ANTHROPOLOGY (ANTH)

ANTH101 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
This course introduces students to concepts, theories, and methods of cultural anthropology. Lectures, readings, and audiovisual materials invite critical analysis of broader themes in contemporary anthropology, such as the nature of culture, the problematic notions of social evolution and progress, and the negotiation of power within and among diverse peoples.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Prereq: None

ANTH103 Gifts and Giving
What is a gift? A commonplace understanding is that a gift is something given gratuitously and without the expectation of a return (just look the word up in any dictionary). Why, then, upon receiving a gift, do we feel indebted to the giver? And rather than gratuitous, isn’t most gift giving occasioned by socially significant events and regulated by relatively rigid rules? This course is an in-depth examination of gift giving as one of the most powerful forces binding individuals and groups in society. Students will become familiar with critical anthropological and philosophical debates about the gift and consider their application to contemporary forms of gift giving in the United States, including philanthropy, volunteerism, and new types of giving made possible by recent advances in technology, such as organ donation and surrogacy. We will attend to the economic, political, and gender dimensions of gift giving in their remarkable power to make or break social bonds and undermine or reinforce hierarchical relationships at all levels of local and global society.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Prereq: None

ANTH111 Hawai`i: Myths and Realities
This course explores the symbolic myths of Hawai`i and Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiians) in contrast to material realities relating to colonialism, land, nation, gender, race, rank, class, self-determination, and contests over indigenous and Western sovereignty. The course covers the precocolial period, examines Captain Cook’s ventures in the Hawaiian Islands, the founding of the Hawaiian Kingdom, constitutional development of the Hawaiian Nation, the Kamehameha Dynasty, Calvinist missionization, the history of written literacy, the privatization of Hawaiian land use, gender transformations, the colonial regulation of sexuality, plantation labor, Kalakaua’s governance, the reign of Queen Lili`uokalani, and the U.S.-backed overthrow of the monarchy. From the U.S. takeover, the course will examine the unilateral annexation and 20th-century colonial policy to 1959 statehood with an emphasis on indigenous self-determination, decolonization, and indigenous nationalism through the contemporary period in relation to both U.S. federal policy and international law. Films will complement the course readings and lectures.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Prereq: None

ANTH112 Talking Trash
Every day, we make conscious and unconscious decisions that define what we consider clean or dirty, good or bad, valuable or expendable. As the familiar saying goes, “one man’s trash is another man’s treasure.” At an individual and societal level, our ways of wasting affect both the world we inhabit and our place within it. This course draws on readings in archaeology, anthropology, history, psychology, material culture studies, and environmental science to explore one of humanity’s most prodigious products and greatest legacies: trash. We will study conceptions of waste from different times, places, and perspectives, as well as the impact of refuse on our everyday behavior, systems of ethics and meaning, and interactions with the environment.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Identical With: ARCP112
Prereq: None

ANTH113 Care and Suffering
In this introductory course, we will explore the production and representation of human suffering, in addition to the modes of care deployed by healers, kin groups, aid workers, and state actors to alleviate the suffering of others. We will begin by mastering dominant approaches within anthropology for studying affliction. We will then examine case examples of bodies in distress. We will discover that suffering is inherently social: it is shared, socially produced, and communicated through socially learned and sanctioned means. Suffering is also social in the sense that it often begs a moral response. With that in mind, we will turn our attention to different regimes of care—such as experimental, pharmaceutical, and humanitarian care—and explore their limitations, paradoxes, and transformative possibilities. Taken as a whole, the course will invite students to question the creation and reproduction of suffering, while at the same time critically reflecting on dominant norms and forms of “doing good.
As a first-year seminar (FYS), this course will also guide and support students in fostering skills as academic researchers and writers. We will start from the position that college-level academic writing is its own genre, distinct from the kind of writing typically taught in high school, and that the steps required to hone this skill are not always transparent, self-evident, or without challenges. As such, the course will include detailed instruction, regular in-class writing exercises, and three take-home writing assignments designed to introduce students to the main principles of successful academic writing.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Identical With: SISP113
Prereq: None

ANTH116 Abriendo Caminos: Transnational Politics of the Hispanophone Caribbean
This course provides a comparative look at the lives of Puerto Ricans, Cubans, and Dominicans who live on their islands, the diaspora, or somewhere in between. Our focus is on politics of belonging and the ethics of solidarity that emerge from these transnational encounters. We begin by considering certain shared realities of the region as a whole, contrasting these larger trends to issues relevant for each island, given their divergent political trajectories. Then, we will look at an array of contemporary artifacts of these fluid encounters, including performance pieces by feminist artists, activists taking on a state, or collaborative educational experiments.
As a first-year seminar (FYS), we will dedicate part of our time to mastering writing as a daily practice. Since much of our material is contemporary, we will consider the meaning of “writing for the present,” unpacking the process of social documentation. Along the way, students will gain skill in interpreting evidence, revising, and learning the basics of good college writing.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Prereq: None

ANTH150 Indigenous Middletown: Native Histories of the Wangunk Indian People
Students will be introduced to the new field of settler colonial studies, the rapidly transforming field of critical indigenous studies, along with Native American history and historiography addressing southern New England. Taking up a decolonizing methodological approach, the class will focus on the sparsely documented history of the Wangunk Indian Tribe, the indigenous people of the place we call "Middletown," also known as Mattabesett. The Wangunk people, part of the Algonquin cultural group, historically presided over both sides of the Connecticut River in present-day Middletown and Portland, while their traditional territory reached as far north as Wethersfield and Chatham. Although regarded as "extinct" by settlers in the aftermath of King Philip's War, 1675-1678, the Wangunk continue to live into the 21st century.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: C/F/U
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Identical With: AMST150
Prereq: None

ANTH165 Between Journalism and Anthropology
This first-year seminar (FYS) course will introduce students to how journalism and anthropology make their subjects vis-à-vis the broader significance of the knowledge they create and their publics. Using journalistic and anthropological accounts, we will consider how and why Haiti has long been regarded as something of an "oddity" within the Caribbean and the world. Branded the "nightmare republic" since it gained independence in 1804, in the public sphere Haiti remains conceptually incarcerated with clichés and stereotypes that obscure understanding of its complex role in global history. Attention will be paid to the plethora of coverage of the 2010 earthquake, current conditions, and possible futures. Our ultimate aim is to consider the limits of each discipline to explore the myriad possibilities in anthro-journalism.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Prereq: None

ANTH201 Key Issues in Black Feminism (FGSS Gateway)
This course surveys key issues in the historical development of black feminist thoughts and practices through readings of canonical works especially from the 1980s and '90s that contribute to this extensive body of knowledge. Our aim is to engage black feminist and womanist theorists, activists and artists from the diaspora who are exploring intersections of race, class, sexuality, religion, and other indices of identity affecting their daily lives. To that end, we will take an interdisciplinary approach to unpacking the historical tensions and politics and poetics in theory/practice, representation/self-making and expression/performance. We will also examine more recent turns in #BlackLivesMatter, #SayHerName and #BlackGirlMagic and conclude with Post-Zora Interventions—feminist interrogations on the borders anthropology, art, and activism.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AFAM
Identical With: FGSS217
Prereq: None

ANTH202 Paleanthropology: The Study of Human Evolution
Paleoanthropology is the study of human origins, of how we evolved from our apelike ancestors into our modern form with our modern capabilities. Drawing on both biological anthropology (the study of fossils, living primates, anatomy, genetics, and human variation) and archaeology (the study of material culture, such as tools, art, food remains), this course will examine what we know about our own evolutionary past and how we know it. The history of paleoanthropology—how our views of our past have changed—will also be explored. The course will include hands-on laboratory sessions utilizing fossil casts, stone tools, and other materials from the archaeology and anthropology collections.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Identical With: ARCP202
Prereq: None

