

Spring Term 2021 - Revised 1/20/2021

Please refer to the Online Directory of Classes for: Course Days and Times, Method of Instruction/Classroom Locations, and Sub-Terms <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/bulletin/uwb/>  
<https://www.registrar.columbia.edu/content/registration-dates>  
[Academic Calendar](#)

#### GRADUATE COURSES IN SOCIOCULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY:

ANTH GU4052y POST/SOCIALIST BODIES. 3 pts. Svetlana Borodina. This upper-level online seminar examines the cultures and politics of the body in socialist and postsocialist countries. As we will engage with embodied aspects of living under post/socialism, we will treat bodies as sites of political contestation, as well as makers and breakers of cultural worlds. Drawing on anthropological and historical scholarship, we will explore several thematic clusters: corporeal anchors of post/socialist political regimes and ideological formations, variability and commonality of bodily regimes across different post/socialist contexts, and the effects of the creation and dissolution of the Soviet Union on the viability, mortality, and vibrancy of life. We will develop an understanding of post/socialism as a political reality populated by a wide diversity of bodies: laboring and idle, cared and uncared for, gendered and racialized, craving and satiated, disabled and enhanced, among others. This course offers an account on post/socialist idiosyncrasies of the medicalization, politicization, economization, and moralization of the body. Enrollment is limited to 15.

ANTH GU4116y SYMPATHY, LIBERALISM AND THE CONDUCT OF CARE? (*FORMERLY CALLED: "WHO CARES?" SYMPATHY AND THE CONDUCT OF LIBERALISM*). 3 pts. Catherine Fennell. This seminar examines the distribution and obligations of care under late liberalism. We work from classical approaches to human sentiment (e.g. Hume, Adam Smith) to explore the relationship of forms of care {management, empathy) to different modes of statecraft.

In particular we examine links between imperial colonialism and liberal democracy in terms of different techniques of administering social difference (e.g. race, multiculturalism, class, population ...). We critically investigate the role of the discipline of anthropology within this rubric and read several ethnographies that dwell on the interrelation of care and vulnerability. Across the course, we scrutinize what types of subjects care, for whom, and to what effect. Enrollment is limited to 15.

ANTH GU4143y ACCUSATION. 3 pts. Rosalind Morris. This course examines the politics and practices of collective accusation in comparative perspective. It treats these phenomena in their relation to processes of political and economic transition, to discourses of crisis, and to the practices of rule by which the idea of exception is made the grounds for extreme claims on and for the social body—usually, but not exclusively, enacted through forms of expulsion. We will consider the various theoretical perspectives through which forms of collective accusation have been addressed, focusing on psychoanalytic, structural functional, and poststructuralist readings. In doing so, we will also investigate the difference and possible continuities between the forms and logics of accusation that operate in totalitarian as well as liberal regimes. Course readings will include both literary and critical texts. Enrollment is limited to 19.

ANTH GU4145y ZORA. 3 pts. Vanessa Agard-Jones. Zora Neale Hurston—Barnard College '28 and a once-graduate student in Columbia's department of Anthropology—was a pioneering chronicler of Black folklore, a student of Black expression, and a creative imaginer of Black worlds via her novels, short stories, plays and poetry. From her travels throughout the U.S. South, to Haiti, Jamaica, and beyond, Hurston took as her mission a diasporic articulation of Black life in the Americas. In this seminar, we ask what a deep reading of Hurston's oeuvre can teach us about the history of Anthropology, about the blurry borders between fiction and ethnography, and about the legacies that her work leaves—in communities of scholarly practice and beyond. Priority: Students with coursework experience in Anthropology, African American and African Diaspora Studies, and/or IRWGS. Advanced undergraduates will be considered. Instructor's Permission REQUIRED (email [vaj2116@columbia.edu](mailto:vaj2116@columbia.edu)). Enrollment is limited to 14.

