

2012-13 Anthropology Graduate Course Descriptions

(Updated July 18, 2012 - sc)

ANT1000H F - Introductory Master's Workshop (Kalmar)

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 S - Quantitative Methods II (Schillaci)

This course will cover many of the multivariate statistical methods used by biological anthropologists and archaeologists such as principal components analysis (PCA), discriminant analysis including formal classification and canonical variate analysis, multivariate analysis of variance (MANOVA), and cluster analysis. Students will be able to choose among physical anthropology and archaeology data sets for most class assignments. Alternatively, students may use their own data sets for class assignments. No prior knowledge of statistics or mathematics is required. Assignments will make use of PAST, an easy to use (free) computer software package, as well as MS Excel.

ANT3005H F - Advanced Topics in Paleoanthropology (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%.

ANT3031H S - Research Seminar: Primate Sexual Selection (Parga)

This course will provide a broad survey of sexual selection research in human and non-human primates at the graduate level. In particular, this course will discuss some of the most controversial and undecided issues in current primate sexual selection research from an evolutionary perspective. Course readings will include classic articles, reviews, and recent publications in several different areas of primate sexual selection. Topics of discussion will include sperm competition, mate choice, infanticide, sexual swellings, and forced copulation.

ANT3043H F - Comparative Methods in Biological Anthropology (Lehman)

This course focuses on several key quantitative techniques used in comparative research. These methods may be applied with ecological, behavioural, morphological or physiological variables. The following three areas are emphasized: (1) experimental design; (2) comparative methods (correlation and regression); and (3) phylogenetic controls. Comparative methods involve many assumptions. Thoughtful application of these quantitative techniques depends upon an understanding of what statistics should and should not be expected to accomplish.

ANT3045H S - Advanced Topics in Non-Human Primate Evolution (Silcox)

This course focuses on the adaptations and evolution of the Order Primates, based largely on the fossil record. Although some attempt will be made to survey the primate fossil record from the Paleocene to the Pleistocene, emphasis will be placed on topics of particular debate, including for example the primate status of plesiadapiforms, the systematic position of *Darwinius masillae* and its relevance (or lack thereof) to the question of anthropoid origins, and the place of origin of New World monkeys. Although the evolutionary history of most extant groups of primates will be covered, the evolution of humans is excluded from the course. The format of the course will include lectures, seminar-style discussions, and some hands on exercises to familiarize students with aspects of fossil non-human primate anatomy.

ANT3047H S - Evolutionary Anthropology Theory (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*.

ANT4010H S - Archaeology in Contemporary Society (Friesen)

This course explores the role of archaeology in modern society. Its primary goal is to make participants think about how their research affects, and is affected by, the world around them. Seminars will cover papers from diverse regions of the globe based around weekly themes, and will attempt to keep discussions at a “practical” level – how does archaeology actually work “on the ground” in relation to a range of contemporary issues and interest groups? In addition to weekly readings, the class will also involve monitoring of a range of media, in an effort to parse how archaeology is portrayed, and why and how particular archaeologies / archaeologists / archaeological results are “selected” by the media for coverage. Topics covered will include indigenous archaeology, community archaeology, assigning “value” to the past, archaeology and nationalism/politics, archaeology and tourism, impacts of digital technologies on archaeology, and archaeology and climate change.

ANT4020H F - Archaeology Theory (D.G. Smith)

This course will be an introduction to some of the major theoretical perspectives that inform archaeology. This includes epistemology and some classic as well as more recent approaches, such as evolution, historical explanation, cultural ecology, political economy, structuralism, post-structuralism, hermeneutics, agency or practice theory, and complexity theory.

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

ANT4043H S - Archaeology of Ritual, Religion and Ideology (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).