ANTH203 Sex, Money, and Power: Anthropology of Intimacy and Exchange
Sex and money—intimacy and economy—are often imagined to occupy distinct and separate spheres. Sex and intimacy are located in the private or domestic realm, in spaces of leisure, feelings, care, and personal connections. Money and economy, on the other hand, are purportedly public, located in the market and tied to labor, rationality, and impersonal (non)-relations. This course brings these spheres together, focusing on the links, exchanges, and circuits between the intimate and the economic in diverse cultural contexts across the Americas. Case studies will be drawn from sex work and tourism; marketing and pornography; reproduction, domestic labor, transnational adoption; marriage; class and sexual lifestyle; labor and carework; the global market in organs and body parts; sex stores and commodities; and sexual activism and identity politics. We will be centrally concerned with the relationship between economic, cultural, and political formations and with the differences race, ethnicity, nation, class, gender, and sexuality make. Throughout, we will ask, How do practices and bodies accrue value? When are intimacies—sexual and social—commodified? How have transnational flows complicated relationships between sex and money? How do these intersections constrain and/or empower people? And, finally, who benefits from such arrangements, and who does not?
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Identical With: FGSS223, AMST228
Prereq: None

ANTH204 Approaches to Archaeology
Archaeology is the study of the past through its material remains. This course will introduce students to a range of approaches that archaeologists use to interrogate material culture (artifacts and other physical remains) and, in some cases, written records, to present interpretive reconstructions of past human history, societies, cultures, and practices. The course includes archaeological approaches to prehistoric cultures through to ancient, medieval, and early modern societies.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ARCP
Identical With: ARCP204, ARHA201, CCIV204
Prereq: None

ANTH205 Future Visions: Temporality and the Politics of Change
What is the time of political change? This course explores alternative temporal frameworks embraced by artists, writers, activists, and interdisciplinary scholars from diverse social and cultural locations. We ask, How do concepts of temporality help us understand, resist, contest, and transform prevailing social orders?
We will begin by assembling some conceptual tools for understanding the relationship of time to historical change and to racial, sexual, cultural, and national difference. Drawing on psychoanalysis, literary theory, history, trauma
studies, anthropology, African American studies, queer theory, feminist studies, and postcolonial studies, we will explore the telos of modernity and narratives of liberal progress. We will then consider some of the critical and oppositional possibilities of being out of sync with dominant temporal frameworks, asking, Are there other, perhaps more livable, temporalities? Next, we will consider the possibilities for memory and memorialization to work against historical forgetting and cultural amnesia--alongside the ways historical pasts might be appropriated to serve nationalist ends. Finally, we will turn to the question of the future as found in meditations on utopias and dystopias; in political, cultural, and ecological justice movements; in ideologies of newness; and in rhetorics of apocalypse.

Our readings include three texts that highlight the form and futures of political change: Theresa Hak Kyung Cha’s Dictee, an avant-garde text that uses multiple genres (poetry, autobiography, history, photography, etc.) juxtaposing historical trauma and aesthetic experimentation; Kim Fortun’s Advocacy After Bhopal: Environmentalism, Disaster, New Global Orders, an experimental ethnography of environmental disaster and its aftermath; and Octavia E. Butler’s Kindred, a speculative fiction about time travel and the memory of slavery. As we consider social change, revolutions, and new “ends” and beginnings, students are invited to explore current social justice movements.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Identical With: AMST266, ENGL265, FGSS266
Prereq: None

ANTH206 Native American Youth: Movements, Law, and Policy
This course will look at current issues that affect the youth of Native America, as well as the laws and policies that specifically affect their political status as members of Native Nations. We will look at the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), the Idle No More Movement, cultural and language revitalization efforts, suicide prevention efforts, traditional knowledge, seed exchanges and community gardens, and health issues.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Prereq: None

ANTH208 Crafting Ethnography
This course is an introduction to the craft of ethnographic research and writing. In the first half, we will explore some of the research methodologies anthropologists use to understand, interpret, and analyze culture. Each student will choose an ethnographic field project for the semester and practice ethnographic methods (participant observation, interviewing, virtual ethnography, auto-ethnography, visual representation, and more). In the second half of the course, students will begin to write their ethnography, practicing writing in a variety of styles and genres (including realist, reflexive, dialogic, engaged, and experimental). Guided, weekly peer workshops throughout the semester will give students a chance to hash out and talk through questions of ethics, positionality, representational politics, and the improvisational felicities and challenges that arise during fieldwork and writing.

This course will give students a solid grasp of ethnographic methods and how anthropologists construct ethnographies. This course is the preferred way for anthropology majors to fulfill the methods requirement and is preparation for ethnographic theses and essays during senior year.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH

Prereq: ANTH101

ANTH209 Tradition & Testimony: Protecting Native American Sacred Lands, Ancestral Remains, & Cultural Items
This course will explore the historic genesis of present-day U.S. and international policies toward Native American peoples and other indigenous communities. In addition, studies will include traditional indigenous and tribal perspectives, investigate indigenous-specific origin stories and the connections these stories have with historic events and places, and take a hard look at repatriation policies. Students will investigate several case studies involving current issues Native American communities are facing in repatriation and protecting sacred places, both local and national.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Identical With: ARCP209
Prereq: None

ANTH210 Haiti: Between Anthropology and Journalism
This course will examine how anthropology and journalism make their subjects vis-à-vis the broader significance of the knowledge they create and their publics. Using the works of anthropologists and journalists, we will consider how and why Haiti has long been regarded as something of an oddity within the Caribbean and the world. Branded the “nightmare republic” since it gained independence in 1804, in the public sphere Haiti remains conceptually incarcerated with clichés and stereotypes that obscure understanding of its complex role in global history. Attention will be paid to the 2010 earthquake, current conditions, and possible futures. Our ultimate aim is to explore the myriad possibilities of anthropo-journalism.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Identical With: AFAM201
Prereq: None

ANTH211 Health and Social Justice
How does health become a matter of social justice? In the context of a growing prominence of activist and advocacy groups that work toward health and justice, this course will consider: how and why health advocacy groups emerge; what goals, values, and assumptions inform their work; and how they use science and other cultural resources to make claims. We will also consider the implications of activist efforts for challenging structural inequalities, state and corporate power, and the cultural authority of science and medicine. Case studies will cover a range of geographical sites in the U.S. and abroad and represent the diverse forms that such collectives assume. We will consider, for example, groups that mobilize around broad constituencies (e.g., women’s health) or in response to specific health threats (e.g., cancer, HIV, and toxic exposures), as well as those more broadly committed to social justice, equity, and “health for all.” In addition to exploring the above questions, readings and class discussion will be designed for students to master some of the concepts and ideas central to medical anthropology, science and technology studies, and allied fields, such as embodiment, medicalization, biosociality, hegemony, citizenship, and the production of scientific and lay knowledge. The role of the scholar-activist will also be addressed, including the particular ethical and methodological questions that arise when scholars seek to combine research and activist agendas.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Identical With: SISP211
Prereq: None
ANTH217 Resisting Racism, Extraction, and Dispossession in the Americas
This course looks at land-based social movements as responses to the legacies of empire and colonialism. We will begin with an overview of the ideologies of economic and political “progress” that justified the dispossession of indigenous and racialized groups in the Americas. Then we will turn away from the logic of imperial domination to consider alternative forms of knowledge and practice that posit new relationships between nature and society. Of special focus will be a range of ethnographies of land-based movements including the Zapatistas, Garifuna, and MST (Movimento Sem Terra) as well as feminist, indigenous, and antiracist theories informed by the forms of resistance and decolonization that we have studied.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Identical With: LAST217
Prereq: None

ANTH225 Rightwing Movements in the Age of Trump
This course explores the socio-cultural, ideological, and affective contours of contemporary American far-right political culture. Course readings theorize the nature of ‘rightwing’ politics in general, provide ethnographic insights into particular movements and policy platforms, and trace the rising impact of rightwing attitudes in the age of Trump. We focus on connections and disconnections between a range of communities that comprise the so-called ‘big tent’ of the American right, including white supremacists, free market libertarians, Christian fundamentalists, and conspiracy theorists. Over the course of the semester, students will gain conceptual tools for better understanding what is at stake for these groups and how those stakes shape their political practices and goals. We will also reflect on how this knowledge might shape our own political viewpoints and tactics moving forward.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Identical With: AMST223
Prereq: None

ANTH226 The Anthropology of Social Movements
Intentional efforts to shape society are always in a process of becoming. In this course, we examine how social movement actors disrupt dominant cultural scripts and forms of dualistic thinking that block our collective recognition of the fundamental interconnectedness of all aspects of social life. First, we will survey a range of social theories that propose ways to rethink the binaries that structure social life—such as mind/body, theory/practice, feeling/thinking. Then we will consider a series of ethnographic cases in the contemporary period to identify the similarities and differences between them.

