

2013-2014 Anthropology Graduate Course Descriptions

(Updated July 15, 2013 - sc)

ANT1000H F - Introductory Master's Workshop (G. Coupland)

This required course for all Masters students will introduce students to the variety of anthropological research, as demonstrated by the work of our faculty members and students themselves. In the first portion of the course, students will themselves write and review grant proposals, using participant observation methods to experience this necessary aspect of anthropological research. In the second portion, readings and discussion of professors' research with members of the Univ. of Toronto department will provide examples of different research topics, methods, and presentation approaches.

ANT1099H F - Quantitative Methods II (L. Sawchuk)

This course is designed for anthropologists interested in practical statistical applications as well as data base construction. Specific applications to be presented include: chi square and residual analysis, epidemiological based statistics, multiple regression and anova. Emphasis will be given to using computer based applications using SPSS and Excel in a lab setting. No prior knowledge of statistics or mathematics is required.

ANT3005H F - Advanced Topics in Paleoanthropology (D. Begun)

In this course we will survey the state-of-the-art in paleoanthropology, concentrating major discoveries and interpretations that help to reconstruct the fossil evidence of the early phases of great ape and human evolution. The course will focus on the phase of evolution from the origin of the apes to the first appearance of fossils that can clearly be attributed to the human lineage. Students will be responsible for presenting a short lecture on a fossil ape or an important time period or event and will direct the discussion of publications that they will assign, in consultation with the instructor. Students will also prepare a meetings style presentation on a topic to be determined in consultation with the instructor. The grading scheme is as follows: Lecture-30%, Presentation-30%, Participation-40%.

ANT3010H S - Advanced Topics in Osteology (G. Dewar)

How are human skeletal and dental remains used to address questions about the identity of individuals, life in antiquity and the evolution of the human species? What limitations and possibilities exist with this type of research? In what new directions is the field moving? The intended goal of this course is to provide you with advanced training in methodological and theoretical approaches in human osteology.

ANT3041H F – Evolutionary Perspectives on Growth and Development (M. Schillaci)

How are human skeletal and dental remains used to address questions about the identity of individuals, life in antiquity and the evolution of the human species? What limitations and possibilities exist with this type of research? In what new directions is the field moving? The intended goal of this course is to provide you with advanced training in methodological and theoretical approaches in human osteology.

ANT3042H F – Advanced Topics in Primate Ecology (S. Lehman)

This graduate seminar focuses on advanced topics in primate ecology. Specifically, topics will focus on how ecological theory relates directly to field work on extant and extinct (fossil) primates and their habitats. Topics include landscape approaches to primate biogeography, how forestry influences primate diversity and abundance, application of biochemical techniques in studies of the ecology of extinct (fossil) and extant primates, and how primates respond to natural and anthropogenic disturbances. The seminar activities include both oral and written analyses of research articles. Critical discussion of research methods is an important component of the course.

ANT3046H S – Paleoecology in Primate and Human Evolution (M. Silcox)

Paleoecology is the study of the relationship between organisms and their environment in the past. This course will consider the problem of reconstructing ecological variables in extinct primates, including humans.

The first half of the course will examine different methodologies for reconstructing ecological variables, relevant to the whole of the Cenozoic (last 65 million years). Topics will include compositional analysis, stable isotope analysis, and reconstructing autecological variables such as diet and locomotion. The second half of the course will focus on particular localities that have been studied using a variety of methods as case studies. The format of the course will include seminar style discussions, student presentations, and some lecturing.

ANT3047H S - Evolutionary Anthropology Theory (S. Pfeiffer)

An intensive exploration of the ideas that form the foundation and leading concepts in evolutionary anthropology; historically important readings and current concepts will be presented and discussed in the context of research, including areas of human population biology, ecology and the evolution of *Homo sapiens*.

ANT3439H F – Advanced Seminar in Forensic Anthropology (T. Rogers)

Students will address advanced theory and method in Forensic Anthropology. Topics include: safety, search logistics and management, scene management and documentation, recovery and collection of evidence, case management, forensic significance, sex determination, age estimation, ancestry, identification theory, child abuse, peri- vs. post-mortem damage (including trauma analysis), deliberate post-mortem destruction of a body, jury perception, and demonstrative evidence.

