

Department of Anthropology
Course Descriptions For Fall 2004
February 20, 2004

For days and time please refer to the Fall course timetable on the Registrar's home page:
<http://www.upenn.edu/registrar/>

Abbreviations for the department's quadrants are: A = Archaeology, B=Biophysical and C = Cultural

ANTH 001 - Introduction to Archaeology (A) Gen Req II: May be counted towards the General Requirement in History & Tradition. Staff. Students seeking extended challenges are invited to apply for admission to the honors section.

An introduction to the history, concepts, and methods of the anthropological study of early man using archaeological illustrations to indicate the relationships of archaeological interpretations with cultural and physical anthropology.

ANTH 002 - Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (C) Gen Req I: May be counted towards the General Requirement in Society. Staff. Students seeking extended challenges are invited to apply for admission to the honors section.

An introduction to the study of culture and human institutions, how they change, and their role in both literate and non-literate societies.

ANTH 003 - Introduction to Human Evolution (Bi) Gen Req V: May be counted towards the General Requirement in Living World. Staff. Students seeking extended challenges are invited to apply for admission to the honors section.

An introduction to the conceptual framework and orientation of physical anthropology regarding problems of human variation, past and present.

ANTH 009 - Writing about Anthropology (A,B, or C)

Writing about Anthropology courses will introduce first year students to fundamental issues of writing about human diversity. Students will hone their conceptual thinking, writing, and research skills in relation to particular topics; they will study how anthropologists address specific issues and forms of data, they will experiment with different approaches to writing tasks; they will practice different ways of conveying their then, is to help students become better writers by collaborative efforts at ethnographic description, analysis ideas to different approaches to writing tasks; they will practice different audiences. The aim of these courses, , and the development of argument and point of view.

This is a writing seminar and as such fulfills the entire Writing Requirement for students in all four undergraduate schools. The seminar topics vary from semester to semester, but may either focus on a subject (for example, "Writing about Ritual and Religion,") or an area (for example, "Writing about Latin America"). For descriptions of current course offerings, please see the Writing Program web site: www.english.upenn.edu/Writing.

ANTH 022 – World Music and Culture (C)

Draws on repertoires of various societies from Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas to examine relations between aesthetic productions and social processes. We investigate musical sounds, cultural logics informing those sounds, and social strategies of performance. Topics may include indigenous music theories, music and social organization, symbolic expressions and musical meaning, gender, religion, and social change.

ANTH 069 – Performing Identity (C)

What can we read from the stories and images represented or "performed" in popular culture? How do such media enrich our experiences of ourselves, our communities, and our identities? This seminar explores cross-cultural imaginations of identity in cultural performance. We examine collective identities and social inequalities as they are expressed and negotiated through public cultural exchange. Particular attention will be paid to the performance of gender and sexuality in contemporary popular culture. We will consider critical social theories, ethnographic texts, and representations from public culture film/video, television, music, web sites, books, museum exhibits, etc.).

ANTH 070 – Democracy & Citizenship (C)

The fall of the Berlin Wall. The end of Apartheid. Tianenmen Square. Transitions from military dictatorships to civilian rule in Latin America. Events such as these imply that the desire for "democracy" is universal (or nearly so). But does a widespread desire for democracy necessarily mean that it is understood, and practiced, uniformly? This course argues that it does not. As a result, instead of learning about democracy in terms of what we already think we know about it, we will start from scratch by asking, "What is democracy, anyway?" We will use the tools of anthropology (an attention to cultural variation, and to local populations' definitions of concepts that we assume to be self-evident) to examine the malleability of the notion of "democracy," and the consequences of such variation. Who receives development aid, who gets to exert power, whose human rights are abused, and who gets to participate in governance as a citizen- these are just a few of the implications of deploying varying definitions of "democracy" for particular ends, by particular groups.

ANTH 106 – Anthropological Genetics (B)

This course explores the use of genetics to understand human biological variation and evolution. Among the areas of genetics to be explored are dermatoglyphics (fingerprints), craniometrics (skulls and teeth), anthropometrics (body dimensions), simple Mendelian traits, molecular genetics, genetics of complex traits (skin color, height, obesity), population genetics, and disease adaptations.