The methods of inquiry in this course seek to replicate the challenges of seeing theory and practice as interlocking processes. As such, students will work in affinity groups all semester to design and execute an action at Wesleyan or in the Middletown area that addresses a social issue they are passionate about. This capstone project will be based on scholarly research and thoughtful, collaborative practice.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Identical With: AMST118, FGSS222
Prereq: None

ANTH230 Anthropology of Cities
This course is an introduction to the practice of urban anthropology. Attention is placed on the intellectual challenges recent local and global urbanization trends present to us in our attempts to think and write about cities today. We will reflect upon the production of space and place, the creation of “other spaces” through borders and limits, and the making of meaning through everyday practices and experiences in the city. We will consider how cities become foremost spaces for the exercise and contestation of power, for social cohabitation and conflict, and for cultural creation and repression. Class discussions will also focus on fieldwork methods and problems of ethnographic representation and writing in preparation for a research project that will culminate in an urban mini-ethnography.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Prereq: None

ANTH231 Post-Zora Interventions: Art, Activism and Anthropology
This course situates the pioneer ethnographer, novelist and playwright Zora Neale Hurston at the avant-garde of innovative approaches in anthropology. In addition to exploring Hurston’s textual and performative oeuvre within and outside of the discipline, we will also examine anthropologists who turn to the expressive arts to make their works as well as artists who deploy ethnographic methods and are inspired by anthropology as their subject. Paying particular attention to black feminists projects produced at the intersections of art and activism, we aim to consider the broader context within which these occur.
In the process, we will critically question the aesthetics of politics and politics of aesthetics as we contemplate the imperatives and impulses of those who challenge and subvert conventional ethnographic and creative practices to make a case for post-Zora interventions.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Prereq: None

ANTH232 Alter(ed)native Approaches: Middletown Lives
In this city, there’s a restaurateur who was a paratrooper, a minister who is a barber, a barista who’s a glass blower, an unmarked house that was part of the Underground Railroad, the old factory where the modern baseball plate was invented, and a landfill with stories to tell. Working with different community partners and integrating a wide range of methods from the humanities to the social sciences, this course seeks to identify, interpret, and document various (un)known stories and histories of people, places, and spaces in contemporary Middletown. Our primary theoretical aim is to consider what is interdisciplinary. How can it be put into practice? And what is its potential for the making of public engagement and scholarship? To this end, we take a contemplative approach to learning to raise fundamental epistemological and pedagogical questions concerning research as praxis. In the process of this engagement, we will create a public anthropology project intended to benefit our broader community and environment. This is a service/learning course.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Prereq: ANTH101

ANTH238 Indigenous Rights and Representations
What role do Native identities play in global social and political movements? How do ideas about Indigenous peoples shape nationalist sensibilities and international projects? How do notions of cultural authenticity and autonomy figure in the discourse of Indigenous rights? Attending to the legacies of colonialism, this course addresses contemporary representations, performances, and politics of indigeneity—by Indigenous people themselves, as well as by others—centered in Native North America, with comparative forays across the Americas. Through a close look at ethnographic texts on this topic, we will
investigate how perceptions about and participation by Indigenous peoples have figured in environmental activism, transnational trade agreements, educational reform, nationalist campaigns, multicultural politics, and international migration. We will attend to the role of globalization, transnational mobilities, and technological innovation in emergent social movements, as well as new imaginations of Indigenous identity. And we will contemplate the implications of the presence of Indigenous scholars—and activists—as key players in academic and public debate.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Identical With: AMST238
Prereq: None

ANTH239 Cross-Cultural Childhoods

The course will begin by examining different attitudes and practices during prenatal development and continue through early adulthood. We will consider the perspectives of the child, parents, other family members, and larger society. Developmental experiences will be examined in traditional societies and developing nations, as well as in modern industrialized societies. A wide range of developmental topics will be considered. Examples of topics in child development include weaning practices, sleep patterns, parental contribution, education, sibling relationships, and child-care practices. Examples of topics in adolescence and early adulthood include anxiety in adolescence and the age of economic independence, sexual activity, and marriage. Some disturbing and controversial material will be discussed in a respectful atmosphere (e.g., cultural relativism and severe neglect). Students will have the opportunity to opt out of potentially disturbing discussions. The strengths and weaknesses of multiple theoretical approaches to development will be addressed and debated. A few examples of these theories include cultural relativism, universal learning mechanisms, evolutionary ecology, and evolutionary psychology.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-PSYC
Identical With: PSYC339
Prereq: None

ANTH240 Hipsters

This course will focus on the contemporary hipster subculture after examining a critical genealogy and racial history of the origins of the concept. From black jazz artists and zoot-suitors in the 1940s who defined “hip” and “cool,” to the post-World War II burgeoning literary scene of the Beat Generation that codified the figure of the hipster as an American bohemian strangled by social conformity, there has been a cultural politics of being “in the know.” Derived from the term used to describe these earlier movements, the term “hipster” reappeared in the 1990s and became especially conspicuous in the 2000s to the present. Today’s hipsters are generally associated with whiteness, indie music, a vintage fashion sensibility, liberal political views, organic and artisanal foods, as well as racial gentrification in urban neighborhoods in Brooklyn and select cities such as Portland, OR and San Francisco. Perhaps curiously, members of this subculture typically disassociate themselves from this cultural category, as outsiders often use the term hipster as a pejorative. In an attempt to understand why hipsters differentiate their actions from the hipster stigma, students will study the contemporary discourse about hipsters, along with a historical analysis of the term and its use in popular culture to get a better understanding of race, class, gender, and the commodification of style. Other topics for exploration include stereotypes, authenticity debates, hipster racism, so-called “blipsters,” the death of irony, hipster chic, “hipster run-off,” the resentment of hipsters, and forecasts of “the end of the hipster.”

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Identical With: AMST240
Prereq: None

ANTH242 Development and Beyond: Living and Imagining Alternatives

This four-week intensive course will examine radical challenges, in theory and on the ground, to mainstream development strategies promoted by international organizations such as the World Bank and the IMF that seek to end poverty and promote growth. After the 1980s, considered by many as “the lost decade” of development, some scholars and practitioners declared the development enterprise as fundamentally wrong: It was a misguided and violent neocolonial project that could never provide the answer to inequality and poverty. These radical critics argued for imagining and building a “post development” era. In this course, we ask, What is “postdevelopment” as a concept, how does it emerge out of and materialize on the ground among dispossessed communities, and to what effect? We will focus on lived and imagined alternatives to development.

