

Department of Anthropology Spring 2016 Graduate Course Offerings

APY 514SEM
Museum Management
Instructor Dr. Peter Biehl
(dual-listed with APY 414SEM)

Reg. #22218
Monday 9:30am–12:10pm
Anderson Gallery

Museum and collection management and research are motivated by two things: a love of objects, and a fascination with the ways in which they speak about the past and the present. The care of artifacts cannot stop at identification, physical conservation, and exhibition. Research about museum and collection objects must be seen as part of a larger task: an exploration of the social and cultural significance of objects in relation to each other and to the people who made, used, and kept them as well as those who collected them. Conservation must include preservation of the information accompanying an object, information beyond provenance, or object type. Finally, curatorial research entails a critical awareness of our own culturally-bound responses to artifacts. This course prepares students for research in the museum environment, and for the challenge of developing meaning and value for those collections, in the context of the Cravens Collection, housed since March 2010 in the Anderson Gallery of the UB College of Arts and Sciences, where the course will be held. Each class integrates presentations, group work and discussion, case studies, and independent research. In addition, the instructor will facilitate visits from guest lecturers. At the end of the course, the students will curate together their own public exhibition of objects from the Cravens Collection, and will write up short narratives about the objects they have studied during the course. The narratives will then be included in an exhibition catalogue.

APY 515SEM
Cultural APY Topics: Documentary Praxis
Instructor Dr. Bruce Jackson

Reg.#23572
Monday 3:30–6:10pm
Clemens Hall 610

The products of documentary work obey the same rules as the products of artistic work grounded in the imagination, with one exception. Both—whether a book, a group of images, a film, or whatever—have to make internal sense. They have to create and present a coherent utterance. A novel must make some kind of internal sense, else it is gibberish; a group of photographs must make some kind of internal sense, else they are visual noise.

The key difference between documentary work grounded in the real and artistic work grounded in the imagination is this: artistic work grounded in the imagination has no accountability save to its own internal coherence. If there is magic, and it makes sense in the narrative, then it is perfectly legitimate. Documentary work always has an external accountability. It strives to represent something, but it is accountable to the reality of it. James Agee, in *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*, referred to the difference in his writing and the people about whom he wrote: the real people had, he said, a “weight” in the world that his words and Walker Evans’ photographs could only approximate.

This is a seminar for people documenting aspects of ordinary life in visual, aural and print media. It is not a class for people learning how to use their hardware; it’s for people who know how to use it and who are engaging or who are ready to engage the quotidian with it. Participants will be expected to define a project, to present work in progress and to talk with other members of the seminar about it and listen to their responses to it, and to have, at the end of the semester, a body of work worth presenting to other people. My ideal final session will be one open and public in which everyone shows something finished and edited or something in progress that is nonetheless interesting. Participants will also do a presentation for other members of the seminar about the work of a documentary artist chosen from a list I will provide or agreed on by us.

The primary work of the semester will consist of engaging some aspect of the world out there, capturing it, showing one another preliminary takes and cuts, and then editing what was found into something interesting, and, all along the way, talking about what works and what doesn’t, and the ethics of it all.

APY 540LEC
History of Archaeology
Instructor Dr. Sarunas Milisauskas

Reg.#22135
Wednesday 3:00–5:40pm
Fillmore Academic Center 354

This course is a general survey of the history of archaeology from the Renaissance to the present. We will focus on the major scholars in the history of archaeology. The relationship of archaeology with political, social and religious issues will be discussed.

APY 546SEM
Physical Topics: Evolution of Human Diversity
Instructor Dr. Noreen von Cramon-Taubadel

Reg.#23341
Thursday 3:20–6:10pm
Fillmore Academic Center 354

The nature and extent of the biological diversity observed among human populations has been at the heart of anthropological enquiry for centuries. Here, we will explore the history of ‘racial anthropology’ and its impact on the modern discipline of biological anthropology. Biological anthropologists today use a variety of analytical models and techniques drawn from population and quantitative genetics in order to analyze human biological diversity in a meaningful way. Students will be introduced to these such that the complexities of microevolutionary theory are readily understood through a series of modern human case-studies. Students will investigate the extent to which humans have adapted to various environmental conditions as well as understanding the effects of recent migrations, demographic changes and population expansions. This facilitates a direct comparison with other non-evolutionary methods of analysis such as those employed by forensic anthropologists. Finally, we will investigate the potential for using models of human diversity to understand the evolution of other human paleospecies. This places the study of modern human biology within the broader framework of human evolution.