ANTH 109 – Conquest & Culture of the American West (C)

This course examines the United States conquest of the region from the Mississippi River to the Pacific coast, a physically varied and resource rich area incorporating the Great Plains, Rocky Mountains, Great Basin, Southwest, Pacific Northwest and California. Each of these sub-regions encompasses a complex of groups, institutions and cultural systems, which have changed over time as a function of war and conquest, immigration and migration, culture contact, innovation and revitalization. This has led to a western culture of expansion, individualism and corporate capitalism that continues to permeate contemporary America. Our task is to describe and explain these developments and values using film, documentary evidence, and material culture.

ANTH 121 - Origin and Cultures of Cities. (A)

The UN estimates that 2.9 of the world's 6.1 billion people live in cities and that this percentage is rapidly increasing in many parts of the world. This course examines urban life and urban problems by providing anthropological perspectives on this distinctive form of human association and land use. First we will examine the "origin" of cities, focusing on several of the places where cities first developed, including Mesopotamia and the valley of Mexico. We will then investigate the internal structure of nonindustrial cities by looking at case studies from around the world and from connections between the cities of the past and the city in which we live and work today.

ANTH 122 – Becoming Human (A, B, or C)

Human evolutionary studies is a composite product of the fieldwork of both Paleolithic archaeology and human paleontology (or what we refer to as "stones and bones"). This marriage of two sub disciplines of anthropology produces a unique set of data that is intellectually managed and driven by theories within anthropology as a whole and even beyond -- to fields such as biology, psychology, and primate ethology, as we try to understand the origins of language, culture, and our unique physical characteristics. In this course, two archaeologists and one physical anthropologist will jointly discuss and debate the actual evidence of human evolution, describing what the actual evidence is and exploring how far can we take these interpretations.

ANTH 123 – Communication & Culture (C)

The course looks at varieties of human expression -- such as art, film, language and song -- as communicative practices that connect persons together to form a common culture. Discussion is centered around particular case studies and ethnographic examples. Examination of communicative practices in terms of the types of expressive signs they employ, their capacity to formulate and transmit cultural beliefs and ideals (such as conceptions of politics, nature, and self), and to define the size and characteristics of groups and communities sharing such ideals. Discussion of the role of media, social institutions, and technologies of communication (print, electronic). Emphasis on contemporary communicative practices and the forms of culture that emerge in the modern world.

ANTH 136 – Culture & Conflict International Relations (C)

Selected international conflicts will be analyzed from a cultural point of view. This exercise will have the following advantages, each of which will be emphasized throughout the course: (a) students will study a series of internationally important situations from a distinctive academic point of view; (b) they will explore the analytical value of the concept of culture with the rigor with which it has been developed in anthropology, but in application to material not commonly treated by anthropologists, and (c) since anthropologists have difficulty comprehending and analyzing conflict within a cultural framework, they will at the same time be engaging in a theoretically experimental exercise by addressing questions concerning the relationship between conflict and cultural process. The course should be useful both to prospective anthropology majors and all undergraduates interested in the modern world, and will ideally attract students with a wide variety of interests.

ANTH 139 – Ancient Civilizations of the World (A)

The archaeology of the complex societies of the Old and New Worlds from the end of the paleolithic up to and including the earliest civilizations.

ANTH 154 – Medical Anthropology of Alcohol Use (B)

The morality, rights, and responsibilities of alcohol use are hotly debated in the United States. The rhetoric of appropriate use ranges from Puritan-inspired abstinence campaigns, through health-promoting moderation arguments, to discourses legitimizing hedonism. The result of a lack of clear cultural paradigms for intoxicant use is clearly seen on college campuses, where movements for zero-tolerance alcohol bans coexist with social rituals that include binge drinking. This course will utilize medical anthropology theory to: 1) contextualize the phenomenon historically and cross-culturally; 2) encourage students to critically analyze existing paradigms which determine acceptable usage and treatment modalities; 3) use the University of Pennsylvania campus as a local case study/field site to investigate alcohol use. Students will move from theory to action through creation of a feasible proposal addressing alcohol-use education on Penn's campus, or will participate in the modification and implementation of existing proposals to promote rational and low-risk use of alcohol in the college community.