ANT4050H S – Zooarchaeology (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 drawn from each of these categories, and an attempt will

be made to include case studies from a wide range of cultural and geographic contexts, which serve to illustrate more general issues of archaeological interpretation

ANT4066H F - Household Archaeology (Coupland)

Household archaeology, as the name implies, takes the household as the fundamental unit of study, and considers issues that are primary to households such as production, consumption, and social organization. Gordon Willey once called the household the most important unit of study in archaeology because in most pre-industrial societies the household was at the core of socioeconomic organization. The course will be organized in four sections. First, we will review anthropological models of the household developed by scholars such as Goody, Netting, and Wilk. How are households constituted? What are the rules of membership? What sorts of social relations and obligations exist among household members? In the second section, we will look at anthropological and archaeological investigations of the built environment and the ways in which architecture both reflects and generates social order. In section three, we will examine households in terms of a number of traditional anthropological/archaeological categories, including site formation, craft specialization, social inequality, and gender, to name a few. Finally, we will conclude the course by considering perspectives on the “living house.”

ANT4068H S - Archaeology of Technology (Miller)

Although designated as an archaeology course, this course approaches past technologies from a variety of perspectives: through readings and discussion of major theoretical topics; through analysis of archaeological data; through ethnographic videos and accounts; and through hands-on techniques of reconstruction, experimentation and analysis.

Technology and production will be studied alternatively from the perspective of the modern scholar, focusing on the major methods archaeologists and others have used to study ancient technology, and from the perspective of the ancient craftsperson, focusing on basic production technologies for a number of crafts.

Intertwined with this, a number of themes in the study of technology will be examined, such as organization & control of production, style of technology, and the value of objects. Throughout, social and cultural as well as economic and functional reasons for the development and adoption of new technologies will be discussed. Past syllabi for this course are posted on Dr. Miller’s website for a view of past topics covered - <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/~w3htmlmil/>

ANT5144H F - Foundations in Linguistic Anthropology (Sidnell) - T.B.A.

ANT6003H F - Critical Issues in Ethnography I (Dave)

This course considers the nature of ethnography through close examination of a series of monographs written by anthropologists and contextualized by a few other works. We inquire into the various ends for which ethnographers write and the various means by which they do so.

How do ethnographers select from the "infinity of information" to produce reasonably whole and coherent works? What is the relationship of ethnography to anthropology understood more broadly? How does a reasonably linear narrative or systematic analysis emerge from experience? How are anthropological arguments and portraits composed and authorized? How has ethnography changed over the course of the past century? Does it 'progress'? What are the risks, limits, challenges, and pleasures of ethnography? Is it primarily a means or an end in itself?

We address the content of specific ethnographic works and their context; the relationships between ethnographic fact and anthropological theory; the production of anthropological knowledge; styles of ethnographic writing; politics and paradoxes of representation; and, most generally, how to read -- and write -- ethnography.

ANT6005H F - The Politics of Distribution - Work, Welfare and Abandonment in Precarious Times (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.

ANT6006H S - Genealogies of Anthropological Thought (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 (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.

ANT6017H S - Post-colonial Science Studies and the Cultural Politics of Knowledge Translation (Satsuka)

The course interrogates the politics of cultural translation by exploring the intersection of the emerging field of post-colonial science studies and anthropology of knowledge production. Anthropological inquiries have increasingly concerned with the encounter of Western techno-science and different knowledge systems. The emerging field of post-colonial science studies examines techno-science as a product of socially and culturally specific practices and explores how the expansion of techno-science is related to the political, economic and socio-cultural situations in specific historical context. The course explores how anthropology and post-colonial science studies can benefit from each other by interrogating the concrete examples of knowledge translation.

ANT6021H S - Political Anthropology: State, Power and Sovereignty (Barker)

This course examines anthropological approaches to the production and reproduction of political power, authority, and legitimacy. Traditionally, anthropology sought to approach the study of political processes from the perspective of “stateless” societies. The goal was to destabilize ideas of “the state” by studying how people organize their political lives at its margins. Anthropologists have more recently begun to explore different modalities and histories of statehood and statecraft as well as questions of state absence and abandonment, including alternative forms of sovereignty, violence, and benevolence in different parts of the world. Readings may range from classical ethnographies of “stateless” societies to contemporary explorations of genealogies of power/knowledge, the interplay of formal/informal sovereignties, and how such forms of authority unfold through micro-political practices. The course should be of interest to M.A. and PhD students seeking a deeper understanding of the structures of authority that shape their own lives and the lives of the people they study.