APY 547SEM
Ethology Practicum
Instructor Dr. Carol Berman

Reg.#22136
Day/Time/Location TBA

This is a course for students who have had some exposure to animal behavior and who would like to learn in more depth how to go about observing animals in a scientific manner. Principles of animal behavior improve our understanding in many fields concerning both humans and nonhumans: social relationships, social evolution, social development, animal breeding, zoo management, and conservation.

APY 550SEM
Evolution Colloquium
Instructors Dr. Carol Berman / Dr. Katarina Dittmar De La Cruz

Reg.#22138
Tuesday 12:30pm–1:50pm
Cooke 435

This seminar is a focal point of the Graduate Group in Evolutionary Biology and Ecology, but it is open to all students of the College of Arts and Sciences with an interest in Evolution, Ecology and Behavior. Students and faculty will review recent research in evolutionary processes by discussing topics in evolutionary theory, ecology, ethology and paleobiology. This will also be a forum for students to present their research ideas and topics.

APY 554SEM
Cultural Topics: Social Memory
Dr. Vasiliki Neofotistos

Reg.#23531
Tuesday 9:30am–12:10pm
Fillmore Academic Center 351

In this course we will explore anthropological perspectives on the politics of memory and commemoration with a focus on the struggles over meaning that lie at the heart of memory. Questions we ask include the following: How do individuals, communities, and societies remember the past? How and why is memory mobilized? What is collective memory and what is its relation to national identity? What role do memory and forgetting play in the production of historical knowledge? We will also explore the sociopolitical significance of memorials, monuments and museums commemorating incidents of mass violence. Course readings will focus on, among other case studies, Bosnia, Madagascar, Northern Ireland and Palestine.

APY 572SEM
Special Topics in Archaeology: Archaeology and Early Urbanism
Instructor Dr. Attila Gyucha

Reg.#22526
Monday 6:00–8:40pm
Fillmore Academic Center 354

Coalescence has been a global phenomenon for human societies during the past several millennia. As astonishing examples such as Cahokia, Catalhöyük, Teotihuacan, Nebelivka, and Uruk illustrate, through the reorganization of smaller scale social units into more complex configurations, early centers of economic and political organizations evolved throughout the world at various times and places, for a multitude of reasons, and in different socio-political contexts. The evolutionary trajectories of these early aggregated settlements, however, took dramatically diverse courses. Some turned into large cities with richly built environments and wide varieties of specific functions that served the inhabitants of vast regions for hundreds of

years. Others did not reach the same organizational complexity, resulting in social devolution after several generations, and returning to smaller scale integrative units in dispersed settlement patterns.

This course will focus on early urbanization in the Old and New Worlds. Considering a variety of theoretical and methodological approaches and perspectives, and also what we can learn from comparisons to modern cities, the seminar will explore the various conditions, forces, and dynamics that contributed to the emergence, maintenance, and collapse of ancient centers. In order to gain an understanding of these mechanisms, and to get insights into the social benefits and challenges of living in close quarters, the course will draw on a wide variety of studies from archaeology, anthropology, architecture and urban planning, classics, history, sociology, geography, and ecology.

APY 573LEC
Primate Evolutionary Biology
Instructor Dr. Joyce Sirianni

Reg.#23551
Monday 4:00–6:40pm
Fillmore Academic Center 170

Primate specialization and taxonomy, fossil history, anatomy and behavior in the primate order, odontology and human origins. Lecture course with some laboratory work.

APY 575SEM
Cultural Topics: Political Ecology—Nature, Capital and Energy
Instructor Dr. Jaume Franquesa

Reg.#23507
Tuesday 12:30–3:10pm
Fillmore Academic Center 354

The term ‘political ecology’ has become a useful shorthand for the growing recognition, in several disciplines, of the extent to which environmental changes and societal processes are intertwined. This course interrogates this relationship through the engagement with a wide spectrum of disciplinary frameworks, ranging from environmental history to human geography, and from social anthropology to world-systems theory and ecological economics. From a theoretical perspective, our inquiry will privilege - but it will not be reduced to - Marxist approaches, with the aim of developing a socioenvironmental understanding of political and economic reality.

