Anthropology

Departmental Office: 452 Schermerhorn; 212-854-4552
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Director of Undergraduate Studies:
Professor John Pemberton; 858 Schermerhorn Extension; 212 854-7463; jpp373@columbia.edu; Office Hours: TBA

Departmental Consultants:
Archaeology: Prof. Zoë Crossland, 965 Schermerhorn Extension; 212-854-7465; zc2149@columbia.edu (zc2149@columbia.edu) Office Hours are by appointment
Biological/Physical Anthropology: Prof. Ralph Holloway, 856 Schermerhorn Extension; 212-854-4570; rlh2@columbia.edu

Anthropology at Columbia is the oldest department of anthropology in the United States. Founded by Franz Boas in 1896 as a site of academic inquiry inspired by the uniqueness of cultures and their histories, the department fosters an expansiveness of thought and independence of intellectual pursuit.

Cross-cultural interpretation, global socio-political considerations, a markedly interdisciplinary approach, and a willingness to think otherwise have formed the spirit of anthropology at Columbia. Boas himself wrote widely on pre-modern cultures and modern assumptions, on language, race, art, dance, religion, politics, and much else, as did his graduate students including, most notably, Ruth Benedict and Margaret Mead.

In these current times of increasing global awareness, this same spirit of mindful interconnectedness guides the department. Professors of anthropology at Columbia today write widely on colonialism and postcolonialism; on matters of gender, theories of history, knowledge, and power; on language, law, magic, mass-mediated cultures, modernity, and flows of capital and desire; on nationalism, ethnic imaginations, and political contestations; on material cultures and environmental conditions; on ritual, performance, and the arts; and on linguistics, symbolism, and questions of representation. Additionally, they write across worlds of similarities and differences concerning the Middle East, China, Africa, the Caribbean, Japan, Latin America, South Asia, Europe, Southeast Asia, North America, and other increasingly transnational and technologically virtual conditions of being.

The Department of Anthropology traditionally offered courses and majors in three main areas: sociocultural anthropology, archaeology, and biological/physical anthropology. While the sociocultural anthropology program now comprises the largest part of the department and accounts for the majority of faculty and course offerings, archaeology is also a vibrant program within anthropology whose interests overlap significantly with those of sociocultural anthropology. Biological/physical anthropology has shifted its program to the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology. The Anthropology Department enthusiastically encourages cross-disciplinary dialogue across disciplines as well as participation in study abroad programs.

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.

Senior 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 UN3999 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
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.

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.

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

ANTH UN1002 The Interpretation of Culture
ANTH UN2004 INTRO TO SOC # CULTURAL THEORY
ANTH UN2005 Ethnographic Imagination

Archaeology Focus
Students interested in studying archaeological anthropology are required to take the following courses:

ANTH UN1002 The Interpretation of Culture
ANTH UN2004 INTRO TO SOC # CULTURAL THEORY
ACLG UN2028 Pasts, Presents & Futures: An Introduction to 21st Century Archaeology

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
Students interested in studying sociocultural anthropology are required to take the following course:

ANTH UN1002 The Interpretation of Culture

Archaeology Focus
Students interested in studying archaeological anthropology are required to take the following course:

ACLG UN2028 Pasts, Presents & Futures: An Introduction to 21st Century Archaeology

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.

Fall 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.

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ANTH 2004 INTRO TO SOC # CULTURAL THEORY. 3.00 points.
This course presents students with crucial theories of society, paying particular attention at the outset to classic social theory of the early 20th century. It traces a trajectory of writings essential for an understanding of the social: from Saussure, Durkheim, Mauss, Weber, and Marx, on to the structuralist ethnographic elaboration of Claude Levi-Strauss and the historiographic reflections on modernity of Michel Foucault. We revisit periodically, writings from Franz Boas, founder of anthropology in the United States (and of Anthropology at Columbia), for a sense of origins, an early anthropological critique of racism and cultural chauvinism, and a prescient denunciation of fascism. We turn as well, also with ever-renewed interest in these times, to the expansive critical thought of W. E. B. Du Bois. We conclude with Kathleen Stewart’s A Space on the Side of the Road—an ethnography of late-twentieth-century Appalachia and the haunted remains of coal-mining country—with its depictions of an uncanny otherness within dominant American narratives.