We spend the first week at Wesleyan, pouring over the conceptual and political underpinnings of mainstream development discourse as well as its critics. After a quick overview of modernization theory and neoliberal development policies, we will focus on postdevelopment critiques and alternatives coming out of Latin America, in particular. We will then encounter lived alternatives in Oaxaca, Mexico. We will spend three weeks conducting in-depth research and work with marginalized communities that are rejecting capitalist development and building and experimenting with living a “good life” (buen vivir) on their own terms.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 2.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Prereq: None

ANTH243 Medical Anthropology

Situated at the intersection of the clinical and social sciences, medical anthropology seeks to understand bodies, afflictions, healing, and care in cross-cultural contexts. This course serves as an introduction to the exciting field of medical anthropology. Students will begin by mastering dominant approaches within medical anthropology for studying the body as a site of meaning, a moral battleground, a biosocial entity, an object of regulation and control, and a tool of resistance and change. We will then turn our attention to different kinds of bodies in distress and to the therapeutic responses they invoke (or fail to invoke) from healers, doctors, kin groups, aid workers, and state actors. Of particular concern will be those aspects of healing that challenge commonsense notions of how therapies work and where they may fail short. Specific concepts and topics to be covered include illness narratives, idioms of distress, structural and symbolic violence, culture-bound syndromes, nature/nurture debates, ritual healing, high-tech medicine, and humanitarianism.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Prereq: None

ANTH244 Television: The Domestic Medium

Of all the mass media, television is the most intimately associated with domestic and familial life. Its installation in American homes over the postwar decade coincided with a revival of family life that encouraged an emphasis on private over public leisure. Most television is still watched at home, where viewers are interwoven with domestic routines and provide a site for negotiating family and gender relations. Television production is shaped at several levels by the images broadcasters and advertisers have of viewers’ domestic lives: Broadcast schedules reflect socially conditioned assumptions about the gendered division of family roles; a common televisual mode of address uses a conversational style in which performers present themselves to viewers as friends or members of the family; and families or surrogate families...
ANTH249 From Metropolis to Megalopolis
What is the urban experience today? Are the old European metropolises, the global cities of New York or Tokyo, and the new megalopolises of the Global South commensurate entities? What are the theoretical and methodological challenges we face in thinking about “the urban” today, given the vastly different histories, trajectories, and physical and social realities of cities around the world? This course is an introductory and interdisciplinary survey of urban theory. We will critically examine “the city” as a transhistorical category of analysis and focus on issues of anthropological concern regarding the experience and epistemology of urbanization and urban life. No prior background in urban studies is expected, but an interest in theory is a must.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Identical With: ARHA255, CEAS165
Prereg: None

ANTH250 Foragers to Farmers: Hunting and Gathering and the Development of Agriculture
Although almost all humans today derive their sustenance, directly or indirectly, from agriculture, but for more than 90 percent of our existence, people subsisted by hunting, gathering, fishing, and gardening. We tend to think of hunter/gatherers as living like the Dobe of the Kalahari desert in southern Africa, Australian Aborigines, or the Inuit of the Canadian Arctic. Ethnographic accounts of these and other peoples give us some insight into the hunter/gatherer way of life, but they describe populations existing in marginal environments. The foragers of the Upper Paleolithic and Mesolithic periods of human prehistory inhabited environmentally rich river valleys, lake shores, and coastal areas in temperate and tropical climates. They were characterized by high population densities, productive economies, intense material culture production, and complex regional social interaction. Initially, the course will explore this "lost" period of human existence. The second part of the course will examine the domestication of plants and animals, the environmental and other impacts of the early development of intensive farming, and the beginnings of "civilization." The archaeological methods and theories underlying our understanding of these societies and processes will also be explored.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Identical With: ARCP250
Prereg: None

ANTH253 Practicum in Exhibition of East Asian Art
This course is a historical, theoretical, and practical introduction to the exhibition of East Asian art, both in the west and in China and Korea. Students will learn the history of exhibition in China and the establishment of collections of East Asian art in the United States, modes of exhibition, and current practices through readings, presentations, and practical experience with the collection at The Mansfield Freeman Center for East Asian Studies, as well as site visits to local collections and museums.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-CEAS
Identical With: CEAS253
Prereg: None

ANTH256 Predators, Prey, Pets, and PETA: Changing Human-Animal Relationships
Animals are all around us—in homes and laboratories, farms and forests, zoos and supermarkets. We all know this. In fact, this seems so natural that the remarkable ways we incorporate animals into our lives often go unnoticed. What makes an animal a predator in one setting, prey in another? A companion to befriend or a trophy to fight over? This class explores human-animal relationships from a long-term perspective from prehistory to the present. Drawing on readings in archaeology, anthropology, psychology, biology, and other disciplines, we will examine an array of topics, including hunting, domestication, emotional attachments, taboos, scientific research and testing, and animal rights.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Identical With: ARCP256
Prereg: None

ANTH259 Development, Disasters, and Beyond
Development is one of the most important ideas of our time—it is a powerful way of organizing the world (Third and First Worlds, or North and South) and intervening in it to bring about certain kinds of cultural, political, and economic
trans formations. Our purpose in this course is to critically examine the ideas, practices, institutions, and effects of development through an anthropological lens. While development is certainly a potent way to exert power over and regulate Third World Others, it is also a fiercely contested space of struggle and a discourse of entitlement. Rather than position development as all bad or all good, this course aims to keep this messiness of development in focus and approaches it both as a project of rule and a project of rights. We will take up specific topics such as neoliberalism and structural adjustment, humanitarianism, dams, environment, and empowerment.

**Offering:** Host  
Grading: A-F  
Credits: 1.00  
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH

**ANTH265 Archaeological Analysis: Introduction to Laboratory Methods**

To most people, archaeology means excavation. In reality, most archaeological discovery occurs in the laboratory where detailed maps are drawn; objects are measured, classified, and counted; samples are chemically or physically analyzed; and data are statistically evaluated. Students will be introduced to laboratory methods through a project-oriented, hands-on format utilizing the collections housed in the archaeology laboratory. A major focus of the course will be on the inferential processes through which archaeologists recover and understand the past.

**Offering:** Host  
Grading: A-F  
Credits: 1.00  
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH  
Identical With: ARCP265

**ANTH267 Anthropology of Black Religions in the Americas**

This course examines Afro-Creole religions and cultural expressions in selected communities throughout the Atlantic world. How were religious communities created under colonial domination? Under what conditions were religions shaped, and what shapes did they take? How are African-based religions produced through aesthetics and the ritual arts of spiritual talk and sermons, song, dance, drumming, and medicine-making? How do these religions continue to survive, thrive, and, in some cases, grow in the current historical period? This course will pay special attention to the yearly ritual cycle and its attendant festivals: Christmas, carnivals, Lent, Easter, saints' days, feasts, and pilgrimages, as well as the emergent spiritual and aesthetic traditions such as Candomble and Rara. We will study Orisha religions such as La Regla de Ocha, or Lukumi, in Cuba and the Latino U.S.; Candomble in Brazil; Vodou in Haiti; and Garifuna traditions and spiritism in Puerto Rico.

**Offering:** Crosslisting  
Grading: A-F  
Credits: 1.00  
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI  
Identical With: RELI268, AFAM387, LAST268

**ANTH268 North America Before Columbus**

Sometime before the end of the Pleistocene, people living in Siberia or along the Pacific Coast of Asia traveled east and found an hemisphere of arctic, temperate, and tropical climates uninhabited by other humans. Over the next 12,000 years or more, populations diversified into, and thrived in, a range of environments—the last great experiment in human adaptation. This course will follow that process as it unfolded across the continent of North America, from the earliest Paleolindians through 1491. Particular emphasis will be on the nature and timing of the colonization(s) of North America from Asia, the impact of environmental diversity across the continent, and the rise of complex societies.

**Offering:** Host  
Grading: A-F

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**ANTH269 Race, Incarceration, and Citizenship: The New Haven Model**

This course will explore the elements of local responses to contemporary criminal justice issues, drawing on current research projects in New Haven, Connecticut. The course will explore a variety of promising practices, which emphasize community engagement and individual citizenship over incarceration and punishment. Topics will include evidence-based practices to reduce criminal recidivism, mental health issues in the criminal justice system, treatment engagement, and the creation of valued roles in the community. Students will have the opportunity to participate in federal research studies.

**Offering:** Crosslisting  
Grading: A-F  
Credits: 1.00  
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AFAM  
Identical With: AFAM269, CSPL269, AMST268

**ANTH286 Queer Activism and Radical Scholarship: Beyond Theory vs. Practice**

This course explores the relationship between scholarship and activism, with a focus on intersectional radical queer scholarship and activism—queer left, black radical, trans, immigration, prison abolition, and sex work—in the United States. We will aim to connect the too-often bifurcated realms of academia and activism, theory and practice, research and action, so that we might think through the political stakes of knowledge-making in and outside the so-called “ivory tower,” explore interdisciplinary methodologies we might use to study and learn from (and with) activists (including ethnography, oral history, and community archive), and gain insight into the histories and current realities of social justice movements, campus activists, the work of a radical imagination, art and activism, and the impasse of the political present. To put their theory into practice, students will undertake a semester-long radical research project on a queer issue or activist organization—past or present—of their choice.