ANTH 179 – Evolution of the Brain (B)

An introduction to the study of the evolution of the human brain. Students will review basic concepts in evolutionary biology. The direct fossil evidence of vertebrate brain evolution will then be reviewed, and comparative (cross-species) perspectives on neuroanatomy and behavior will be emphasized. An analysis of the specific changes in the brain during human evolution will then be covered. We will consider possible sources of evidence relevant to brain evolution as well, such as the archaeological record of human behavioral evolution. Current controversies and theories about the causes and consequences of hominid brain evolution will be reviewed, including the possible role of language, tool use, sociality, dietary shifts, and other behavioral adaptations.

ANTH 190 – Introduction to Africa (C)

During the semester we will focus on people and communities of sub-Saharan Africa and on the ways people represent, reflect on, and react to various aspects and issues in their lives and the institutions which dominate their communities. We will focus particularly on the history, contemporary expression, and inter-relationships among politics, religion, and aesthetic practice.

Members of Penn's African Studies community will share their expertise with the class and introduce the University's Africa resources. Texts consist of weekly readings, films, and recordings; and class members will be expected to attend several lectures outside of class.

ANTH 199 – Independent Study

A study under faculty supervision of a problem area or topic not included in the formal curriculum.

ANTH 202 – Archaeology of South Asia (C)

A survey of the archaeology of India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan from the Stone Age to historical times.

ANTH 219 – Archaeology Field Project (A)

First-hand participation in research project in historical archaeology in Southern New Jersey. Transportation provided by the university. Students will assist in excavations and archival research on local archaeological sites. Class is open to all undergraduates, no previous archaeological experience is required. Attendance will involve Fridays or Saturdays, all day from 8:00 to 5:00 including travel time to the excavations and back to the University Museum. Students enroll for only one day (F or S). Enrollment is limited so specific permission of the instructor is required (Robert L. Schuyler: schuyler@sas.upenn.edu; (215)898-6965; U Museum 412). Course may be repeated for credit and a follow up laboratory course (Anth 220 in the spring semester) will also be available during which the artifacts and documentary sources collected in the fall will be analyzed at the University Museum. Course may be repeated for credit.

ANTH 221 – Native Indian People of North America (A)

A region by region study of Indian peoples and their cultures in the historical period of culture contact. The course focuses on specific native groups and their beliefs, social organization, material culture, values, and interaction with others in their local environment.

ANTH 230 – Forensic Anthropology (B)

This course will investigate and discuss the various techniques of analysis that biological anthropologists can apply to forensic cases. Topics include human osteology, the recovery of bodies, the analysis of life history, the reconstruction of causes of death, and various case studies where anthropologists have contributed significantly to solving forensic cases. Discussions will include the limitations of forensic anthropology and the application of DNA recovery to skeletal/mummified materials.

ANTH 233 – South Asia: Anthropologies & Histories (C)

This course offers a survey of readings in the historical anthropology of South Asia, India in particular. Readings touch on an array of topics, including (post)colonialism, nationalism, violence, village life, family life, media and Diaspora. The common theme will be a focus on how social agents are constructed and represented, and how social change is effected. Class sessions will combine lecture and discussion, with an emphasis on the latter.

ANTH 236 – Mesopotamia: Heartland of Cities (A)

This course surveys the cultural traditions of ancient Mesopotamia, the land between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, a region commonly dubbed "cradle of civilization" or "heartland of cities," from an archaeological perspective. It will investigate the emergence of sedentism and agriculture; early villages and increasingly complex Neolithic and Chalcolithic cultures; the evolution of urban, literate societies in the late 4th millennium; the city-states and incipient supra-regional polities of the third and second millennium; the gradual emergence of the Assyrian and Babylonian "world empires," well-known from historical books of the Bible, in the first millennium; and the cultural mix of Mesopotamia under the successive domination of Greeks, Persians and Arabs. The course seeks to foster an appreciation of the rich cultural heritage of ancient Mesopotamia, an understanding of cultural continuities in the Middle East and a sense of the ancient Near Eastern underpinnings of western civilization. No Prerequisite.

ANTH 244 – Evolution of Behavior (B)

In this course we will look at behavior from an evolutionary perspective, drawing on a variety of studies of both non-humans and humans. In particular, we will explore the extent to which our understanding of human behavior might be enhanced by knowing our evolutionary history. The focus will be on integrating biological and cultural influences into a more complete and useful understanding of ourselves. We will discuss a number of general topics, including sexuality, diet, cognition, cultural evolution, the evolution of hierarchy, consciousness, cognition, language, and mental illness.