ANTH 2017 Mafias and Other Dangerous Affiliations. 3 points.
Regimes of various shapes and sizes tend to criminalize associations, organizations, and social relations that these ruling powers see as anathema to the social order on which their power depends: witches, officers of toppled political orders, alleged conspirators (rebels, traitors, terrorists, and dissidents), gangsters and mafiosi, or corrupt officers and magnates. Our main goal will be to understand how and under what conditions do those with the power to do so define, investigate, criminalize and prosecute those kinds of social relations that are cast as enemies of public order. We will also pay close attention to questions of knowledge – legal, investigative, political, journalistic, and public – how doubt, certainty, suspicion and surprise shape the struggle over the relationship between the state and society.

The main part of the course is organized around six criminal investigations on mafia-related affairs that took place from the 1950s to the present (two are undergoing appeal these days) in western Sicily. After the introductory section, we will spend two weeks (four meetings) on every one of these cases. We will follow attempts to understand the Mafia and similarly criminalized organizations, and procure evidence about it. We will then expand our inquiry from Sicily to cases from all over the world, to examine questions about social relations, law, the uses of culture, and political imagination.

*Although this is a social anthropology course, no previous knowledge of anthropology is required or presumed. Classroom lectures will provide necessary disciplinary background.

ANTH 3040 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.

ANTH 3160 Body and Society. 4 points.
Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.
Prerequisites: A 1000 level course in anthropology is strongly recommended but not required as a prerequisite
As an introduction to the field of medical anthropology, this seminar addresses themes of health, affliction, and healing across sociocultural domains. Concerns include critiques of biomedical, epidemiological and other models of disease and suffering; the entwinement of religion and healing; technocratic interventions in healthcare; and the sociomoral underpinnings of human life, death, and survival. A 1000 level course in Anthropology is recommended as a prerequisite, although not required.
ANTH UN3664 FIELDFKWORK AT EDGE OF THE VIDEO FRAME. 4.00 points.

Today, we have entered a dramatically transformed world where unexpected pivot events, globalization of supply chain economics, and unraveling social formations are moving people and community into a fully online world. The field of Anthropology now faces the idea of “fieldwork” that is not located in a geographic space. Anthropologists have started conducting ethnography of online spaces such as digital gaming and hacker communities. This course examines moving image as a space where fieldwork can be done, by working with materials stored online, in archives, and shared on physical media. The practitioners in this field are outside the academy—filmmakers, installation artists, performers, online vloggers, social media influencers—who work with archives created by others. We will examine evolving forms of visual culture, in museums, streaming media, mobile devices, zoomcasting, etc., and practitioners who rework found footage to build new meanings. Anthropology has a tradition of parsing moving image, especially because pioneering ethnographic films cannot be screened today without contextualization. We will consider the concept of “edge of frame,” whereby materials captured by a journalist decades ago are chosen for new meanings by an artist in a radically different context. We will trace a history of human tendency toward media remix, in the context of rapid technology changes, new historical conjunctures, changing conceptions of social forms, and new forms of public gathering, as mediated by anthropology. We will read accounts from film studies, anthropology, and history, interspersed with viewing films, browsing documentations of art installations, and zoom sessions with practicing filmmakers and artists.

ANTH UN3682 Together or Not?: Discontents of Collective Life. 4.00 points.

This interdisciplinary course examines fault lines of contemporary collective life from a theoretical and ethnographic perspective. We will explore theoretical approaches to ‘the social’ and how different theorists envision it to come into being. Drawing from political anthropology, urban studies, sociology and cultural studies, we will interrogate what is at stake when terms like the collective, community and solidarity are invoked and trace changes over time and across geographical places and political formations. As a microcosm of society, cities are a crucial site of analysis in this course. We will be attuned to the way social difference structures visions of collective life and ideas of who can and who cannot belong. The course emphasizes the political relevance of emotions: emotions both reflect and transform social relations. This appears particularly important as we are observing a shift from liberal democracy towards more authoritarian forms of government in many places of the world. Public spheres saturated with intense emotional states figure prominently in this context. We will examine a range of feelings (including hate, anger, contempt, and fear) and ask how they (re)structure the relation between the individual and the collective and of collective life more broadly. Which modes of social interaction do they give rise to and which do they foreclose?

ANTH BC3871 Senior Thesis Seminar: Problems in Anthropological Research. 4 points.

Prerequisites: Limited to Barnard Anthropology Seniors. Offered every Fall. Discussion of research methods and planning and writing of a Senior Essay in Anthropology will accompany research on problems of interest to students, culminating in the writing of individual Senior Essays. The advisory system requires periodic consultation and discussion between the student and her adviser as well as the meeting of specific deadlines set by the department each semester. Limited to Barnard Senior Anthropology Majors.

