relief by examining historical, anthropological, psychoanalytic and psychiatric notions of self, suffering, and cure. After exploring the ways in which conceptions of mental suffering and abnormality are produced, we look at specific kinds of psychic disturbances and at various methods for their alleviation.

Spring 2020: ANTH UN3998
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ANTH UN3998 Supervised Individual Research Course in Anthropology.
2-6 points.
Prerequisite: the written permission of the staff member under whose supervision the research will be conducted.
ANTH UN3999 The Senior Thesis Seminar in Anthropology. 4 points.

Enrollment limited to 15. Open to CC and GS majors in Anthropology only.

Prerequisites: The instructor's permission. Students must have declared a major in Anthropology prior to registration. Students must have a 3.6 GPA in the major and a preliminary project concept in order to be considered. Interested students must communicate/meet with thesis instructor in the previous spring about the possibility of taking the course during the upcoming academic year. Additionally, expect to discuss with the instructor at the end of the fall term whether your project has progressed far enough to be completed in the spring term. If it has not, you will exit the seminar after one semester, with a grade based on the work completed during the fall term.

This two-term course is a combination of a seminar and a workshop that will help you conduct research, write, and present an original senior thesis in anthropology. Students who write theses are eligible to be considered for departmental honors. The first term of this course introduces a variety of approaches used to produce anthropological knowledge and writing; encourages students to think critically about the approaches they take to researching and writing by studying model texts with an eye to the ethics, constraints, and potentials of anthropological research and writing; and gives students practice in the seminar and workshop formats that are key to collegial exchange and refinement of ideas. During the first term, students complete a few short exercises that will culminate in a substantial draft of one discrete section of their senior project (18-20 pages) plus a detailed outline of the expected work that remains to be done (5 pages).

The spring sequence of the anthropology thesis seminar is a writing intensive continuation of the fall semester, in which students will have designed the research questions, prepared a full thesis proposal that will serve as a guide for the completion of the thesis and written a draft of one chapter. Only those students who expect to have completed the fall semester portion of the course are allowed to register for the spring; final enrollment is contingent upon successful completion of first semester requirements.

In spring semester, weekly meetings will be devoted to the collaborative refinement of drafts, as well as working through issues of writing (evidence, voice, authority etc.). All enrolled students are required to present their project at a symposium in the late spring, and the final grade is based primarily on successful completion of the thesis/capstone project.

Note: The senior thesis seminar is open to CC and GS majors in Anthropology only. It requires the instructor's permission for registration. Students must have a 3.6 GPA in the major and a preliminary project concept in order to be considered. Interested students should communicate with the thesis instructor and the director of undergraduate study in the previous spring about the possibility of taking the course during the upcoming academic year. Additionally, expect to discuss with the instructor at the end of the fall term whether your project has progressed far enough to be completed in the spring term. If it has not, you will exit the seminar after one semester, with a grade based on the work completed during the fall term. Enrollment limit is 15.

Requirements: Students must have completed the requirements of the first semester of the sequence and seek instructor approval to enroll in the second.

ANTH GU4345 Neanderthal Alterities. 3 points.

Enrollment priorities: Graduate students, and 3rd & 4th year undergraduates only

Using "The Neanderthals" partly as a metaphorical device, this course considers the anthropological, philosophical and ethical implications of sharing the world with another human species. Beginning from a solid grounding in the archaeological, biological and genetic evidence, we will reflect critically on why Neanderthals are rarely afforded the same reflexive capacities, qualities and attributes - agency- as anatomically modern humans, and why they are often regarded as "lesser" or nonhuman animals despite clear evidence for both sophisticated material and social engagement with the world and its resources. Readings/materials are drawn from anthropology, philosophy, ethics, gender studies, race and genetics studies, literature and film.

ANTH GU4481 Science and Art in Archaeological Illustration. 4 points.