ANT3440H F – Molecular Anthropology: Theory and Practice (E. Parra)

This course will introduce graduate students to theoretical and experimental methods in Molecular Anthropology. This field of Anthropology uses genetic information for addressing questions about the origin and evolution of our species. We will review important aspects of genome organization and describe the different types of genetic markers used in anthropological studies. A variety of experimental techniques to analyze genome variation will be reviewed in detail. We will also discuss the application of statistical methods in human evolutionary studies. Diverse topics regarding the extent, pattern and meaning of genetic variation within and between human populations will be discussed. The course will familiarize students with how genetic data can be a powerful tool to explore longstanding questions in the field of anthropology, such as the origin of anatomically modern humans, how humans have adapted to a wide range of climatic and ecological conditions, and the relationship of human variation and disease, among others.

ANT4020H S - Archaeology Theory (E. Swenson)

This seminar offers a comprehensive examination of the history of archaeological theory and the major theoretical approaches defining the discipline today. Students will become familiar with competing schools of archaeological thought concerned with the study of material culture, past social formations, and historical process. These perspectives will run the gamut from functionalist and natural science paradigms to postmodern (post-processual) investigations of meaning, representation, and politics. In tracing dominant positions, problems, and epistemologies in archaeology, we will also consider the influence of other disciplines on the development of archaeological theory (cultural anthropology, human ecology, historiography, sociology, post-modern geography). Moreover, students will come to appreciate how changing discourses on human nature, social organization, alterity, gender, and power have directly shaped archaeological representations of past cultural traditions. Important themes to be addressed throughout the duration of the seminar, specific to problems of archaeological practice, include materiality, spatiality, historicity, and hermeneutics. In light of recent developments in social archaeology, we will also give special consideration to issues of embodiment (emotion), ontology, agency/network theory, personhood, political subjectivity, practice theory, performativity, social memory, and the politics of archaeological research. Ultimately, the seminar should provide students with a rich understanding of the theoretical frameworks that underpin contemporary archaeological practice and the unique problems inherent in archaeological efforts to represent and interpret the material record.

ANT4025H F – Archaeology of Eastern North America (D.G. Smith)

The Eastern Woodlands area of North America was the setting for distinctive cultural developments during the time period from c. 12,000 years ago until European contact 400 to 500 years ago. This course will examine these developments through application of the principles of scientific archaeology, using the Great Lakes region and southern Ontario as specific examples. Topics covered will include earliest inhabitants, hunter-gatherer-fisher lifeways, the origins of food production, development of village-dwelling tribal communities, and first contact with Europeans.

ANT4030H S - Artifacts (M. Chazan)

Artifacts occupy an ambiguous position somewhere between nature and culture, virtual and real, humanity and nature. The course will combine extensive reading in theoretical literature from anthropology and related disciplines including cognitive science and philosophy with applied research projects on a class of artifacts from either contemporary or archaeological context. The goal of this course is to work towards a broadly based anthropological approach to artifacts.

My own interest in artifacts is from the perspective of my research as an archaeologist. However, this is not intended to be a course in archaeology. Students from across anthropology and from other fields are encouraged to bring their perspectives and interests.

ANT4039H F - Origin and Nature of Food Producing Societies (G. Crawford)

This course covers both substantive and theoretical aspects of the transition from foraging to resource production. Regional case studies of primary and secondary areas of the shift to resource production throughout the world are investigated, and models to explain the transition are examined. The course will follow a seminar format, where the class will meet to discuss a particular topic. For each of these meetings, a team of students will be responsible for researching the topic in some detail and presenting a summary, while the rest of the class will be responsible for preparing questions for discussion. In addition, each student will prepare one paper for submission. The paper will require the student to formulate a major topic for detailed investigation, write a paper on the research, and present the results to the class.

ANT 4042H S - Archaeology of Complex Hunter-Gatherers (G. Coupland)

Complex hunter-gatherers challenge traditional anthropological theory concerning the importance of agriculture to the emergence of cultural complexity. Complex hunter-gatherers – those societies with high population densities, sedentary settlement, developing political economies, and most importantly, pronounced social inequality – have been recorded ethnographically in a few areas of the world, particularly in the Pacific Northwest, but were otherwise thought to have been rare and anomalous. Recent archaeological studies show, however, that complex hunter-gatherers may have been much more common in the more distant past. In this course we will consider the meaning of complexity, look at the factors that are prerequisite to complexity among hunter-gatherers, and examine the ways in which complexity is maintained in hunting and gathering societies. We will also look at how archaeologists recognize evidence of complexity in the archaeological record. Finally, we will examine several case studies (in the form of student presentations) of complex hunter-gatherers from around the world.

ANT4044H F – Interregional Interaction in the Ancient World (J. Jennings)

Since at least the Upper Paleolithic Period, interregional interaction has been fundamental to the development of cultures from around the world. The movement of ideas, people, and objects across vast areas is not confined to the modern era, and in this course we will explore the role that interregional interaction has played in many of the most important processes in human history like the beginnings of social inequality, the origins of agriculture, the birth of cities, and the spread of civilizations. The course is run as a discussion seminar and readings for the course will consist largely of case studies from around the world and across time. The major requirement for the course is a research paper that explores how interregional interaction changed over time in one particular region of the world.

ANT 5144H F - Foundation in Linguistic Anthropology (A. Paz)

This course introduces the tradition of studying language as a sign system that is ultimately constituted through social action. Contemporary linguistic anthropology views language through theories of cultural practice, in contrast to the widespread Cartesian theories of mind and structure that tend to de-contextualize language and text. We will read foundational works and consider methodologies of describing the role of language and discursive practice in producing social worlds. In that light, we consider the following topics: language structure and use, language ideologies and power, performativity and ritual, textuality and intertextuality, genres and registers. Students will have an opportunity to think about their ethnographic research through the lens of linguistic anthropology.

ANT6003H F - Critical Issues in Ethnography I (Boddy)

"In this course we examine anthropological ethnography as a mode of imaginative practice, involving fieldwork, writing, representation, and both cultivating and depicting relations between self and other. The modes and methods ethnography have been subjects of debate within the discipline, as one form is found wanting and another is devised to address its predecessor's shortfalls. By reading and engaging deeply with a number of full-length ethnographies it is hoped that students will gain an appreciation of the possibilities and limits of the ethnographic endeavour and the dilemmas anthropologists have faced in undertaking it. Some books we deliberate are considered 'classics'; some push at the boundaries of anthropological convention; all invite us to ask what doing ethnography and producing 'an' ethnography are."

ANT6006H F - Genealogies of Anthropological Thought (A. Muehlebach)

This course is intended to acquaint students with an intellectual history of socio-cultural and linguistic anthropology (SCL). This is a large and multifaceted topic, and thus this course cannot pretend to be a comprehensive mapping of the subfield. Rather, it considers key intellectual movements and controversies, and it is intended to provide students with both an understanding of foundational texts within SCL, and a grasp of historical relationships between different theories and paradigms. Ultimately the aim of the course is to equip students with the ability to conceptualize and frame a problem within the broader history of SCL. Topics may include: structural-functionalism, structuralism, interpretive anthropology, Marxist anthropology and political economy, critiques of colonialism, and globalization.

ANT6007H S - Magic, Science and Religion (T. Sanders)

Magic, science and religion have long preoccupied anthropologists. This course considers these topics by raising fundamental questions about the nature of knowledge: what can we know about the world, and how can we know it? Through close readings of key anthropological texts we consider what – if anything – differentiates magic, religion and science, belief and knowledge, subjectivity and objectivity, irrationality and rationality.

ANT6014H F– Textuality and Technologies of Mass Mediation (F. Cody)

This reading-intensive seminar focuses on ethnographic approaches to the process of mass mediation, with specific reference to critical theories of semiotics and textuality. Beginning with general theories offered by thinkers ranging from Plato to Jacques Derrida and Nancy Fraser, the course then moves on to empirical accounts of the social and material lives of texts and their mediatization – the entanglement of semiotic mediation in processes of mass commoditization and bureaucratization. Central themes we will approach from an anthropological perspective on mass mediation include: postcoloniality, the nation-state form, bureaucracy, transnational cultural flows, democratic publics, and the market in cultural goods. While drawing on a range of disciplines, including philosophy, cultural studies, literary theory, and histories of the book, the course also asks what an ethnographic approach to the problems of textuality and mass mediation might offer that other methodologies do not.

ANT 6019H S - Anthropology of Neoliberalism: (Political) Economic Anthropology

The 2008 Global Financial Crisis gave anthropologists the opportunity to reflect on anthropology's paltry participation in the production and circulation of knowledge about finance – that is, about finance capital, financial markets, and financialization (Elyachar and Maurer 2009, Hart and Ortiz 2008). While acknowledging the challenge of understanding financial market mechanisms and terminology, researchers in economic anthropology and the anthropology of finance appeal to anthropology for a more pro-active attitude. They ask how anthropology can contribute to understanding the current financialized socio-culture and political-economy market, and suggest that research on gift, money, and value can guide us to new insights on global finance. Although a great deal of anthropological research focuses on the connection between financialization and neoliberalism, it would be useful to consider the tendency to reduce finance to certain kinds of formal markets (e.g., Wall Street) that are universalized and seen as globally transferrable. In contrast, this class will critically engage in the economic anthropological literature dealing with gift, money, sociality, market, and value, combining interdisciplinary perspectives on finance within anthropology and beyond.