ANT6030H S - Anthropology and the Ethical Imagination (Daswani)

At the heart of the ethnographic endeavor are centrally ethical questions: the meaning and relationship of self and other; universality and particularity; and the limits and possibilities of dialogic engagement. Any discussion of the self in relation to others must necessarily engage with questions of the ethical. This course addresses the place of ethics in socio-cultural anthropology from the discipline's social scientific and philosophical foundations to the contemporary questions ethnographers are increasingly exploring: around the ethics of everyday life, the role of values and virtues in shaping religious and social change, the role of the imagination in the making of new social worlds, and the ways that the displaced and dislocated remain human. Among our problematics is to explore how the categories of "the ethical" and "the moral" have been variously produced through anthropological engagement with such issues as piety and religious transformation, charity and love, sexuality and activism, dreams and the imagination, violence and belonging, death and life. This course will be run as a seminar with evaluation based on participation, one oral presentation, weekly reports, and a final paper.

ANT6032H S – Research Seminar - Culture and Commodification (Mortensen) T.B.A.

ANT6033H S – Research Seminar – Language, Ideology and Political Economy (McElhinny)

The course offers an overview of how ideologies of language, culture, gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality, class and nation are tied to the emergence and expansion of capitalism, as an uneven set of relations in deeply interconnected markets. Rather than asking how one can approach a given question from a linguistic angle, it asks when and how language becomes prominent; to see how that process works requires starting from political economy, to see how it produces linguistic, social and cultural ideologies and practices which are at the core of the production, reproduction and contestation of relations of power. It thus doesn't assume the centrality or importance of language to social life; instead, it is interested in when language, in particular, emerges into public debate (including, but not only in linguistic studies) as the terrain on which social life is understood. Sometimes a focus on language can serve as a way of masking social differentiation and inequality (as in standardization practices, or in linguistic skill tests for immigrants); sometimes a focus on language can be a critique of certain forms of social differentiation, and the naturalization of these (as when studies of the history of African-American Vernacular introduction center slavery and its continuing ramifications more fully in American historical accounts). Sometimes progressive approaches (including those proposed by scholars of language) have their own blind spots, in ways that are also understood as conditioned by political and economic conditions, and by the social locations of interlocutors within them, and cannot therefore

simply be construed as signs of intellectual or political progress. Developing a set of tools for more fully understanding these conditions, and these locations, is the first step towards addressing those myopias. The course will include readings, organized in a roughly chronological order, on language and imperialism, language and nationalism, language and internationalism, language and cultural relativism, and language and 'late' capitalism, with attentiveness to gender, race, class and sexuality throughout.

ANT6040H F - Research Design and Fieldwork Methods (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.

ANT7001H S - Medical Anthropology I (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 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"; and the role medical anthropology has played in the field of international health. Readings and discussions will critically analyze contemporary theoretical approaches, notably the anthropology of social suffering and various approaches to subjectivity and "the body" within medical anthropology.

ANT7002H F - Medical Anthropology II (Sellen)

We compare perspectives from anthropology, zoology, nutrition, global health and related disciplines to try to understand the evolved needs of children and their parents, explore and discuss the variety of forms of childcare across space and time, and examine similarities and disparities in cross-cultural patterns of childcare. We also ask how possible patterns of child care and its influence human biology, the evolution of the human life history, relations between parents and the organization of families, households and whole societies; and how such information and perspectives are generated and used by anthropologists, international public health practitioners and others interested in variation in childcare practices and its social determinants and health effects? We also consider the complex, bi-directional and biocultural relationships between care and health in different social and ecological settings.

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.