

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES IN ANTHROPOLOGY
Fall Term 2021

Please refer to the Online Directory of Classes for: Course Listings, Days and Times, Classroom Locations

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/bulletin/uwb/#/cu/bulletin/uwb/subj/ANTH/ Fall2021.html>

COURSES IN SOCIOCULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY:

Anthropology UN1002 THE INTERPRETATION OF CULTURE. 3pts. Instructor: Syantani Chatterjee. The anthropological approach to the study of culture and human society. Case studies from ethnography are used in exploring the universality of cultural categories (social organization, economy, law, belief system, art, etc.) and the range of variation among human societies.

Anthropology UN2004 INTRO TO SOC & CULTURAL THEORY. 3 pts. Instructor: John Pemberton. This course presents students with crucial theories of society, paying particular attention at the outset to classic social theory of the early 20th century. It traces a trajectory of writings essential for an understanding of the social: from Saussure, Durkheim, Mauss, Weber, and Marx, on to the structuralist ethnographic elaboration of Claude Levi-Strauss and the historiographic reflections on modernity of Michel Foucault. We revisit periodically, writings from Franz Boas, founder of anthropology in the United States (and of Anthropology at Columbia), for a sense of origins, an early anthropological critique of racism and cultural chauvinism, and a prescient denunciation of fascism. We turn as well, also with ever-renewed interest in these times, to the expansive critical thought of W. E. B. Du Bois. We conclude with Kathleen Stewart's *A Space on the Side of the Road*--an ethnography of late-twentieth-century Appalachia and the haunted remains of coal-mining country--with its depictions of an uncanny otherness within dominant American narratives.

Anthropology UN3040 ANTHROPOLOGICAL THEORY. 3 pts. Instructor: Brian Larkin. Prerequisites: an introductory course in anthropology. Institutions of social life. Kinship and locality in the structuring of society. Monographs dealing with both literate and nonliterate societies will be discussed in the context of anthropological fieldwork methods. Required of all Anthropology majors (and tracks) within the Barnard Department. As of Fall, 2018, UN 3040 replaces the two semester sequence of 3040/4041 Anthropological Theory I/II). Intended only for Barnard majors and minors.

Anthropology UN3821 NATIVE AMERICA. 4 pts. Instructor: Audra Simpson. This is an undergraduate seminar that takes up primary and secondary sources and reflections to: a) provide students with an historical overview of Native American issues and representational practices, b) provide students with an understanding of the ways in which land expropriation and concomitant military and legal struggle have formed the core of Native-State relations and are themselves central to American and Native American history and culture, and c) provide students with an understanding of Native representational practices, political subjectivity, and aspiration.

Anthropology UN3829 ABSENT BODIES. 4 pts. Instructor: Lesley Sharp. Prerequisites: Open to undergrad majors; others with the instructor's permission. Across a range of cultural and historic contexts, one encounters traces of bodies - and persons - rendered absent, invisible, or erased. Knowledge of the ghostly presence nevertheless prevails, revealing an inextricable relationship between presence and absence. This course addresses the theme of absent bodies in such contexts as war and other memorials, clinical practices, and industrialization, with interdisciplinary readings drawn from anthropology, war and labor histories, and dystopic science fiction.

Anthropology UN3878 NEOLIBERAL URBAN-POL OF EXCLUS. 4 pts. Instructor: Steven Gregory. This seminar examines the impact of neo-liberal strategies and practices of urban development and governance on contemporary American cities with special emphasis on the dividing practices that have led to the segregation, stigmatization and exclusion of urbanites on the basis of class, race, sex/gender and other power-laden ascriptions of difference and pathology. We will situate the formative period of neoliberal urbanism in the urban renewal or slum clearance programs of the 1950s and 1960s-initiatives that registered post-war anxieties concerning civil defense, urban disinvestment and growing populations of racial-cum-ethnic minorities. Through a reading of key anthropological ethnographies and other literature across disciplines, we will examine topics including: deindustrialization and the construction of the inner city and ghetto underclass, the cultural politics of neo-liberal governance, the privatization and policing of public space, gated communities, gentrification and socioeconomic polarization, and homelessness