ANTH 254 – Archaeology of the Incas (A)

The Inca created a vast and powerful South American empire in the high Andes Mountains that was finally conquered by Spain. Using Penn's impressive Museum collections and other archaeological, linguistic, and historical sources, this course will examine Inca religion and worldview, architecture, sacred temples, the capital of Cuzco, ritual calendar, ceque system, textiles, metalworking, economic policies and expansionist politics from the dual perspectives of Inca rulers and their subjects. Our task is to explain the rise, dominance, and fall of the Incas as a major South American civilization.

ANTH 270 - The Development of Anthropological Theory (C) Distribution I: May be counted as a Distributional course in Society.

An examination of the development of anthropological theory from the middle of the nineteenth century to the present, with special attention to the social and cultural factors that shaped it.

ANTH 290 – The Great Languages of Africa (C)

With over 2,000 Languages, the African continent has extraordinary linguistic diversity, and if we consider the social and cultural functions of these languages, this diversity becomes even greater. In this course, we will carefully select out a range of speech practices from sub-Saharan Africa, and will explore what these practices tell us about the cultures and societies of their speakers. The types of communication that we will consider include greetings and gossip; verbal art, storytelling, and political speech making; styles of communication between traditional healers and their patients, and between women and men. No prior background in linguistics or anthropology is necessary. Throughout the semester, we will make use of audio and video material, and will occasionally invite native speakers of African languages to address topics relevant to the course.

ANTH 300 – Senior Thesis

Individual research under faculty supervision culminating in a thesis.

ANTH 306 – Medical Anthropology (B)

Theoretical and applied interpretations of health concepts and human health behavior. Biological and ecological disease processes; case studies of social interaction in health care settings; social structural analyses of medical institutions.

ANTH 341 – Psychology & Culture: Identity (C)

The topic in the coming term is identity. "Identity," according to AFC Wallace, "may be considered any image, or set of images (conscious or unconscious), which an individual has of himself or herself]. The full set of images of self refers to many aspects of the person on a number levels of generality: [his or her] wishes and desires, strengths and capabilities, vulnerabilities and weaknesses, past experiences, moral qualities, social status and roles, physical appearance, sexual orientation, ethnic, religious, or group identification and much else." Our task in this course is to examine the ways people develop and deploy their social and personal identity over the course of their lives under conditions of a culturally constituted conception of self. Cross-cultural materials we will consider include films, autobiographical writings, personal observations, and life history representations.

ANTH 359 – Nutritional Anthropology (B)

Human nutrition and nutritional status within context of anthropology, health, and disease. Particular emphasis on nutritional problems and the development of strategies to describe, analyze, and solve them. Students will participate in the Urban Nutrition Initiative, an academically based community service project in local area schools.

ANTH 441 – Cross Cultural Approaches to Health (B)

The relationships between the demographic, sociocultural, and biological structures of communities and their health problems will be examined from an anthropological perspective. Emphasis will be given to folk concepts of disease etiology and their assimilation of modern health care practices; the ecology and natural history of disease and characterizing the health status of population aggregates.

ANTH 451 – Archaeology of the Modern World (A)

Archaeology of the Modern World from the Columbian voyage (1492) to the 20th century. Topics such as the rise of early modern Europe, European exploration and colonization, African American Archaeology, Asian American Archaeology, the rise of colonial society, contact with native peoples, the Industrial Revolution, and the archaeology of the 20th century will be covered.

ANTH 458 - Introduction to Paleopathology (B)

Disease evaluated in its culture context, based on findings in skeletal and mummified paleopathologic specimens. Instruction in examination of specimens. For senior anthropology majors, graduate and medical students.

ANTH 468 – The Ancient Maya (A)

Examination of current understanding of Ancient Maya, emphasizing critical review of recent archaeological research and theories.

ANTH 500 – Pro seminar in Folklore (C)

The shifting definition of folklore as a subject has allowed for the dynamic development of a field that has never been content with narrow disciplinary territory. The course endeavors to provide an entry into the breadth of folkloric expression--told, performed, enacted, believed, or made. We will also study the sociopolitical and intellectual ground on which the study of folk Readings and class discussions will clarify how scholars today conceptualize "expressive culture," exemplify earlier ways of organizing and analyzing the material, and explore the linkage between available technological recording tools and the shape of folklore documentation and analysis.