ANTH GU4349y ELEMENTARY FORMS OF POPULISM: AUTHORITY, POWER, AND LEGITIMACY IN CONTEMPORARY TURKEY. 3 pts. Firat Kurt. This course aims to investigate the contemporary outlines of political anthropology, as well as its potentialities, through the lenses of the studies on Turkey. Since its original formulation in Aristotle, the political has been conceived at the nexus of life, goodness, and craft, each one continuously implicating the others, waving the webs of meaning in human communities to create a good life. Pushing this insight forward, we will combine ethnographic and theoretical works on political questions with a variety of fieldworks on Turkey, paying specific attention to meanings, signs, imaginaries, and practices as enacted in the daily lives of ordinary people. We will study specificities of political discourses, state practices and social movements in order to complicate and expand our understanding of ideology, hegemony, class, and power. We will be asking questions such as: How do specific histories emerge in people's political imaginaries? What are the social and political practices that sustain such histories while erasing others? Is the state an entity that people encounter in their daily lives or an imaginary assemblage that is being used to make sense of power relations in modern societies? How do the power relations that circulate within bureaucratic institutions interact with people's sexual practices? Can we observe the ideologies and workings of world markets in local settings? Are there any intersection points where ordinary people relate questions of wealth to questions of political order? Focusing on ethnographic works on Turkey, this course asks these and other questions as part of a broader effort to understand the origins, developments, and possibilities of the modern political world. Enrollment is limited to 30. The permission of the instructor is required.

ANTH GU4378y STRANGE RESONANCES, CLOSE LISTENING. 3 pts. John Pemberton. How does one live with sound and move within worlds of sound? In pursuit of this question the course explores: soundscapes and sound arts; echoes of audible pasts and resonances of auditory cultures; sound and the uncanny; repetitive listening in the age of electronic reproduction, ethereal transmissions, and audio-vision; sounds at the edges of listening with experimental music and sonic installations. Sound, chambers, noise, feedback, voice, resonance, silence: from the

sirens of the Odyssey, to compositional figures ala John Cage, to contemporary everyday acoustical encounters, if one were to really listen, closely, how might one write about sound? How might one rethink the ties between sound and image? How then might one think with sound, and through sound? Enrollment is limited to 15. The permission of the instructor is required.

ANTH GR6033y AN ANTHROPOLOGY OF THE NAME. 3 pts. Juan Carlos Mazariegos. This course examines how names (personal names, ancestral names, toponyms, political names, insults, etc.), prescribe modes of being, elicit interdictions, and injure their bearers in a psychic and bodily manner. The course considers how the politics and practices of naming enable the production and contestation of different social worlds, and what happens when naming fails. The aim of this course is twofold: it provides students with the conceptual knowledge and familiarity necessary to distinguish between different affects/effects of naming, and it works as an advanced introduction to contemporary debates in anthropology, focusing on performative, psychoanalytic, post-structuralist, and pragmatic theorizations on what proper names are and do. In doing so, the course addresses the representational, performative, and indexical functions of naming in order to understand the political lives of proper names. The permission of the instructor is required. Enrollment is limited to 20.

ANTH GR6055y SECOND-YEAR DOCTORAL PROPOSAL SEMINAR. 3 pts. Paige West. Prerequisites: 2ND YEAR PHD STATUS IN GOOD STANDING Corequisites: ANTH G6205 Within this seminar, one will master the art of research design and proposal writing, with special emphasis on the skills involved in writing a dissertation prospectus and research proposals that target a range of external funding sources. Foci include: bibliography development; how one crafts and defends a research problem; the parameters of human subjects research - certification; and the key components of grant proposal design. Required of, and limited to, all Second Year PHD anthropology students.

ANTH GR6126y SEMIOTICS-I. 3 pts. Elizabeth Povinelli. This course examines the canonical texts of modern semiology and semiotics from the perspective of anthropological methods and theories. Beginning with an extensive examination of the works of Ferdinand de Saussure and Charles Sanders Peirce, the course examines the theoretical elaborations and movements of structuralism and pragmatism through the 1960s. The instructor's permission is required. Enrollment is limited to 15.