**Offering:** Crosslisting  
Grading: A-F  
Credits: 1.00  
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST  
Identical With: AMST286, FGSS286

**ANTH290 Style and Identity in Youth Cultures**

This course focuses on young people's engagements with commercially provided culture and their implications for identity formation. We begin in the postwar United States, when producers of symbolic goods, such as movies, music, and clothes, began aggressively tailoring products for young people; over the rest of the 20th century and into the 21st, new youth-oriented cultural commodities and sites of consumption have been used by young people in diverse ways to define themselves in relationships to adult society and to other young people. We will examine young people's intensifying involvement with the cultural market, with attention to both the diversity of youth-cultural formations that have emerged within the United States and to the global circulation of Euro-American youth culture. Using case studies, we will consider the ways in which young people's consumption practices have both reinforced and transgressed intersecting boundaries of class, race, gender, and nationality. An overarching concern in the course will be to assess whether or to what extent particular cultural practices may help prepare young people for positions of privilege, reconcile them to structural disadvantages, or provide them with resources to challenge the dominant society.

**Offering:** Host  
Grading: A-F  
Credits: 1.00  
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Identical With: AMST290
Prereq: None

ANTH295 Theory 1: Beyond me, Me, ME: Reflexive Anthropology
Theory 1 and Theory 2 are core courses for the major, designed to elucidate historical influences on contemporary anthropological theory. While precise topics may vary from year to year, the overall goal of the courses remains the same: to familiarize students with the main traditions from which the discipline of anthropology emerged and to explore the diverse ways in which contemporary anthropological practice defines itself both with and against them.

This semester our topic will be reflexive/reflective anthropology. We chart the historical development of the field from the making of fieldwork memoirs to its current formulations in more creative ethnographies. Particular attention will be paid to the impact of the interpretive turn spearheaded by Clifford Geertz in the 1970s that advocated the blurring of different genres of writing, which became a feature in contemporary cultural anthropology. The reflexive turn that followed over a decade later demanded ethnographers turn their gaze onto the self to answer questions about the making of otherness, power relations, and representation. Researchers began to consider their position vis-à-vis their intended subjects in the making of ethnographic projects to reinvent and decolonize anthropology. This emphasis has led ethnographers (especially feminists and minorities in the discipline) to engage in more expository writing that further obscured the boundary between social science and literature, which the discipline has historically occupied and continually struggles with. In so doing, they brought particular attention especially to the contested politics in the discipline.

This course explores the fundamental features and various approaches to reflexive/reflective work, its challenges and possibilities, and its fervent critics, as well as its embrace by other disciplines. Our ultimate aim is to deconstruct what is the personal and how has it been used to successfully access the social. In the end, we will put theory into practice and produce a significant piece of reflexive writing.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Prereq: ANTH101

ANTH296 Theory 2: Anthropology and the Person
Theory 1 and Theory 2 are core courses for the major, designed to elucidate historical influences on contemporary anthropological theory. While precise topics may vary from year to year, the overall goal of the courses remains the same: to familiarize students with the main traditions from which the discipline of anthropology emerged and to explore the diverse ways in which contemporary anthropological practice defines itself both with and against them.

This semester our topic will be reflexive/reflective anthropology. We chart the historical development of the field from the making of fieldwork memoirs to its current formulations in more creative ethnographies. Particular attention will be paid to the impact of the interpretive turn spearheaded by Clifford Geertz in the 1970s that advocated the blurring of different genres of writing, which became a feature in contemporary cultural anthropology. The reflexive turn that followed over a decade later demanded ethnographers turn their gaze onto the self to answer questions about the making of otherness, power relations, and representation. Researchers began to consider their position vis-à-vis their intended subjects in the making of ethnographic projects to reinvent and decolonize anthropology. This emphasis has led ethnographers (especially feminists and minorities in the discipline) to engage in more expository writing that further obscured the boundary between social science and literature, which the discipline has historically occupied and continually struggles with. In so doing, they brought particular attention especially to the contested politics in the discipline.

Anthropology has long been haunted by the problem of the person. The classic anthropological traditions define personhood as socially/culturally constructed, which is to say that individuals receive from society/culture the concepts and values through which they understand and experience themselves as well as the outside world. Social variation in notions of personhood tended to be represented in binary terms, as a distinction between modern Western individualism and a construction attributed to “other” societies (both premodern and non-Western) of the person as a social being whose personal life is subordinated to public roles and obligations. While this binary model foregrounded potentially significant differences between societies with regard to the expression and valorization of subjectivity, it also encouraged attention to differences within societies, and its emphasis on dehumanization obscured questions of agency, creativity, reflexivity, power, contestation, and change. Contemporary anthropology works both with and against the binary to explore the interplay between social and individual aspects of personhood in particular sociohistorical contexts. In this course we will begin with selected works from classic anthropological traditions and then go on to review and assess various works in contemporary cultural theory and ethnographic writing that take personhood as a focus of inquiry. Among the themes and questions we will pursue are the romantic origins of the culture concept and the formation of romantic personhood; embodied knowledge, practice theory, and models of agency; personhood and gift-giving; the social boundaries of personhood; and online personhood and sociality.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Prereq: ANTH101

ANTH297 Precarity in America
This course explores the socio-cultural dimensions of inequality and the lived experiences of precarity in the contemporary United States from an ethnographic perspective. We examine how forms of neoliberal governance and economic restructuring come to bear on constructions of difference such as class, race, gender, and citizenship in ways that implicitly frame structural inequality as natural. Course readings highlight how Americans navigate and reckon with the various forms of inequality, precarity, and injustice they face in their daily lives.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Identical With: AMST296
Prereq: None

ANTH299 Eat, Grow, Save: The Anthropology of Food and Justice
This course uses the lens of justice to examine the politics of food. We will look at the cultural and political-economic dynamics of food production and consumption, considering questions of taste, class, labor, marketing, and food sovereignty. We will also examine the environmental and social impact of food production and the consumption choices we make, from organic, to vegan, to animal proteins, to foraging and hunting. We will use a range of texts, including ethnographies, theory, film/documentary/TV shows, creative nonfiction, fiction, cookbooks, blogs, and magazine articles.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH

ANTH301 The United States in the Pacific Islands
The relationship between the United States and the nations and territories that comprise the Pacific Islands is complex and has historical and continuing significance in international and global affairs. American involvement in the Pacific was, and continues to be, primarily structured by strategic interests in the region. Oceania has been greatly affected by American colonial rule, and cultural power. How did the United States come to dominate the Pacific basin? Using an expanded definition of the Western frontier, we will examine the Pacific as a region that was subject to imperialist development that was an extension of the continental expansion. The course will focus on the history of American influence in Hawaiʻi that culminated in unilateral annexation in 1898 and statehood in 1959, as well as the historical and contemporary colonial status of Guam and American Samoa, where questions of self-determination persist. We will also examine the Pacific as a nuclear playground for atomic bomb testing by the U.S. military and the U.S. administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific after World War II until the self-governance of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau in the 1980s and 1990s.
ANTH302 Critical Perspectives on the State
This course builds on Marxist, post-structuralist, feminist, anarchist, and cultural analyses to take a critical approach to the state—what it is and what it does. We will examine how the state is imagined by those who write about it and struggle against it. Where does the state begin? How do states act, and what are the consequences of these acts? How is rule consolidated and how are individuals and communities annexed to the project of rule? How do people engage with state acts and ideologies? We will read texts drawn from a variety of disciplines, including anthropology, feminist theory, political theory, philosophy, sociology, and geography, that examine the nature, everyday workings, and effects of state power. Drawing upon ethnographic examples from around the world, we will analyze how states are cultural artifacts that produce and regulate people’s identities and bodies, reproduce social inequalities, and engender resistances of all sorts. Some of the topics we will discuss include bureaucracy, governmentality, the security state, the prison industrial complex, terror and militarism, law and justice, citizenship, democracy, refugees, anti-state movements, the “man” in the state, and welfare and post-welfare politics.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Identical With: AMST314
Prereq: None

ANTH303 Ritual
Religion can be defined through beliefs or traditions or texts, but it always takes physical form through ritual. Ritual is the universal in religion, but the question of how to understand ritual is possibly the most contested question in the study of religion. Can a ritual be read like a text? How do symbols produce effects, and how should we understand these effects? What is performative speech and how does it work? How does ritual behavior reflect and shape social relationships? This course introduces students to the major approaches of studying ritual. The readings draw heavily, but not exclusively, on anthropological approaches to ritual, both classic texts and recent innovative approaches focusing on language and embodiment. Students will be required to do practical fieldwork observations of rituals so that they can put these texts in dialogue with their research experience.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-FGSS
Identical With: FGSS302
Prereq: None

ANTH304 When Words Collide: Narratives of Conquest
On April 21, 1519, Hernán Cortés, 550 Spanish soldiers and sailors, and 16 horses (the first to tread on the American continent) dropped anchor near the island of San Juan de Ulúa, off the coast of Mexico. The chain of events that this arrival set off is described in the course of conquistadors' accounts of conquests in Mexico and Guatemala and various indigenous narratives of these invasions.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

ANTH305 Infrastructure Matters: Power, Protest, and the Grid
This course is an anthropological exploration of infrastructure: the material grids that exist beneath society, economy, and culture. Infrastructures are the foundation upon which everyday life rests and depends; they also materialize foundational political ideals like freedom, progress, equality, and nature. Infrastructures such as ports, rails, and roads embody the connections and disconnections of the globalized world. While meant to remain invisible, out of sight and out of mind, diverse infrastructures—from Michigan’s corroded pipes to mega-dams on the River Nile—have become lightning rods for political protest and demands for justice, rights, and a good life. Taking an anthropological perspective, this course asks: why has infrastructure taken on vital importance to the modern nation-state? How is infrastructure implicated in the production of racial, gendered, and classed identities and inequalities? What happens when infrastructures fail? Through multi-disciplinary readings and a course-long visual research project, this course challenges students to see the world beneath their feet in new ways and to trace the material connections that define and sustain modern life itself.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Prereq: ANTH101

ANTH306 Mobilizing Dance: Cinema, the Body, and Culture in South Asia
This course focuses on questions of “mobility”—cultural, social, and political—as embodied in two major cultural forms of South Asia, namely “classical” dance and cinema. Using Tamil cinema and Bharatanatyam dance as case studies, the course focuses on issues of colonialism and history, class, sexuality and morality, and globalization. The course places the notion of “flows of culture” at its center and examines historical, social, and aesthetic shifts in these art forms over the past 150 years.

The course is both studio- and lecture-based. It includes learning rudimentary Bharatanatyam technique, watching and analyzing film dance sequences, and participating in guest master classes in ancillary forms such as Bollywood dance and Kathak (North Indian classical dance). The studio portion of this course is for beginners, and no previous dance experience is necessary.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
Identical With: DANC307, FGSS307
Prereq: None

ANTH307 Indigenous Politics
This seminar will feature select historical moments, geographical sites, and case studies to explore the complexities of life for indigenous peoples in the Pacific Islands and North America subject to the authority of the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The course will examine indigenous peoples’ varied political status in relation to questions of sovereignty and self-determination, structures of domination and resistance, and myriad forms of indigenous agency. Readings will focus on the recognition and assertion of collective rights, treaty rights and land claims, and self-governance under independent states’ and international law. Films and guest lectures will complement the required texts.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Identical With: AMST307
This course examines the industrial and cultural conditions for the development of relatively complex forms of storytelling in commercial U.S. television. Narrative complexity is a cross-generic phenomenon that emerged over the 1980s and has proliferated within an increasingly fragmented media environment. In class discussions and individual research projects, students will analyze particular programs in-depth, with attention to their industrial and social conditions of production, their aesthetic and ideological appeals, and the cultural tastes and viewing practices they reflect and promote. We will also consider how television studies has responded and contributed to the increased prestige of certain types of programs.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Identical With: AMST316, FILM319
Prereq: None

ANTH309 Anthropology of Digital Media

Networked media technologies, from the Internet to mobile phones, are reshaping many aspects of daily life, selfhood, and society. While digital and electronic media seem to make the world smaller, ostensibly facilitating global flows of capital, people, goods, and ideas, this course examines how these technologies co-constitute particular kinds of subjects, accommodating some uses and modes of living more than others. Digital platforms and services, for example, are often designed with elite, technically savvy users in mind, yet are taken up transnationally in diverse and unexpected ways. Media, like other technologies, never exist separately from social life as independent agents of change, but instead emerge through contingent histories, material realities, constellations of discourse, and unequal distributions of power. This course introduces students to the anthropology of digital media and culture, drawing on empirical, ethnographic accounts from a variety of theoretical perspectives, including feminist technology studies, actor-network theory, queer theory critiques, new materialisms, postcolonial studies, and social informatics. Topics include space and place online, media publics, new transnationalisms, design anthropology, big data, social networks, virtuality and embodiment, the social construction of users, mobility and disability, and telecommunication infrastructures.

We will consider emerging media practices in cross-cultural and transnational settings to examine the situated contexts of design and use, while asking broadly what consequences these technologies have for our social worlds. This course requires intensive reading and writing, including a final project that can be undertaken in a variety of ways, such as an original ethnographic or creative project exploring an emerging media practice.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Identical With: AMST311
Prereq: None

ANTH310 Ethnographic Encounters: The Americas between Darkness and the Good

Ethnography is both a primary research method and a genre of text within anthropology. As a research practice, it involves "deep hanging out" among a group of people in order to understand how they organize, make sense of, and live in the world. As a form of writing, it seeks to convey ethnographic insights to wider academic and non-academic audiences. Ethnographic texts are not mere descriptions of people’s lives, however; they are deeply informed by theory, disciplinary trends, and the historical contexts within which they are produced. This course will take a critical, hands-on approach to understanding ethnographic theory and practice. Beginning with canonical texts from the early 20th century, we will track how ethnographic standards have been defined, contested, modified, and reworked over the course of a century. As such, students will gain an appreciation for the range of ethnographic modalities, from salvage and interpretive ethnography to more recent approaches that privilege critical, morally engaged, postmodern, and postcolonial perspectives. While the temporal lens of the course will be broad, spanning almost a century, the geographical focus will be limited to the continents of North and South America. Thematically, we will explore three intersecting topics that are highly relevant—but by no means exclusive—to "the Americas." They include (1) colonialism, health, and subjectivity; (2) the workings of neoliberalism; and (3) ethnography between "darkness" and "the good." The hands-on portion of the course will allow students to apply what they learn during the semester toward designing and implementing their own ethnographic research project.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Prereq: None

ANTH311 Representing China

This course will introduce perspectives that anthropologists, ethnographers, writers, filmmakers, artists, and photographers have taken to understand contemporary social life in China. Students will learn to differentiate the strengths and weaknesses of each perspective and, at the same time, will develop their own nuanced appreciation for Chinese culture and recent Chinese history. Beginning with basic concepts of family and family relationships, we will survey gift giving and banqueting, changes in the role and status of women, education, organization of the workplace, rituals, festivals, and changes since the beginning of the reform and opening up in the early 1980s. Anthropological essays and ethnographies will be supplemented by short stories, first-person narratives, and class presentations of films, photographs, and art-works to illuminate the different ways that natives and foreigners represent Chinese culture. Lectures will provide cultural and historical context for these materials. No previous knowledge of China or Chinese is required for this class.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Identical With: CEAS311
Prereq: None

ANTH314 How to Think Like an Archaeologist

Archaeologists think about material culture, time, society, technology, art, religion, food--almost everything. They think about things from particular disciplinary perspectives. This course will introduce students to some of the theoretical and methodological approaches employed by archaeologists. In addition to archaeological case studies, discussions will draw on everyday life at Wesleyan, in Middletown, and in students’ home communities for examples illustrating archaeological perspectives. For example, Wilkie’s STRUNG OUT ON ARCHAEOLOGY: AN INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH explains archaeological concepts with examples drawn from her experiences at Mardi Gras. The course is designed for non-majors with no background in archaeology, but it will be sufficiently rigorous to fulfill ARCP major requirements.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Identical With: ARCP314
Prereq: None
ANTH316 Critical Global Health
What does it mean to approach global health as not an applied science but an ethnographic object? This course will explore this question by bringing critical, social science perspectives to bear on global health issues and interventions. This course covers three areas of scholarship. First, we will examine the processes by which social inequalities produce patterns of health and disease in globalizing contexts. This will be followed by an interrogation of the term "global health," in which we will trace its emergence as a discourse and enterprise and unpack its contested meanings. While some view global health as a clinical practice, others conceptualize it as a business, security concern, charitable duty, or human right; yet another camp probes the term's ideological construction. We will consider how such vantage points are underpinned by cultural assumptions and ethical agendas that, in turn, can determine how, and to whom, care is delivered. As a third area of inquiry, we will investigate the implications and unintended effects of doing global health by probing such questions as, When are good intentions not good enough? How useful is biomedicine for alleviating locally defined problems? Under what conditions does global health exacerbate the social inequalities it seeks to overcome?
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Identical With: SISP318
Prereq: None

ANTH317 Culture and Consumption
This seminar examines the formation, development, and contemporary forms of cultures of consumption in EuroAmerican societies and their global exportation and adaptation to diverse local situations. The course is premised on the idea that the spectacular and continuous rise of commodity consumption that began in the late 17th century is as much a cultural as an economic process, one that both shaped and was shaped by shifts in ideas about personal and social development. Once associated with negative meanings of waste, excess, and depletion, consuming, especially of clothes, domestic goods, new foods and beverages, and artistic forms, came to be seen as a critical dimension of self-fashioning and sociability. While the course situates these developments in the context of expanding markets and new modes of distribution, it will emphasize the post-purchase moments of consumption, that is, the ways in which consumers incorporate goods into their everyday lives. Among the themes we will consider are the gendering of consumption, the social dynamics of taste, commodity consumption and ideologies of authenticity, consumption and social inequality, the consequences of consumption, and the emergence of the ethical consumer.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Prereq: None

ANTH318 Global Indigenities
This course focuses on theories of indigeneity in examining indigenous peoples’ lives, cultural practices, resistance and activism. The term “indigenous” has had varied and contested genealogies across time, geography, political contexts, and fields of study. Although dominant societies tend to claim that indigenous peoples are either entirely extinct due to genocide or diluted due to racial and cultural mixing, indigenous refers to the wide range of relations to region and nation of the more than 370 million indigenous people who are spread across 70 countries worldwide. Some indigenous peoples define themselves by their historical continuity with precolonial and presettler societies; others by ties to territories and surrounding natural resources; others in relation to distinct social, economic, or political systems; and still others by their distinct languages, cultures, and beliefs. Attempts at the historical erasure and subsequent memorialization of indigenous peoples serve the colonial goals of refuting indigenous claims to land and rights and have been the primary means by which dominant populations asserted their own modernity while denying it to putatively “primitive” indigenous peoples. Today, nation-states continue to impose this notion of the “pre-modern” savage as a mechanism of control in their negotiations with indigenous peoples’ legal status and land rights. This course will focus on a range of cases studies including indigenous peoples in North America contending with the states of Canada, the United States, and Mexico; Indigenous encompassed by select countries in South America; Aboriginal peoples in Australia, the Sami (across various countries in Scandinavia), the Ainu (Japan), the Maori (New Zealand), and Palestinians (Israel-Palestine). Topics will include indigenous peoples’ struggles for autonomy and survival; self-determination and political status under international law; the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; land struggles and the protection of natural resources; cultural resurgence and revival of select traditions; and varied forms of political resistance and decolonization.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Prereq: None

ANTH324 Globalization and Localization in Youth Cultures
This course takes globally circulating forms of commercial youth culture (especially popular music, fashion, movies, and television) as sites for analyzing interconnected processes of cultural change and cultural continuity. Using ethnographically based studies of youth in a variety of national contexts, we will approach young people as agents who draw on locally embedded resources in consuming global cultural forms and also create new, hybridized forms of culture that have both local and global roots. In these emerging youthscapes, cultural flow is not simply from “West to Rest” but is multidirectional, as locally produced hybrid forms circulate across national boundaries and sometimes back to Western markets. In mapping such flows, we will focus on their implications for identity formation among youth. In what ways, we will ask, do young people in particular sociocultural locations use the production and/or consumption of commercial cultural forms in orienting themselves vis-à-vis global and local worlds and in imagining and pursuing possible futures?
Designed primarily for anthropology majors, the course also admits students from other majors with serious interests in ethnographic youth-cultural research.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Identical With: AMST321
Prereq: ANTH101

ANTH325 Perspectives in Dance as Culture: What the Body Knows--Social Change and Revolution
In this project-based class we will study the work of movement artists who directly address and engender social change. We will engage in methods of physical practice that focus on contemplation, transformation, physical re-orientation and social engagement. Requirements will include regular studio practice, and the development of a personal practice and personal manifesto. The final project will consist of a semester-long research project on a topic that can be characterized as a disruption or disaster. The research project will culminate in a persuasive position paper and a performative or otherwise organized social action (performance, site-specific work, installation, demonstration, or community action).
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-DANC
ANTH326 Middletown Materials: Archaeological Analysis
Buried beneath you as you walk the streets of Middletown is the residue of former residents. Mostly consisting of fragments of ceramics, glass, and other objects, these hold the potential to unlock the day-to-day history of their past owners and users. In this class students will take part in excavation and analysis of a 19th-century free African American community, tied to the AME Zion Church. This site, known as the Beman Triangle, today sits on the Wesleyan campus. We will explore the history of the site through artifacts and will investigate the ties between the Beman Triangle and Wesleyan University. This is a community archaeology project; students will work with community members on the project as equal partners and will explore ways in which archaeological heritage can be shared with local residents. This will include touring visitors around the site and weekend excavations. Students will learn the basics of archaeological fieldwork through hands-on training.

The first two weeks of class will be spent in introducing the site. The next four weeks will be spent undertaking excavation, including three Saturday excavation days. We will then spend the remainder of the semester cataloging and interpreting this material, while also learning more about similar archaeological sites. The class may include a trip to the UMass Boston Fiske Center for Archaeological Research.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ARCP
Identical With: ARCP325, AFAM316
Prereq: None

ANTH335 Radio Production and the Politics of Independent Media
This course will focus on radio production and the politics of independent media. With a focus on noncommercial radio, specifically community and college radio, class members will learn about the rise and fall of independent media in the United States as a political project, the continued importance of noncommercial radio, and the prospects for recuperating radio production as an alternative news medium in the service of civic engagement. Students will learn the techniques of radio production to create a research-based podcast. This course will entail collaborative work as well as interface with radio station WESU.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-AMST
Identical With: AMST335
Prereq: None

ANTH349 The Human Skeleton
The human skeleton is a window into our past, providing the framework for biographies of individual lives and narratives about the evolution of our species. Through lectures and hands-on laboratory sessions, students will learn the complete anatomy of the human skeleton, with an emphasis on functional and evolutionary perspectives. We will also explore the applications of human osteology in forensic anthropology and bioarchaeology. By the conclusion of the course, students will be able to conduct basic skeletal analysis and will be prepared for more advanced studies of the skeleton in medical, forensic, archaeological, and evolutionary contexts.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Prereq: None

ANTH361 Television Storytelling: Consuming Darkness
This course investigates how and why a “dark sensibility” has emerged in television serials, with attention to its implications for television storytelling, on the one hand, and for viewer practices and subjectivities, on the other hand. While most evident on premium and basic cable channels, where it crosses dramatic and comedic genres, the downbeat tone has also been selectively incorporated into broadcast television and processed for wider distribution. What industrial and sociocultural conditions have enabled such an affective shift in an industry that, since its early days, has been known for telling reassuring stories and promoting an ethic of consumption? Does the shift constitute a break, or can it be interpreted as an intensification of features long present in televisual formats? Is the contemporary taste for darkness among demographically valued viewers merely a marker of distinction, or does it reflect and reinforce a significant shift in mood among segments of the professional middle class? Can narratives about flawed protagonists, failed institutions, and limited possibilities nourish new forms of hope and provide resources for remaking subjectivities and reimagining futures?