Archaeology has provided a rich imaginative resource for many artists, who have found inspiration in the discipline's material engagement with the past, its evocation of absent presences, and its strange juxtaposition of practical activity and textual narrative. In this course we continue the exploration of art's intersections with archaeology, but we take an alternate starting point. Scientific illustration has been a key part of archaeological work since the discipline's origins in the antiquarian investigations of the 16th and 17th centuries. These antiquarian records drew upon techniques that were elaborated during the Renaissance and many of these illustrative forms remain relevant today.

CSER UN3942 Race and Racisms. 4 points.

In this class we will approach race and racism from a variety of disciplinary and intellectual perspectives, including: critical race theory/philosophy, anthropology, history and history of science and medicine. We will focus on the development and deployment of the race concept since the mid-19th century. Students will come to understand the many ways in which race has been conceptualized, substantiated, classified, managed and observed in the (social) sciences, medicine, and public health. We will also explore the practices and effects of race (and race-making) in familiar and less familiar social and political worlds. In addition to the course's intellectual content, students will gain critical practice in the seminar format -- that is, a collegial, discussion-driven exchange of ideas.

Spring 2020: CSER UN3942

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Spring 2020: ANTH UN3999

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Fall 2019: ANTH UN3999

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Archaeology

ANTH UN1008 The Rise of Civilization. 3 points.
CC/GS/SEAS: Partial Fulfillment of Global Core Requirement
Mandatory recitation sections will be announced first week of classes.
$25.00 laboratory fee.

Corequisites: ANTH V1008
The rise of major civilization in prehistory and protohistory throughout the world, from the initial appearance of sedentism, agriculture, and social stratification through the emergence of the archaic empires. Description and analysis of a range of regions that were centers of significant cultural development: Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Indus River Valley, China, North America, and Mesoamerica. DO NOT REGISTER FOR A RECITATION SECTION IF YOU ARE NOT OFFICIALLY REGISTERED FOR THE COURSE.

ANTH UN2028 Think Like an Archaeologist: Introduction to Method & Theory. 4 points.
$25 mandatory lab fee.

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to methods and theory in archaeology – by exploring how archaeologists work to create narratives about the past (and the present) on the basis on the material remains of the past. The course begins with a consideration of how archaeologists deal with the remains of the past in the present: What are archaeological sites and how do we ‘discover’ them? How do archaeologists ‘read’ or analyze sites and artifacts? From there, we will turn to the question of how archaeologists interpret these materials traces, in order to create narratives about life in the past. After a review of the historical development of theoretical approaches in archaeological interpretation, the course will consider contemporary approaches to interpreting the past.

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Enrollment priorities: Graduate students, and 3rd & 4th year undergraduates only

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ANTH GU4481 Science and Art in Archaeological Illustration. 4 points.
Archaeology has provided a rich imaginative resource for many artists, who have found inspiration in the discipline’s material engagement with the past, its evocation of absent presences, and its strange juxtaposition of practical activity and textual narrative. In this course we continue the exploration of art’s intersections with archaeology, but we take an alternate starting point. Scientific illustration has been a key part of archaeological work since the discipline’s origins in the antiquarian investigations of the 16th and 17th centuries. These antiquarian records drew upon techniques that were elaborated during the Renaissance and many of these illustrative forms remain relevant today.

Physical Anthropology

ANTH GU4148 The Human Skeletal Biology II. 3 points.
Enrollment limit is 12 and Instructor’s permission required.

Recommended for archaeology and physical anthropology students, pre-meds, and biology majors interested in the human skeletal system. Intensive study of human skeletal materials using anatomical and anthropological landmarks to assess sex, age, and ethnicity of bones. Other primate skeletal materials and fossil casts used for comparative study.

Of Related Interest

ANTH BC3858 Ethnographic Field Research in New York City

Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race

CSER UN3904 Rumor and Racial Conflict
CSER UN3924 Latin American and Latina/o Social Movements
CSER UN3990 Senior Project Seminar

Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology

EEEB GU4700 Race: The Tangled History of a Biological Concept

Women's and Gender Studies

WMST UN1001 Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies