

2015-2016 Anthropology Graduate Course Descriptions

Updated Jan 15, 2016-sc

ANT 1000H F - Introductory Master's Workshop (D. Begun) TBA

ANT 3005H S – Advanced Topics in Paleoanthropology (B. Viola)

In this course we will survey the state-of-the-art in paleoanthropology, concentrating on major discoveries and interpretations that help to reconstruct the fossil evidence for human evolution. The course will look at our evolution from the emergence of the genus *Homo* through the "Muddle in the Middle" to the origin of modern humans. Students will be responsible for presenting a short lecture on a taxon, 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%.

ANT 3010H F – Human Osteology: Theory and Practice (S. Pfeiffer)

This is a course for people who already have some knowledge of the laboratory techniques of anthropological human osteology. It will focus on questions of methodology and hypothesis construction. We will explore what questions osteology can and cannot answer, and on how osteology should and should not be used. Of the three anthropological applications of human osteology (forensics, palaeoanthropology and archaeology), the emphasis will be on the latter.

ANT 3031H S – Adv Res Sem: Primatological Theory and Methods (J. Teichroeb)

In this course, we will begin by examining seminal theoretical works and methodological advancements in animal behavior and other fields that shaped the discipline of primatology. We will then move on to cover current issues in primatology. Given the breadth of the field, topics may include ecology, population biology, social behavior, cognition, genetics, and conservation. Students will present and discuss articles at weekly meetings, with a strong focus on class participation, and a final paper will be required.

ANT 3034H S – Adv Res Sem: Anthropology of Food Security (Galloway)

This course examines the diverse range of theoretical approaches applied to the study of human food security. Used historically as a local- or state-level measure of year-to-year food stores, the term “food security” was used at the 1996 World Food Summit to describe a condition where “all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life.” The means by which food security is defined, measured, produced and evaluated in contemporary populations are the subject of this course. Students will explore the theory underlying historical and contemporary approaches to food security. Students will examine the tools used to assess food security and to evaluate food security interventions. Using methods from nutritional anthropology, students will explore the connections between food security and biological, economic and social well-being. The course will engage with debates over global food production, poverty, the organic food movement, environmental sustainability, the nutrition transition, and obesity.

Intended as an interdisciplinary bridge between various theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of human foodways, this seminar is suitable for graduate students from a wide range of disciplines and graduate programs seeking a broad theoretical foundation for studies of human diet, health and social organization. Students in the various sub-disciplines of anthropology (cultural, evolutionary, archaeological) as well as students from diverse programs (nursing, nutrition, human ecology, public and applied health) are invited to participate in this course.

ANT 3047H F - Evolutionary Anthropology Theory (M. Schillaci)

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*.

ANT 3439H F – 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.

ANT 3440H S – 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.

ANT 4020H F - Archaeology Theory (ARCH CORE) (T. Banning)

This seminar offers an overview of archaeological theory historically and thematically to encourage better understanding of the major theoretical approaches that characterize the discipline today. It will start with some philosophy of science and discussion of the epistemological differences between historical and experimental sciences. Subsequent topics will include evolutionary theory, theory of history, Marxism/political economy, human ecology, structuralism, hermeneutics, agency/practice theory, and semiotics. The goal is to expose students to the variety of theoretical frameworks that have informed past and contemporary archaeological practice, help them understand their concepts, and critique their applications in the context of the problems inherent in archaeological efforts to represent and interpret the past through evidence from its material residues.

ANT 4026H S - Arctic Archaeology (M. Friesen)

Despite its harsh environment, the North American Arctic has seen the development of a series of diverse and successful societies. A number of factors make the Arctic a unique and particularly rewarding place to perform archaeology, including the presence of knowledgeable elders who, in many cases, grew up “on the land”; the often excellent preservation of artifacts due to extreme cold and aridity; and the relatively simple ecosystem, which can enhance reconstruction of human-environment interactions. This course will focus on the archaeological and, to a lesser extent, ethnographic records of Inuit and related peoples, with an emphasis on the eastern Arctic during the past 5000 years. Each week will see the discussion of a specific topic, ranging from culture-historical problems specific to the Arctic such as the causes of early migrations, to more general issues of method and theory such as ethnographic analogy, hunter-gatherer mobility strategies, settlement patterns, social organization, ideology, and intersocietal interaction.