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-FILM
Identical With: CHUM362, FILM362, AMST362
Prereq: None

ANTH372 Archaeology of Death
The material culture and biological remains associated with death represent a major component of the archaeological record. Funerary assemblages can provide information about, for example, ritual practices, beliefs, social organization, the division of labor, diet, and health. Tombs and monuments are important elements of sacred landscapes. The course will examine how archaeologists and biological anthropologists investigate and analyze mortuary facilities, grave goods, skeletal remains, and sacred landscapes to make inferences about the past.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Identical With: ARCP372
Prereq: None

ANTH373 Field Methods in Archaeology
Buried beneath you as you walk the streets of Middletown is the residue of former residents. Mostly consisting of fragments of ceramics, glass, and other objects, these hold the potential to begin to unlock the day-to-day history of their past owners and users. On the triangle of land between Vine Street, Cross Street, and Knowles Avenue (known as the Beman Triangle), a community of African Americans began to build houses from the mid-19th century on land owned by one of their community, Leveret Beman. Although few above-ground traces now suggest the presence of this community, material about their lives survives in the record of their trash and other archaeological features that remain beneath the backyards of the houses on this land. In this class we will study the archaeology of this site, in partnership with members of the wider Middletown community, particularly from the AME Zion Church.

This class will provide general training in historical archaeological field methods. Students will spend time each day participating in excavations on the Beman Triangle site or working on materials analysis in the Cross Street Archaeology Laboratory. Through practical work, students will learn excavation techniques, field recording, artifact analysis, and how to integrate relevant documentary and oral historical sources into archaeological interpretations. Academic material in the class will cover the archaeology of 19th-century African American communities, archaeological field methods, and studies of how community
Anthropology (ANTH)

ANTH395 The Anthropology of Religion
What do we study when we study religion? We can observe practices, record speech, examine objects and actions--but what do these things tell us? If religion is about belief, what can we say about belief from documenting actions? Perhaps we must conclude that religion is not about belief, but if so, are in danger of "explaining away" the very phenomena we seek to understand? This course will introduce students to a cross-cultural, comparative perspective on religious practice and belief in order to critically reflect on the role of methodology and research design in the study of religion and the social sciences more broadly. How do we know what we know? How do we plan research in order to find out what we want to know? The course has a significant methods component. Students will be expected to do field research exercises in a local religious community and prepare a methodology research proposal for a fictional or real project as a final assignment. Methodological exercises will be interspersed with ethnographic texts that allow us to reflect on how religion is studied, experienced, and explained. Students planning theses or other research projects with an ethnographic component, in any social science field, may use the class and the final assignment to conceptualize and plan their projects.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-RELI
Identical With: RELI395
Prereq: None

ANTH398 Queer/Anthropology: Ethnographic Approaches to Queer Studies
This advanced seminar brings together queer theory with cultural anthropology to ask, Can there be a queer anthropology? Cultural anthropology and queer theory are sometimes opposed--some anthropologists find queer studies excessively theoretical, narrowly interested in Western forms of knowledge and power, and given to abstracted critique rather than social explication. Yet even as anthropologists problematize queer theory's assumptions, methods, and boundaries, queer theoretical insights and frameworks have generated new questions and approaches in the anthropology of sexuality--just as anthropology's interest in the global, the comparative, and the ethnographic have enriched new work in transnational queer studies. This course explores the possibilities of productively juxtaposing, combining, and even opposing anthropology and queer theory.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Identical With: FGSS398, AMST398
Prereq: None

ANTH399 Rereading Gendered Agency: Black Women's Experience of Slavery
Slavery systematically influenced both the production and reproduction of race, class, and gendered identities. Black women's individual and collective response to that peculiar institution and its attempts at dehumanization and destruction highlights the impact of gender, race/color, and class on the making of different yet complex patterns of opposition and resistance. This course considers interdisciplinary research techniques and analytical approaches to unpack various forms of gendered agency. The ultimate aim is to reread black women's experiences of enslavement, particularly as these relate to conscious struggles to carve out a sense of personhood to allow for exploration of creative

gender-specific responses to the cultural dynamics of power. This course includes a performance component.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Identical With: FGSS399
Prereq: None

ANTH400 Cultural Analysis: Senior Capstone Seminar
This seminar is required for all senior sociocultural anthropology majors who intend to write honors theses and is very strongly recommended for those writing senior essays. It is designed to enable students to pursue individual research projects in a group context and with attention to debates on the nature of anthropological interpretation. Each student gives a series of presentations on her or his own research project to the group; equally important is engaging with and offering constructive criticism of the projects presented by others.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-ANTH
Prereq: ANTH296 OR ANTH295

ANTH401 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

ANTH402 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

ANTH403 Department/Program Project or Essay
Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

ANTH404 Department/Program Project or Essay
Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

ANTH407 Senior Tutorial (downgrade thesis)
Downgraded Senior Thesis Tutorial - Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor. Only enrolled in through the Honors Coordinator.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

ANTH408 Senior Tutorial (downgraded thesis)
Downgraded Senior Thesis Tutorial - Project to be arranged in consultation with the tutor. Only enrolled in through the Honors Coordinator.

Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

ANTH409 Senior Thesis Tutorial
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

ANTH410 Senior Thesis Tutorial
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

ANTH411 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

Offering: Host
ANTH412 Group Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

ANTH419 Student Forum
Student-run group tutorial, sponsored by a faculty member and approved by the chair of a department or program.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U

ANTH420 Student Forum
Student-run group tutorial, sponsored by a faculty member and approved by the chair of a department or program.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U

ANTH465 Education in the Field, Undergraduate
Students must consult with the department and class dean in advance of undertaking education in the field for approval of the nature of the responsibilities and method of evaluation.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

ANTH466 Education in the Field, Undergraduate
Students must consult with the department and class dean in advance of undertaking education in the field for approval of the nature of the responsibilities and method of evaluation.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

ANTH467 Independent Study, Undergraduate
Credit may be earned for an independent study during a summer or authorized leave of absence provided that (1) plans have been approved in advance, and (2) all specified requirements have been satisfied.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: None
Prereq: None

ANTH468 Independent Study, Undergraduate
Credit may be earned for an independent study during a summer or authorized leave of absence provided that (1) plans have been approved in advance, and (2) all specified requirements have been satisfied.
Offering: Host
Grading: Cr/U
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: None
Prereq: None

ANTH469 Education in the Field, Undergraduate
Students must consult with the department and class dean in advance of undertaking education in the field for approval of the nature of the responsibilities and method of evaluation.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

ANTH502 Individual Tutorial, Graduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

ANTH511 Group Tutorial, Graduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

ANTH561 Graduate Field Research
Research in the field, normally on thesis project.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

ANTH562 Graduate Field Research
Research in the field, normally on thesis project.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

ANTH589 Advanced Research, BA/MA
Intensive investigation of special research problems leading to a BA/MA thesis.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

ANTH590 Advanced Research, BA/MA
Intensive investigation of special research problems leading to a BA/MA thesis.
Offering: Host
Grading: A-F

ANTH591 Advanced Research, Graduate
Investigation of special problems leading to a thesis.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

ANTH592 Advanced Research, Graduate
Investigation of special problems leading to a thesis.
Offering: Host
Grading: OPT