ANTH GR6157y IDEA OF A BL RADICAL TRADITION. 3 pts. David Scott. This course will seek to raise and think through the following questions: What does it mean to talk today about a black radical tradition? What has it meant in the past to speak in these (or cognate) terms? And if we take the debate in part at least to inhabit a normative discursive space, an argumentative space in which to make claims on the moral-political present, what ought it to mean to talk about a black radical tradition? Enrollment is limited to 16.

ANTH GR6170y LAW, HISTORY & ANTHROPOLOGY. 3 pts. Brinkley Messick. While scholars of an earlier generation integrated legal, historical and social analyses as a matter of course, we must take interdisciplinary steps. Legal phenomena may be either an end or a means in research, the object of study or the lens for understanding other aspects of social life. This seminar concerns the study of legal institutions, the uses of case materials, and the reliance upon legal texts as sources in historical and anthropological inquiry. Studies of nonwestern, premodern and colonial contexts will shed comparative light on contemporary western notions of law, truth and justice. Enrollment is limited to 15.

ANTH GR6212y PRIN/APPL-SOC & CULTRL ANTHROP. 3 pts. Ellen Marakowitz. Focus on research and writing for the Masters level thesis, including research design, bibliography and background literature development, and writing. Prerequisites: ANTH G4201 Principles and Applications of Social and Cultural Anthropology. Prerequisites: ANTH G4201 Principles and Applications of Social and Cultural Anthropology and the instructor's permission. MA or MUSA students. Others need permission. Enrollment is limited to 18.

ANTH GR6294y POLITICAL CONCEPTS IN THE WAKE OF GEONTOPOWER. 3 pts. Elizabeth Povinelli. It's hot and it's getting hotter. As the machinery of capital extraction, industrialism, and consumption refuses to relinquish its grip, meteorological temperatures continue to rise and chemical hot zones spread. Tipping points threaten regime shifts in which the qualitative nature of the earth's biosphere will alter. But until then, and even after then, hot zones occur in the aggregate only in abstraction. In reality they form like weather clouds over specific places—toxic smog over Beijing, lead poisoning in drinking water in Flint, Michigan, uranium exposure in Navajo and Hopi lands. Marx thought the social dialectic was leading to the purification of the fundamental opposition of human classes. No little evidence can be mustered to support the claim that we are nearing this moment—the world seems to be splitting into ever more extreme halves—the one percent and the ever-increasing precariate. But what many believe we are witnessing a new form of antagonism and which demands new modes of solidarity. The new swelter seems to them less fundamentally a war of class—although also a class war, although definitely not a clash of civilization—and more a clash of existents. And in this new war of the world everyone must decide with whom (or what) we are making ties of solidarity. With whom or what will we stake our claim? Instructor's permission is required. Enrollment is limited to 15.

ANTH GR6305y ART, AESTHETICS & THE POLITICAL. 3 pts. Marilyn Ivy. Cross-disciplinary in inspiration, this seminar engages work in anthropology, art criticism, literary studies, aesthetics, and philosophy to think about the political possibilities of art and the aesthetic dimensions of the political. Focusing most sharply (but not exclusively) on what is variously called socially engaged art, relational art, or participatory art, the seminar will consider recent art practices, performances, texts, and objects across a diverse range of genres and national-cultural locations. Art thinkers studied will include Kant, Benjamin, Adorno, Lyotard, Ranciere, Kitagawa, García-Canclini, Groys, Bishop, Bourriard, and beyond. Instructor's permission is required. Enrollment is limited to 15.