Anthropology UN3888 ECOCRITICISM FOR THE END TIMES. 4 pts. Instructor: Marilyn Ivy. This seminar aims to show what an anthropologically informed, ecocritical cultural studies can offer in this moment of intensifying ecological calamity. The course will not only engage significant works in anthropology, ecocriticism, philosophy, literature, politics, and aesthetics to think about the environment, it will also bring these works into engaged reflection on living in the end times (borrowing cultural critic Slavoj Zizek's phrase). The seminar will thus locate critical perspectives on the environment within the contemporary worldwide ecological crisis, emphasizing the ethnographic realities of global warming, debates on nuclear power and energy, and the place of nature. Drawing on the professor's long experience in Japan and

current research on the aftermath of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant disaster, the seminar will also take care to unpack the notion of end times, with its apocalyptic implications, through close considerations of works that take on the question of ecocatastrophe in our times. North American and European perspectives, as well as international ones (particularly ones drawn from East Asia), will give the course a global reach. The instructor's permission is required. Enrollment limit is 22.

Anthropology UN3976 ANTHROPOLOGY OF SCIENCE. 4 pts. Instructor: Gina Jae. This course examines specific debates in the history and philosophy of science, and in science and technology studies (STS), with a view towards exploring the relationships among science, technology and society. The first half of the course engages methodological questions and theoretical debates concerning the nature of epistemology, and the significance of social interests, material agency, laboratory and social practices, and "culture(s)" in the making of scientific knowledge. The second half delves more specifically into the ways in which sciences and technologies are both embedded in and shape contemporary social and political practices and imaginaries.

Anthropology UN3997 SUPERVISED INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH. 2-6 pts. STAFF. Prerequisite: the written permission of the staff member under whose supervision the research will be conducted.

Anthropology UN3999 SENIOR THESIS SEM IN ANTHROPOLOGY. 4 pts. Instructor: Lila Abu-Lughod. Prerequisites: The instructor's permission. Students must have declared a major in Anthropology prior to registration. Students must have a 3.6 GPA in the major and a preliminary project concept in order to be considered. Interested students must communicate/meet with thesis instructor in the previous spring about the possibility of taking the course during the upcoming academic year. Additionally, expect to discuss with the instructor at the end of the fall term whether your project has progressed far enough to be completed in the spring term. If it has not, you will exit the seminar after one semester, with a grade based on the work completed during the fall term. This two-term course is a combination of a seminar and a workshop that will help you conduct research, write, and present an original senior thesis in anthropology. Students who write theses are eligible to be considered for departmental honors. The first term of this course introduces a variety of approaches used to produce anthropological knowledge and writing; encourages students to think critically about the approaches they take to researching and writing by studying model texts with an eye to the ethics, constraints, and potentials of anthropological research and writing; and gives students practice in the seminar and workshop formats that are key to collegial exchange and refinement of ideas. During the first term, students complete a few short exercises that will culminate in a substantial draft of one discrete section of their senior project (18-20 pages) plus a detailed outline of the expected work that remains to be done (5 pages). The spring sequence of the anthropology thesis seminar is a writing intensive continuation of the fall semester, in which students will have designed the research questions, prepared a full thesis proposal that

will serve as a guide for the completion of the thesis and written a draft of one chapter. Only those students who expect to have completed the fall semester portion of the course are allowed to register for the spring; final enrollment is contingent upon successful completion of first semester requirements. In spring semester, weekly meetings will be devoted to the collaborative refinement of drafts, as well as working through issues of writing (evidence, voice, authority etc.). All enrolled students are required to present their project at a symposium in the late spring, and the final grade is based primarily on successful completion of the thesis/capstone project.

AFAS GU4080. TOPICS IN THE BLACK EXPERIENCE. 4 pts. Instructor: Steven Gregory. Please refer to Institute for Research in African American Studies for section-by-section course descriptions.