ANT6027H S – Anthropology of Violence (C. Krupa)

This course examines anthropological approaches to the study of violence. Violence has long been a central focus for anthropological research. One of the overarching ambitions in much of this research has been to make violence meaningful in some respect. Violence can be given meaning in any number of ways. For example, it can be analyzed as being part of a system of exchange, a system of sacrifice, a system of debt, a system of law-making, or a system of signs. More recently, however, studies of violence have started to emphasize the importance of failures in meaning. In this regard, it could be argued that violence describes the limits of the human capacity to give meaning to events.

This course provides an overview of anthropological and related theories of violence. Some of the central theorists considered in the course are Benjamin, Arendt, Derrida, Foucault, and Agamben. The course then situates these theories within the context of ethnographic cases. The varieties of violence considered in these ethnographies range from forms of violence normally associated with small-scale societies (circumcision, tribal warfare, headhunting, witchcraft killings, etc.) to the forms of violence perpetrated by modern states and their citizens (modern warfare, torture, incarceration, rape, police violence, vigilantism, etc.)

ANT6029H F – Anthropology of Capitalism (S. Satsuka)

The course examines capitalism as clusters of cultural practices and belief systems. In the seminar, we will analyze the social and cultural aspects of value and exchange, and compare various forms of capitalism. We will investigate how capitalist and other forms of social interactions co-exist, compete and transform each other. Specific attention will be paid to the relations of power and the social and historical context in which particular forms of capitalism are constructed.

ANT6031H S – Research Seminar: Genders and Sexualities (S. Bamford)

This course examines anthropological approaches to sex and gender. During the first part of the course we will explore the social position of women relative to men and the arguments that have been made to account for their seemingly universal subordination. Here, emphasis will be placed on the tension that exists between the political agenda of feminist theory and the relativizing challenge posed by cross-cultural research. Through an examination of how gender configurations vary the world over, we will come to question the extent to which male and female can be taken as “natural” categories. The second part of the course will explore how more recent trends in cross-disciplinary research – including post-modernism, gay and lesbian studies, and ‘the politics of difference’ are relativizing gender studies and providing anthropologists with new ways of looking at the world.

ANT6032H S – Research Seminar: Anthropology of Personhood (G. Daswani)

Personhood lies at the heart of anthropology inquiry and in the same ontological regime as Kinship, Magic and Gift Exchange: the meaning and relationship of self and other; universality and particularity; and the limits and possibilities of dialogic engagement between individual (ism) and dividual (ism). Any discussion of the self in relation to others must necessarily engage with questions of what or who a person is, and through the symbolic and cultural values invested in, and in exchange with, others (human and non-human). This course addresses the place of personhood in socio-cultural anthropology from the discipline's social scientific foundations to the contemporary questions ethnographers are increasingly exploring: including debates in anthropology within kinship studies as well as through themes such as the "Religious Subject", the "Precarious Subject" and the "Neoliberal Subject". The goal of the course is a) to introduce students to theoretical frameworks that have effectively been employed by anthropologists when studying personhood, b) to collectively develop strategies for integrating ethnography and theory, and c) to explore possible tensions between them. This course will be run as a seminar with evaluation based on participation, one oral presentation, weekly reports, and a final paper.

ANT6033H F – Research Seminar: Decolonization and Diversity: Settler Colonialism, Indigeneity and Immigration in Canada (B. McElhinny) T.B.A.

ANT6034H F – Local and Global Styles. Youth, Language and Identity (S. Hillewaert)

This course examines the many different ways in which language and broader sets of semiotic practices are used in the construction, contestation, and negotiation of identities in contemporary societies. Because youth are often viewed as the motors of social and cultural change, examining their styling practices provides unique opportunities to capture processes of change as they unfold; it allows us to understand how practices and ideologies are involved in creating and reproducing the differentiations and distinctions that make up social life. In particular, we will explore how youth use styling practices to evoke (and provoke) locally circulating stereotypes and how they thereby contribute to the negotiation of community ideologies and values. Through a theoretical and ethnographic exploration of oft-used notions like "identity," "style," and "language," participants in this seminar will be engaged in critical discussions around youth identities, the politics of language, and the processes of globalization and localization. The goal of this course is to build a theoretical framework for viewing the practice and ideology of language as constitutive of everyday social relations, cultural forms, and institutions of power. Most importantly, it aims to provide an understanding of the central role these theoretical concepts play in the study of generational relations, sociality and social change more general, and thus to develop a set of analytical tools to facilitate their ethnographic and textual study.