ANTH GR6602y QUESTIONS IN ANTHROPOLOGICAL THEORY II. 3 pts. Claudio Lomnitz. This course surveys the historical relationships between anthropological thought and its generic inscription in the form of ethnography. Readings of key ethnographic texts will be used to chart the evolving paradigms and problematics through which the disciplines practitioners have conceptualized their objects and the discipline itself. The course focuses on

several key questions, including: the modernity of anthropology and the value of primitivism; the relationship between history and eventfulness in the representation of social order, and related to this, the question of anti-sociality (in crime, witchcraft, warfare, and other kinds of violence); the idea of a cultural world view; voice, language, and translation; and the relationship between the form and content of a text. Assignments include weekly readings and reviews of texts, and a substantial piece of ethnographic writing. NOTE: This course is ONLY open to 1st-year Ph.D. Anth students. Others not allowed.

ANTH GR6669y PAPERWORK, BIOMETRICS AND POWER (*formerly called, The Media System of Empire*) 3 pts. Brian Larkin. Moving from documents to biometrics, anthropology to media theory, this course examines the media systems whereby state and imperial power is inscribed and administered. Instructor's permission is required. Enrollment is limited to 15.

ANTH GR8494y SEMINAR ON LATE IMPERIAL CHINA. 3 pts. Myron Cohen. Selected themes in the analysis of Chinese society during late imperial and modern times. Enrollment is limited to 15.

ANTH GR8499 SEMINAR ON MODERN TAIWAN. 3 pts. Myron Cohen. An interdisciplinary perspective on modern Taiwan's culture, society and polity, including consideration of key historical developments. Each class meeting features a different lecturer with a particular scholarly interest in Taiwan, whose seminar presentation will be from his or her own disciplinary perspective. Lecturers are drawn from the fields of anthropology, economics, history, literature and political science. Enrollment is limited to 15.

ANTH GR9999y WEDNESDAY SEMINAR. 0 pts. Catherine Fennell. All anthropology graduate students are required to attend. Reports of ongoing research are presented by staff members, students, and special guests.

## GRADUATE COURSES IN ARCHAEOLOGY:

ANTH GR5127y NECROPOLITICS. 3 pts. Zoe Crosland. Since Mbembe's influential 2003 article 'Necropolitics', there has been a realignment of analytical concern in the study of biopower and its operations, toward a more attentive tracing of the full extent of sovereign violence, the politics of the dead and their continuing postmortem circulation. What were the historical conditions that underwrote this shift in concern, and what have been the effects on how the relations of the dead and the living are imagined and understood? We'll start the class with Mbembe's recent book 'Necropolitics' and will trace its genealogy and the responses to it. We'll read work by Foucault and Agamben on biopolitics, but we'll also look at more recent interventions including texts by Alexander Weheliye and Christen A. Smith, searching in this way to approach the necropolitics of ongoing and historical political violence, as well as ways to take account of the perduring lives of the dead. Enrollment is limited to 15.

GR6162y CONTEMPORARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL THEORY. 3 pts. Hannah Chazin. Archaeology is a sprawling, messy discipline and the role that theory does, should, and might play in the process of archaeological data collection, analysis, and interpretation has been highly contested. Archaeologists argue over whether there is such a thing as a stand-alone 'archaeological theory' and what kinds of theory from other disciplines should (or should not!) be imported. This course explores a range of recent theoretical conversations, orientations, and interventions within archaeology, with an eye to understanding what is currently at stake – and what is contested – in how archaeologists think about making archaeological knowledge in the contemporary moment. In doing so, this course encourages students to think about theory in archaeology as an important form of “practical knowledge” or “know how” for archaeologists (cf. Lucas 2018). The instructor's permission is required. Enrollment is limited to 15.



## GRADUATE COURSES IN MUSEUM ANTHROPOLOGY:

ANTH GR6192y EXHIBITION PRAC-GLOBAL CONTEXT. 3 pts. David Harvey. This course addresses the practical challenges entailed in the process of creating a successful exhibition. Developing an actual curatorial project, students will get an opportunity to apply the museum anthropology theory they are exposed to throughout the program. They will be given a hands-on approach to the different stages involved in the curation of a show, from the in-depth researching of a topic to the writing, editing and design of an exhibition that will be effective for specific audiences. Prerequisites: ANTH G6352 Museum Anthropology: history and theory / ANTH G6353 Politics and Practice of Museum Exhibitions; G9110, G9111 and the instructor's permission. Corequisites: ANTH G6353. Museum Anthropology M.A. students have priority. Others must have the permission of the instructor No undergraduates allowed to register. Enrollment is limited to 15.