Anthropology GU4118 SETTLER COLONIALISM IN N AMERICA. 3 pts. Instructor: Audra Simpson. This course examines the relationship between colonialism, settlement and anthropology and the specific ways in which these processes have been engaged in the broader literature and locally in North America. We aim to understand colonialism as a theory of political legitimacy, as a set of governmental practices and as a subject of inquiry. Thus we will re-imagine North America in light of the colonial project and its technologies of rule such as education, law and policy that worked to transform Indigenous notions of gender, property and territory. Our case studies will dwell in several specific areas of inquiry, among them: the Indian Act in Canada and its transformations of gender relations, governance and property; the residential and boarding school systems in the US and Canada, the murdered and missing women in Juarez and Canada and the politics of allotment in the US. Although this course will be comparative in scope, it will be grounded heavily within the literature from Native North America.

Anthropology GU4282 ISLAMIC LAW. 3 pts. Instructor: Brinkley Messick. An introductory survey of the history and contents of the Shari'a, combined with a critical review of Orientalist and contemporary scholarship on Islamic law. In addition to models for the ritual life, we will examine a number of social, economic, and political constructs contained in Shari'a doctrine, including the concept of an Islamic state, and we also will consider the structure of litigation in courts. Seminar paper.

Anthropology GU4653. ART BEYOND AESTHETICS: DECOLONIZING APPROACHES TO REPRESENTATION. 4 pts. Instructor: Elizabeth Povinelli. This course is a combination of lectures, seminar participation, and group practicums which probes the possibility of a decolonial art research practice. This course introduces students to western approaches to politics and art through a sustained engagement with critical Indigenous and anticolonial theories of human relations to the more-than-human world. It is a mixture of lectures, class discussion, and individual practicums which lead to final projects that combine image and text. The permission of the instructor is required. Enrollment limit is 16. ENROLLMENT PRIORITIES: Majors preferred.

COURSES IN ARCHAEOLOGY:

Anthropology UN1007 THE ORIGINS OF HUMAN SOCIETY. 3 pts. Instructor: Camilla Sturm. archaeological perspective on the evolution of human social life from the first bipedal step of our ape ancestors to the establishment of large sedentary villages. While traversing six million years and six continents, our explorations will lead us to consider such major issues as the development of human sexuality, the origin of language, the birth of “art” and religion, the domestication of plants and animals, and the foundations of social inequality. Designed for anyone who happens to be human.

Anthropology UN1008 THE RISE OF CIVILIZATION. 3 pts. Instructor: Terence D’Altroy. Corequisites: ANTH V1008 The rise of major civilization in prehistory and protohistory throughout the world, from the initial appearance of sedentism, agriculture, and social stratification through the emergence of the archaic empires. Description and analysis of a range of regions that were centers of significant cultural development: Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Indus River Valley, China, North America, and Mesoamerica. DO NOT REGISTER FOR A RECITATION SECTION IF YOU ARE NOT OFFICIALLY REGISTERED FOR THE COURSE.

Anthropology UN3151 LIVING WITH ANIMALS: ANTHROPOLOGICAL PER. 4 pts. Instructor: Hannah Chazin. This course examines how humans and animals shape each other’s lives. We will explore the astounding diversity of human-animal relationships in time and space, tracing the ways animals have made their impact on human societies (and vice-versa). Using contemporary ethnographic, historical, and archaeological examples from a variety of geographical regions and chronological periods, this class will consider how humans and animals live and make things, and the ways in which humans have found animals “good to think with”. In this course, we will also discuss how knowledge about human-animal relationships in the past might change contemporary and future approaches to living with animals. Instructor’s permission is required.

Anthropology UN3663 THE ANCIENT TABLE: ARCHAEOLOGY OF COOKING. 4 pts. Instructor: Camilla Sturm. Prerequisites: None Humans don’t just eat to live. The ways we prepare, eat, and share our food is a complex reflection of our histories, environments, and ideologies. Whether we prefer coffee or tea, cornbread or challah, chicken breast or chicken feet, our tastes are expressive of social ties and social boundaries, and are linked to ideas of family and of foreignness. How did eating become such a profoundly cultural experience? This seminar takes an archaeological approach to two broad issues central to eating: First, what drives human food choices both today and in the past? Second, how have social forces shaped practices of food acquisition, preparation, and consumption (and how, in turn, has food shaped society)? We will explore these questions from various evolutionary, physiological, and cultural viewpoints, highlighted by information from the best archaeological and historic case studies. Topics that will be covered include the nature of the first cooking, beer-brewing and feasting, writing of the early recipes, gender roles and ‘domestic’ life, and how a national cuisine takes

shape. Through the course of the semester we will explore food practices from Pleistocene Spain to historic Monticello, with particular emphasis on the earliest cuisines of China, Mesoamerica, and the Mediterranean.