ANT6040H F - Research Design and Fieldwork Methods (H. Luong)

This course is designed for graduate students in sociocultural and linguistic anthropology who plan to write their research proposals and to design their field projects in the near future. It will examine different kinds of fieldwork and data collection techniques.

ANT6055H F-Anthropology of Subjectivity and the Problem of the Human (Napolitano)

This course analyses different approaches to the study of subjectivity. It engages with the question of the human as a core field in the discipline of anthropology and ethnography, and it specifically opens up this field to key concepts in psychoanalysis, philosophy and history in relation to readings on nature, materiality and power.

ANT7001H S - Medical Anthropology I (B. Dahl)

This course reviews both foundational and contemporary work in the field of medical anthropology, treating illness and healing as cultural, political and experiential phenomena. We will examine central topics and concepts in medical anthropology, such as Western and non-Western constructions of the person and traditions of healing; critiques of biomedicine; the emergence of “risk” discourse; gender, sexuality, and reproductive health; medical humanitarianism and efforts to secure people’s “right to health.” Readings and discussions will critically analyze contemporary theoretical constructs, notably the anthropology of social suffering and various approaches to subjectivity and “the body” within medical anthropology. The course will focus on the two primary fields of the subdiscipline: critical medical anthropology and science and technology studies (STS).

ANT7002H S - Medical Anthropology II (Applied Biocultural Perspectives on Global Child Health) (D. Sellen)

This course explores the concept of an evolved care package for human children and the opportunities to augment child care to improve health for all children today and in the future. We consider the complex, bi-directional and biocultural relationships between child care giving and health outcomes in different social and ecological settings. We compare perspectives from anthropology, zoology, nutrition, global health and related disciplines to develop models for the evolved needs of young children and consider the potential for innovations to enhance the quality of care provided by health systems, communities, parents, and other care workers.

ANT7003H F - Global Health: Anthropological Perspectives (Wardlow)

This course examines the field of global health from the perspective of socio-cultural anthropology. The course provides a graduate-level introduction to the history, concepts, issues, ideologies, and institutions of international health, focusing on the contributions and critiques provided by medical anthropology. Topics covered include: the political ecology of infectious disease, disease eradication campaigns, primary health care, population policy and reproductive health, ethnomedicines and their relationship to systems of biomedical care, the AIDS pandemic, international health organizations, the relationship of global health to international development, the commodification of health and pharmaceuticals, and the quest for culturally appropriate interventions. The course stresses the value of conceptualizing health problems and their proposed solutions as embedded in larger cultural, political, and historical contexts.

JAR6510H S – From Theory to Ethnography: Anthropological Approaches to Religion (A. Mittermaier)

This course introduces graduate students to a range of anthropological approaches to religion through both theoretical and ethnographic texts. By reading select ethnographies alongside key theoretical texts that inform them, we will consider how theoretical paradigms shape anthropologists' research questions, how theory might be undone during fieldwork, and how theory and fieldnotes are crafted into ethnographic texts. The goal of the course is a) to introduce students to theoretical frameworks that have effectively been employed by anthropologists in the study of religion, b) to dwell on different strategies for integrating ethnography and theory, and c) to explore possible tensions between them. The course will be run as a seminar with evaluation based on participation, one oral presentation, reading responses, and a final paper.

JSA5147H S - Language, Nationalism and Post-Nationalism (M. Heller)

The purpose of this course is to examine the relationship between ideologies and practices of language and nation, from the period of the rise of the nation-State in the 19th century to current social changes related to the globalized new economy which challenge prevailing ideas about language and nation. We will discuss the role of language in the construction of major European nation-States and in their colonial expansion; the role of language in post-colonial nation-building; the construction, positioning and repositioning of so-called linguistic minorities and indigenous rights movements (the concept of immigration is relevant, of course, but falls beyond the scope of what we can cover here); the commodification of language and identity in the current economy; language and globalization; and current debates on the ecology of language and language endangerment. Throughout we will also examine the role of linguists, anthropologists and other producers of discourse about language, nation and State in the construction of theories of nation, ethnicity, race and citizenship.