ANTH GR6365y EXHIBITION CULTURES. 3 pts. Laurel Kendall and Ming Xue (Co-Instructor). This course is a continuation of Museum Anthropology G6352 (not a prerequisite). Through the study of museum exhibitions, this course explores a series of debates about the representation of culture in museums, the politics of identity, and the significance of objects. We will consider the museum as a contemporary and variable form, as a site for the expression of national, group, and individual identity and as a site of performance and consumption. We will consider how exhibits are developed, what they aim to convey, what makes them effective (or not), and how they sometimes become flashpoints of controversy. Because the work of museums is visual, enacted through the display of material forms, we will also consider the transformation of objects into artifacts and as part of exhibitions, addressing questions of meaning, ownership, value, and magic. We will look at this range of issues from the point of view of practitioners, critics, and audiences. In collaboration with G6352, students develop a small AMNH exhibit; this year we will focus on a Tibetan Thangka painting (AMNH #70.3/8090) to explore contemporary Thangkas and those who paint them. Museum Anthropology M.A. students have priority to enroll. Others must have Instructor permission. No undergraduates permitted to enroll. Enrollment is limited to 15.

ANTH GR9110y MUSEUM ANTHROPOLOGY INTERNSHIP I. 3 pts. Brian Boyd. An internship arranged through the Museum Anthropology program of 10 hrs. /week (for 3 credits) or 20 hrs. /week (for 6). Involves meaningful work, requires keeping a journal and writing a paper at the completion of the semester. Not to be taken without permission of the program directors, usually after completing the Museum Anthropology core courses. Instructor's permission is required. Enrollment is limited to 10.

ANTH GR9111y MUSEUM ANTHROPOLOGY INTERNSHIP II. 3 pts. Brian Boyd. An internship arranged through the Museum Anthropology program of 10 hrs. /week (for 3 credits) or 20 hrs. /week (for 6). Involves meaningful work, requires keeping a journal and writing a paper at the completion of the semester. Not to be taken without permission of the program directors, usually after completing the Museum Anthropology core courses. Instructor's permission is required. Enrollment is limited to 10.

#### GRADUATE COURSES IN BIOLOGICAL/PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY:

ANTH GR4148y HUMAN SKELETAL BIOLOGY II. 3 pts. Ralph Holloway. Recommended for archaeology and physical anthropology students, pre-meds, and biology majors interested in the human skeletal system. Intensive study of human skeletal materials using anatomical and anthropological landmarks to assess sex, age, and ethnicity of bones. Other primate skeletal materials and fossil casts used for comparative study. Prerequisites: the instructor's permission. Enrollment is limited to 6.

For a list of Graduate Independent Research Courses, Please refer to the Directory of Classes at <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/bulletin/uwb/>

COURSES CROSS-LISTED IN ANTHROPOLOGY:

Art History GR8715y ART, ANTHROPOLOGY, ARCHAEOLOGY. 4 pts. Lisa Trever and Severin Fowles. This graduate seminar is designed to explore the disciplinary overlaps—as well as the methodological and theoretical chasms—between the fields of art history (especially “Pre-Columbian” or “ancient American”) and archaeology (especially in the Americas). Our semester-long investigation will center questions around images: What are they? How are they “read”? What do they do? What do they “want”? What role have they had and do they continue to have—as subjects, objects, and proxies for something else—in practices of art history and anthropological archaeology of the last century or so? We will divide the course into three parts: the first a series of engagements with now-classic texts in these two fields, the second an exploration of new and emerging scholarship on the horizons, and the third the presentation of original research by seminar members. Enrollment is limited to 14.