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.
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.

Fall 2020: ANTH UN3997

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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.

Fall 2020: ANTH UN3999

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Vanessa Watts essay on “Indigenous place-thought” by Mohawk/Anishinaabe scholar make to our collective future. The seminar’s title is borrowed from an living with and for the land, and to the contributions such systems might moral systems that have developed over the course of many millennia of ecological health and land-based sovereignty, to the epistemological and colonial histories of land dispossession, to ongoing struggles to protect North America, to accounts of tribal emergence and pre-colonial being, to based commitments, our attention turns to the Indigenous traditions of spiritually. After locating ourselves in our own particular places and place-thought. This seminar considers what it means to be of a place and to think with and be committed to that place—environmentally, politically, and spiritually. After locating ourselves in our own particular places and place-based commitments, our attention turns to the Indigenous traditions of North America, to accounts of tribal emergence and pre-colonial being, to colonial histories of land dispossession, to ongoing struggles to protect ecological health and land-based sovereignty, to the epistemological and moral systems that have developed over the course of many millennia of living with and for the land, and to the contributions such systems might make to our collective future. The seminar’s title is borrowed from an essay on “Indigenous place-thought” by Mohawk/Anishinaabe scholar Vanessa Watts

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.

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 BC3234 Indigenous Place-Thought. 4.00 points.
This seminar takes an archaeological approach to two broad issues central to eating: First, what drives human food choices both today and in the past? Second, how have social forces shaped practices of food acquisition, preparation, and consumption (and how, in turn, has food shaped society)? We will explore these questions from various evolutionary, physiological, and cultural viewpoints, highlighted by information from the best archaeological and historic case studies. Topics that will be covered include the nature of the first cooking, beer-brewing and feasting, writing of the early recipes, gender roles and ‘domestic’ life, and how a national cuisine takes shape. Through the course of the semester we will explore food practices from Pleistocene Spain to historic Monticello, with particular emphasis on the earliest cuisines of China, Mesoamerica, and the Mediterranean.

ANTH UN3663 The Ancient Table: Archaeology of Cooking and Cuisine. 4 points.
CC/GS/SEAS: Partial Fulfillment of Global Core Requirement

Prerequisites: None
Humans don’t just eat to live. The ways we prepare, eat, and share our food is a complex reflection of our histories, environments, and ideologies. Whether we prefer coffee or tea, cornbread or challah, chicken breast or chicken feet, our tastes are expressive of social ties and social boundaries, and are linked to ideas of family and of foreignness.

How did eating become such a profoundly cultural experience? This seminar takes an archaeological approach to two broad issues central to eating: First, what drives human food choices both today and in the past? Second, how have social forces shaped practices of food acquisition, preparation, and consumption (and how, in turn, has food shaped society)? We will explore these questions from various evolutionary, physiological, and cultural viewpoints, highlighted by information from the best archaeological and historic case studies. Topics that will be covered include the nature of the first cooking, beer-brewing and feasting, writing of the early recipes, gender roles and ‘domestic’ life, and how a national cuisine takes shape. Through the course of the semester we will explore food practices from Pleistocene Spain to historic Monticello, with particular emphasis on the earliest cuisines of China, Mesoamerica, and the Mediterranean.

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.

ANTH UN3823 Archaeology Engaged: The Past in the Public Eye. 4 points.
CC/GS/SEAS: Partial Fulfillment of Global Core Requirement

Prerequisites: None
Humans don’t just eat to live. The ways we prepare, eat, and share our food is a complex reflection of our histories, environments, and ideologies. Whether we prefer coffee or tea, cornbread or challah, chicken breast or chicken feet, our tastes are expressive of social ties and social boundaries, and are linked to ideas of family and of foreignness.

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Prerequisites: None
Humans don’t just eat to live. The ways we prepare, eat, and share our food is a complex reflection of our histories, environments, and ideologies. Whether we prefer coffee or tea, cornbread or challah, chicken breast or chicken feet, our tastes are expressive of social ties and social boundaries, and are linked to ideas of family and of foreignness.