Anthropology GU4066 HYDROPOLITICS: GIS APPROACHES TO URBANISM AND THE POLITICS OF WATER IN MADAGASCAR. 4 pts. Instructors: Zoe Crossland and Eric Glass. GIS course with training in landscape analysis, digital mapping and web-based presentations of geospatial data. We will draw on archaeological and historical evidence, aerial photographs and satellite imagery to map and explore the history and politics of the irrigated landscape around Madagascar's capital city. We will critically assess what different mapping techniques offer, and what kind of narratives they underpin or foreclose upon.

COURSES IN PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY:

Anthropology GU4002 CONTROVERSIAL TPCS-HUM EVOL I. 3 pts. Instructor: Ralph Holloway. Prerequisites: an introductory biological/physical anthropology course and the instructor's permission. Controversial issues that exist in current biological/physical anthropology, and controversies surrounding the descriptions and theories about particular fossil hominid discoveries, such as the earliest australopithecines, the diversity of Homo erectus, the extinction of the Neandertals, and the evolution of culture, language, and human cognition.

CROSS-LISTED COURSES:

CLST UN3041 THE ANCIENT CITY AND US: ARCHAEOLOGY OF A RELATIONSHIP. 4 pts. Instructor: Francesco Cassini. The object of this course is Greek and Roman cities in their historical and trans-historical dimensions. In studying their social, economic, and political features, we will discuss models and approaches to this historical form of the city and compare it with other pre-modern and modern examples in world history. The course, open to undergraduate students of different departments and various backgrounds, will ultimately serve as an exercise in historical estrangement to look with fresh and informed eyes at the cities of today.

CSER UN3928 COLONIZATION/DECOLONIZATION. 4 pts. Instructor: Claudio Lomnitz. This course explores the centrality of colonialism in the making of the modern world, emphasizing cross-cultural and social contact, exchange, and relations of power; dynamics of conquest and resistance; and discourses of civilization, empire, freedom, nationalism, and human rights, from 1500 to 2000. Topics include pre-modern empires; European exploration, contact, and conquest in the new world; Atlantic-world slavery and emancipation; and European and Japanese colonialism in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. The course ends with a section on decolonization and post-colonialism in the period after World War II. Intensive reading and discussion of primary documents. Prerequisites: Open to CSER majors/concentrators only. Others may be allowed to register with the instructor's permission.

CGTH4200 GU4200 GLOBAL FOOD WORLDS. 4 pts. Instructor: Rebecca M Feinberg. Food is a deeply global object, one that manifests the complex ties structuring the contemporary world. Once a topic relegated to agricultural science, food has become a focus of the social sciences, one that exceeds the boundaries of any single discipline or perspective. The study of contemporary foodways demonstrates both the global interconnectedness of our world *and* the importance of local contexts and knowledges. While any given individual, household, region, or nation may have a distinctive set of food practices, each is constructed by a constellation of relations and exchanges, both past and present. This course takes a cross-cultural approach to explore how and why food makes worlds. It begins with the micro: examining how individuals and communities craft themselves through food practices, and considering how food serves as a site for struggles over power, sovereignty, and belonging. The course then scales upwards to explore international systems of agricultural trade, labor, and migration, with a focus on the lives and places caught up in it. It concludes with a critical look at contemporary food politics and activism to consider possible food futures for the world we share. Readings combine ethnographic examples with a robust collection of social science theory, including the work of sociologists, historians, political economists, and geographers. Each weekly theme examines foodways in a different frame, and each prompts a different set of questions about how food shapes the world as we know it. Assignments ask students to apply a variety of disciplinary approaches to analyze examples from their own daily lives.