ANT 4038H F – Archaeology of Urban Development – The Birth of the Countryside (J. Jennings)

Since the work of V. Gordon Childe, archaeologists have recognized the importance of the urban revolution in human history. Yet what happened within these cities was only one small part of this revolution. Urbanization also created the countryside and the tenuous, shifting relationships that linked cities to farmers, herders, traders, pilgrims, and other people that lived outside the city walls. In this seminar, we will examine the early relationship between city and countryside from around the world. Each week we will read 3 articles on one aspect of this relationship and then discuss the articles in class. Each student will be asked to write weekly critiques, as well as a research paper that examines this city/countryside dynamic in one region of the world. The final class in the course will be dedicated to exploring the similarities and differences between the relationship of cities and countryside in these cultures.

ANT 4039H S - Origin and Nature of Food Producing Societies (D. Smith)

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 theoretical 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 research 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 4043H S – Archaeology of Ritual, Religion, and Ideology (E. Swenson)

This course presents an intensive study of archaeological approaches to ritual performance, religious belief, and ideology within a cross-cultural comparative framework. Students will examine key theoretical paradigms in the anthropology of religion while assessing the ways in which inferences on social process, political structures, and prehistoric worldviews can be made from ritual contexts preserved in the material record. Emphasis will be placed on critically evaluating both archaeological methods deployed in the analysis of ancient ritual as well as theoretical approaches mobilized to interpret the material signatures of past ceremonialism. Other themes to be addressed in the course include: a critique of functionalist interpretations of prehistoric religion popular in current archaeological research; the intersection of power and ritual experience as embodied practice; the material and spatial specificity of religious events; the aesthetics and ideological valence of ritual theatre; and the archaeological investigation of world religions (with a particular focus on the potential political controversies posed by such research).

ANT 4050H S – Zooarchaeology – (G. Dewar)

This course will focus on zooarchaeological interpretation: how do archaeologists reconstruct past human behaviour on the basis of animal bones recovered from archaeological sites? As has become increasingly clear over the past two decades, in order to interpret archaeofaunas the zooarchaeologist must understand factors ranging from the natural (e.g., fluvial processes, carnivore activity, and differential bone density) to the cultural (e.g., ritual disposal of bone, and status differences in access to meat of different species), and everything in between (e.g., methods of quantification, patterns of bone transport, and butchery methods). Seminar discussions will revolve around readings and case studies drawn from each of these categories.

ANT 4060H F – Specific Problems I – Current Issues in East Asian Archaeology (G. Crawford)

China, Japan and Korea are rich archaeological worlds with their own epistemology and methods. Yet many of the issues in these countries have a bearing on understanding universal archaeological and anthropological problems. In other words, students involved in other regions will find this course of value. We will examine the main issues of concern to archaeologists working in East Asia with a focus on the Palaeolithic through Neolithic. How local ideology colours the narratives will be an important component of our discussions. These issues involve human origins, Palaeolithic adaptations, relevance to peopling of the New World, agricultural origins in both north and central China, development of social complexity, the perplexing Jomon issues and the spread of agriculture. Student research interests will also drive the focus of the course. To the extent that we are able because of language and literature availability, case studies will drive our discussions.

ANT 4068H F – Archaeology of Technology – (L. Xie)

This course studies pre-industrial technologies through a wide range of approaches, including 1) reading and discussion of major theoretical topics; 2) videos of ethnography and experimentation; and 3) hands-on experience of reconstruction, experimentation, and analysis.

In this course we will discuss technology from both perspectives of the modern researchers and the ancient producers and users, focusing on 1) the major archaeological and anthropological methods for studying ancient technology and 2) the basic production, organization, and consumption of a variety of crafts in the past, including stone, bone, and clay. Overall, we will examine environmental, social, cultural, economic, and functional factors that may have driven technological innovation, adoption, persistence, and changes.

All students are expected to read assigned articles before each week's meeting, to contribute to class discussions, and to design and report on laboratory projects. Each week four students will be chosen to lead the discussion, each in charge of one reading.