ANTH 501 – Problems Archaeology of Southern Asia (A)

Specific problems in the prehistory and protohistory of India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan in Ceylon selected and studied.

ANTH 514 - The Anthropology of Africa. (A) Distribution I: May be counted as a Distributional course in Society.

African culture history, as inferred from archaeology, linguistic relationships and ethnology. Culture areas of Africa and representative societies; common themes and differences; significance for anthropological concerns.

ANTH 528 – Topics in Medical Anthropology : Narrative (B)

Method and theory in biocultural anthropology applied to current issues in human health, including nutrition, growth, and reproduction. Emphasis on structure and analysis of data.

ANTH 556 – Practicum in Archaeology Field Methods & Problems (A)

Seminar analyzing process of archaeological excavation as a problem of research design and method, stressing excavation as an integrated methodological system of research dealing with data retrieval, storage processing, integration and interpretation leading to final publication. Course intended for students proposing archaeological careers; it will be assumed participants have some practical excavation experience.

ANTH 577 – Problems in New World Archaeology (A)

Selected research topics in New World archaeology, using the resources of the University Museum.

ANTH 600 – Contemporary Archaeology (A)

Archaeological data, methods by which it is gathered and analyzed, methods of dating, problems of interpretation. Specifically for graduate students with no background in archaeology.

ANTH 617 – Contemporary Approaches to Culture and Society (C)

A critical examination of recent history and theory in cultural and social anthropology. Topics include structural-functionalism; symbolic anthropology; post-modern theory. Emphasis is on major schools and trends in America, Britain, and France.

ANTH 620 – Direct Reading & Research

To be arranged only by consultation with academic adviser and faculty member(s) to be involved; a proposed syllabus must be presented for approval, and written papers will be required without exception. On approval of these papers one copy must be presented to the Department of Anthropology office for filing.

ANTH 621 – Directed Field Training

To be arranged only by consultation with academic adviser and the faculty member(s) to be involved; a proposed syllabus must be presented for approval and written papers will be required without exception. On approval of these papers, one copy must be presented to the Department of Anthropology office for filing.

ANTH 633 – Forensic Anthropology (B)

This course will investigate and discuss the various techniques of analysis that biological anthropologists can apply to forensic cases. Topics include human osteology, the recovery of bodies, the analysis of life history, the reconstruction of causes of death, and various case studies where anthropologists have contributed significantly to solving forensic cases. Discussions will include the limitations of forensic anthropology and the application of DNA recovery to skeletal/mummified materials.

ANTH 636 – Mesopotamia: Heartland of Cities (A)

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ANTH 676 – Culture & Conflict International Relations (C)

Selected international conflicts will be analyzed from a cultural point of view. This exercise will have the following advantages, each of which will be emphasized throughout the course: (a) students will study a series of internationally important situations from a distinctive academic point of view; (b) they will explore the analytical value of the concept of culture with the rigor with which it has been developed in anthropology, but in application to material not commonly treated by anthropologists, and (c) since anthropologists have difficulty comprehending and analyzing conflict within a cultural framework, they will at the same time be engaging in a theoretically experimental exercise by addressing questions concerning the relationship between conflict and cultural process. The course should be useful both to anthropology graduate students and to students > interested in the modern world in other social sciences, and will ideally attract students with a wide variety of interests.

ANTH 719 – Archaeology Field Project (A)

This is a parallel course to Anthropology 219, but on the graduate level. It will only be open to select graduate students (i.e. historical archaeology students and some CGS MA students). Specific permission of the instructor is required in each case.

ANTH 730 – Readings & Research in Linguistic Anthropology (C)

The course is designed for students and faculty interested in discussing current research and/or research topics in any area of linguistic or semiotic anthropology. The primary intent of the course is to familiarize students with the literature on selected research topics and to develop their own research agendas in the light of the literature. Students may enroll on an S/U basis for 0.5 CU per semester. The course may be repeated for credit up to 4 times.

ANTH 751 – Historical Archaeology (A)

General background reading and tutorial preparation in the archaeology of the modern world (A.D. 1400- 20th Century).

ANTH 995 – Dissertation

ANTH 999 – Independent Study - Dissertation