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ANTH UN3823 Archaeology Engaged: The Past in the Public Eye. 4 points.
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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.
ANTH GU4001 The Ancient Empires. 3 points.
CC/GS/SEAS: Partial Fulfillment of Global Core Requirement

The principal goal of this course is to examine the nature and histories of a range of early empires in a comparative context. In the process, we will examine influential theories that have been proposed to account for the emergence and trajectories of those empires. Among the theories are the core-periphery, world-systems, territorial-hegemonic, tributary-capitalist, network, and IEMP approaches. Five regions of the world have been chosen, from the many that could provide candidates:

Rome (the classic empire), New Kingdom Egypt, Qin China, Aztec Mesoamerica, and Inka South America. These empires have been chosen because they represent a cross-section of polities ranging from relatively simple and early expansionist societies to the grand empires of the Classical World, and the most powerful states of the indigenous Americas.

There are no prerequisites for this course, although students who have no background in Anthropology, Archaeology, History, or Classics may find the course material somewhat more challenging than students with some knowledge of the study of early societies. There will be two lectures per week, given by the professor.

Fall 2020: ANTH GU4001
Course Number | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
---|---|---|---|---|---
ANTH 4001 | 001/15467 | T Th 11:40am - 12:55pm | Terence | 3 | 50/100

ANTH GU4175 WRITING ARCHAEOLOGY. 3.00 points.
Prerequisites: the instructor's permission.

Like fiction anthropology allows us to visit other worlds and to come back home again. In this class we'll explore different genres of archaeological texts. How do writers contribute to the development of narratives about the past, what are the narrative tricks used by archaeologists, novelists and poets to evoke other worlds and to draw in the reader? What is lost in the translation from the earth to text, and what is gained? There is an intimacy to archaeological excavation, an intimacy that is rarely captured in archaeological narratives. What enlivening techniques might we learn from fictional accounts, and where might we find narrative space to include emotion and affect, as well as the texture and grain of encounters with the traces of the past? How does archaeological evidence evoke a particular response, and how do novels and poems work to do the same thing? What is the role of the reader in bringing a text to life? Enrollment limit is 15. Priority: Anthropology graduate students, archaeology senior thesis students.

Fall 2020: ANTH GU4175
Course Number | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
---|---|---|---|---|---
ANTH 4175 | 001/10804 | W Th 2:10pm - 4:00pm | Zoe Crossland | 3.00 | 6/14

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.

Fall 2020: ANTH GU4345
Course Number | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
---|---|---|---|---|---
ANTH 4345 | 001/10799 | F 10:10am - 12:00pm | Brian Boyd | 3 | 14/20

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 2020: ANTH UN1002
Course Number | Section/Call Number | Times/Location | Instructor | Points | Enrollment
---|---|---|---|---|---
ANTH 1002 | 001/00423 | M W 2:40pm - 3:55pm | Paige West | 3 | 94

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.
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.

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.

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.

ANTH UN3040 Fall 2020: ANTH 3040

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<td>001/00426</td>
<td>M Th 10:10am - 12:40pm</td>
<td>Brian Larkin</td>
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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.
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 2020: ANTH UN3888**

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<th>Course Number</th>
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<td>001/10978</td>
<td>F 12:10pm - 2:00pm</td>
<td>Marilyn Ivy</td>
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ANTH UN3912 Ethnographic China. **4 points.**
Contemporary China through the writings of anthropologists who have done fieldwork there during the past decade.

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.

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.

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.

**Fall 2020: ANTH UN3999**

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<td>ANTH 3999</td>
<td>001/10792</td>
<td>T 6:10pm - 8:00pm</td>
<td>Audra Simpson</td>
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</table>
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.

Fall 2020: ANTH GU4345

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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.

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.

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.

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.

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Physical Anthropology

ANTH GU4148 The Human Skeletal Biology II. 3 points.

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.
ANTH GU4002 Controversial Topics in Human Evolution. 3 points.
Enrollment limited to 10.

Prerequisites: an introductory biological/physical anthropology course and the instructor’s permission. Controversial issues that exist in current biological/physical anthropology, and controversies surrounding the descriptions and theories about particular fossil hominid discoveries, such as the earliest australopithecines, the diversity of Homo erectus, the extinction of the Neandertals, and the evolution of culture, language, and human cognition.

Of Related Interest

**Anthropology (Barnard)**

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<th>Course Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH BC3868</td>
<td>ETHNOGRAPHIC FIELD RESEARCH IN NYC</td>
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**Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race**

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<td>Rumor and Racial Conflict</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSER UN3924</td>
<td>Latin American and Latina/o Social Movements</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSER UN3990</td>
<td>Senior Project Seminar</td>
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**Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology**

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<td>Race: The Tangled History of a Biological Concept</td>
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**Women’s and Gender Studies**

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