ANT 6003H F - Critical Issues in Ethnography I (SCL MA's CORE COURSE) J. Boddy

'Ethnography' is at once a (relatively disciplined) practice of interpersonal engagement, and the results of this practice conveyed and transformed through writing. In this course we examine books variously positioned within the realm of 'ethnography' in an effort to become more familiar with what the genre entails. The selected texts are thematically linked by concerns for place, time, subject/person, power and subjugation. Each provides a point of departure for exploring a range of ethnographic methods and theoretical models. We examine issues such as authorial positioning and voice, use of 'plot', narrative style, characterization, and representation, all the while attending to the means by which the ethnography was produced and its historical and intellectual context.

ANT 6005H F - The Politics of Distribution - Work, Welfare and Abandonment in Precarious Times (T. Li)

Unprecedented levels of inequality mark access to land, work, and means of survival both within and between nations, provoking protest movements and struggles over distribution in diverse arena. This course examines the politics of distribution through a focus on: a) changing access to resources and work, in both rural and urban settings; b) the emergence of schemes to provide livelihoods for selected populations; and c) legitimations for abandoning populations deemed "undeserving." It brings together theoretical and empirical literatures on the themes of work, precarity, poverty, welfare policy, development, social movements, rights, and politics.

ANT 6006H F - Genealogies of Anthropological Thought (N. Dave)

This course is intended primarily for PhD students

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.

ANT 6018H S – Approaches to Nature and Culture (H. Cunningham)

"Nature," Raymond Williams wrote in *Keywords*, "is perhaps the most complex word in the language," and he notes that "...any full history of the uses of nature would be a history of a large part of human thought" (1987:219-21).

This course adopts the *nature-society* distinction as a central problematic and explores some of the ways in which this dualism has been critiqued, contested, rejected and re-fashioned in social theory. Through readings that encompass often quite substantially different approaches to "nature," this course seeks to engender discussion and debate about "nature" and its relation to social theory. Although the course adopts a roughly chronological and thematic framework, the readings have been specifically selected to draw out and investigate the contributions and limitations

of different theorists, and, consequently, to draw students into substantive conversations about them. The analytical emphasis of the course builds on the notion of interfaces—points of interconnection and/or disjuncture among the various agendas and "natured" projects being developed by different authors.

ANT 6019H F - Anthropology of Neoliberalism: (J. Song)

The 2008 Global Financial Crisis gave anthropologists a crucial opportunity to participate 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 and suggest that research on gift, money, and value can guide us to new insights on global finance. Upon their call, his 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

ANT 6031H S - Adv Research Seminar: Anthropology of Science and Technology (W. Sung)

Since the 1980s, science and technology have been a crucial angle for anthropologists to study the modern world. From this angle, anthropologists inquire the meanings of modernity, analyze the relations between nature and culture, and explore the interactions between humans and material objects in their lives. In this course, we will examine important subjects in this rising field. Topics include, but are not limited to, biopolitics, cyborg, citadel, actor-network, and incommensurability. Students will also have opportunities to engage news, objects, or news from their daily lives through the theoretical approaches learned in class. The aim of this course is to get an overarching understanding and working knowledge of the anthropology of science and technology.

ANT 6033H F – Adv Research Seminar: Unsettling Settler Colonialism (McElhinny)

The notion of 'settler colonialism' is often used to distinguish between cases of colonialism where empires were established for military and/or trade advantages and/or the exploitation of natural resources or labour (often called overseas colonialism), and those where settlement takes place in land that is often constructed by settlers as empty, and where there are attempts to displace, segregate, assimilate and/or eradicate indigenous people. The notion of settler colonialism groups certain states and situations as similar, though which ones are similar in this way remains debated. In this course we look at some debates about the political and analytic utility of the notion of settler colonialism with the aim of thinking about when and how comparative work of this kind contributes towards the process of decolonization, with attention, however, to the fact that these questions are not (contra claims in some recent scholarship) new. Indigenous scholars, activists and leaders have long unpacked the notion of settler colonialism—and offered models and strategies for decolonization, resurgence and renewal. Their work will be an integral part of this class. While the course focuses, in the first instance on Turtle Island/Canada and the U.S., it also incorporates select works on other Anglo settler societies (Australia, New Zealand, South Africa), and on settler colonies established in Africa, East Asia and Palestine in the 19th and 20th centuries. The course will also give students opportunities to do presentations and papers that will focus on these sites yet further, should these be your primary area of interest.

ANT 6040H F - Research Design and Fieldwork Methods (CORE COURSE) (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 design and data collection techniques.

ANT 6055H S-Anthropology of Subjectivity and Personhood (J. Sidnell)

Through a survey of writings in anthropology, philosophy and social theory this course poses a range of questions concerning self, subjectivity and personhood. For instance, how are persons distinguished from non-persons? Is the person unified, divided, integrated, partible, fractured? What are the possibilities of personhood and self-definition within different social formations and how are these shaped by different regimes of knowledge? What does it mean to talk about “making up” people? Is the self a retrospectively constructed fiction or a real phenomenological experience? In what sense are individuals self-reflective, free agents and sovereign individuals? What kind of person/self/individual is presupposed in acts such as promising, praying or pledging? Is the self “performed” and, if so, what moral and ethical implications follow from this? By what techniques, practices, methods does an individual constitute itself as a subject?

ANT 7001H S - Medical Anthropology I (K. Maxwell)

Medical anthropologists understand illness, health and healing as simultaneously social, cultural, political and historical phenomena. In this course, we focus on analyzing how ideologies and practices of health care (re)produce relations of power and (re)define personhood in diverse global settings. We consider a range of theoretical and methodological approaches employed by medical anthropologists to these ends, through readings and discussion of classic and contemporary medical anthropology literature. Some topical and conceptual focal points will include: anthropology of biomedicine; bio-power and bio-politics; racialization; ethnographic studies of therapeutic settings; global health and medical humanitarianism. We attend to both the particular contributions of socio-cultural medical anthropology, and how the field intersects productively with feminist theory, Indigenous and colonial studies, kinship studies, critical public health, and history of medicine.

ANT 7002H F - Medical Anthropology II (L. Sawchuk)

This course approaches medical anthropology from a synthetic approach embracing perspectives of culture, biology, demography and epidemiology to understand population health. It will cover: Medical Anthropology and other Approaches to the Study of Disease in populations; the Evolution of Our Understanding Disease Causation, the Genetic and Environmental Basis to Diseases, Case Studies of Disease, Culture and Biology (e.g., Influenza, Yellow fever, Cholera, Tay Sachs, and Respiratory Tuberculosis). Emphasis will be given to skill building working with real data sets and quantitative analysis of measuring health.

JSA 5147H 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 relationship between European colonialism and the construction of major European nation-States ; the relationship between language and modernity and in reactions to it (from Esperanto to Fascism and Communism); post-war concerns about language, decolonization and development; language and citizenship in the welfare state; the commodification of language and identity in the current economy; language, post-nationalism, cosmopolitanism 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.

NMC 2081H S – Anthropology of the Middle East (Mittermaier)

This course examines current theoretical and methodological trends in the anthropological study of the Middle East. The readings will offer students ethnographic insight into the region, introduce them to current research, and acquaint them with the kinds of questions anthropologists ask (and the ones they tend not to ask). A central goal of the course is to enable students to think in new, creative, and critical ways about their own research projects.

RLG3290H S – ‘Words and Worship’ – (S. Coleman)

How are we to analyze the words that Christians use? How might oral forms compare with written ones? And how should we try to understand the relationships between religious language and ritual action without seeing one as merely derived from the other? This course provides the opportunity both to explore theories of language use and to apply them to forms of verbal discourse ranging from prayers, sermons, speaking in tongues, and citing biblical verses to more informal narratives. Protestant and Catholic attitudes to religious language are examined in ways that sometimes reinforce, sometimes challenge, theological distinctions between the two, and there will be the opportunity for students to bring their own texts (possibly derived from their own proposed areas of research) for analysis. Various techniques for the analysis of ritual texts are explored and evaluated, and the advantages and disadvantages of close textual analysis are discussed. While I will be presenting techniques of ‘reading’ texts derived mostly from social scientific literatures, you are welcome to incorporate other methods as appropriate