The course will be divided into two parts. The first one will revolve around ‘nature’ and its sociohistorical construction, working with concepts and processes such as ‘accumulation by dispossession’ (D Harvey), ‘production of nature’ (N Smith, J Moore), extraction economies

(Bunker), ecological distribution conflicts (Martinez-Alier), entropy (Hornborg) and metabolism (Foster). The second part will apply the concepts of the first part to one specific object: energy. A focus on energy will allow us to reflect and discuss on concepts and processes such as sustainability, climate change and energy transitions, while learning about the socioenvironmental consequences of different energy production alternatives through the reading of cross-culturally located case studies.

APY 594SEM
Advanced Physical Anthropology
Instructor Dr. Christine Duggleby
(dual-listed with APY 443SEM)

Reg.#23552
Wednesday 2:00pm–4:40pm
Spaulding Quad 158

Special Topic: Genetics of Evolutionary Conflict

Evolutionary conflicts have shaped the human genome and take place at almost every level - from the individual's conflict with microorganisms to conflict at the population level between the sexes , whose reproductive interests differ. In each case, the opponents take part in what could be viewed as an "arms race."

APY 600TUT
MA Project/Thesis Guidance

Variable Credit
Permission of Instructor

Graduate students should register for their major professor's section of this course when they are writing their MA Project/Thesis.

APY 601TUT
Individual Readings in Archaeology

Variable Credit
Permission of Instructor

If, after speaking to the Instructor and he/she agrees to work with you, the graduate student must fill out an Independent Study Form (form available outside the Anthropology Graduate Office), have the instructor and the Director of Graduate Studies sign it then give it to Maria to put in your file which becomes part of your Application to Candidacy. Then the student may register for the appropriate number of credit hours.

APY 602TUT
Individual Readings in Cultural Anthropology

Variable Credit
Permission of Instructor

If, after speaking to the Instructor and he/she agrees to work with you, the graduate student must fill out an Independent Study Form (form available outside the Anthropology Graduate Office), have the instructor and the Director of Graduate Studies sign it then give it to Maria to put in your file which becomes part of your Application to Candidacy. Then the student may register for the appropriate number of credit hours.

APY 607TUT
Individual Readings in Physical Anthropology

Variable Credit
Permission of Instructor

If, after speaking to the Instructor and he/she agrees to work with you, the graduate student must fill out an Independent Study Form (form available outside the Anthropology Graduate Office), have the instructor and the Director of Graduate Studies sign it then give it to Maria to put in your file which becomes part of your Application to Candidacy. Then the student may register for the appropriate number of credit hours.

APY 610SEM
Method and Theory in Archaeology
Instructor Dr. Timothy Chevral

Reg.#22140
Monday 1:00–3:40pm
Fillmore Academic Center 354

This seminar introduces archaeology graduate students to the critical theoretical and methodological issues that are central to Anglo-Americanist archaeology. Using a numerous primary sources, we will study the historical development of the field, highlighting significant changes in the direction and nature of archaeological research from the formation of the culture history paradigm in the early 20th century, through the processual perspective of the past 35 years, to the post processual approach that has emerged since the 1980s.

We will examine how theory and method together explain cultural transformations such as the origins of agriculture, the development of social complexity, the rise and fall of states, and other important issues in archaeology, and how explanations are derived through specific approaches including neo-evolutionism, materialism, historicism, functionalism, cultural ecology, behavioral archaeology, practice theory, agency theory, queer theory, gender theory, interaction theory, hermeneutics, interpretive archaeology, cognitive approaches, Neo-Darwinianism, and archaeology as social action.

APY 613SEM
Social Transmission and Cultural Evolutionary Approaches in Anthropology
Instructor Dr. Stephen Lycett

Reg.#23340
Wednesday 3:00–5:40pm
Baldy 106

Humans pass on and receive information, consciously and unconsciously, via social interaction. Some of this information manifests itself in the form of cultural traditions; for examples, artifacts spread over time and space or the languages we speak. Using a framework of social transmission theory, many anthropologists have increasingly turned to evolutionary theory and methodology to study cultural traditions in material artifacts, languages or other products of cultural transmission processes. This course enables students to explore the main theoretical and methodological aspects of using social transmission theory and cultural evolutionary principles to address human behavioral patterns. Case studies will be presented, which will highlight the broad range of data to which such approaches may be applied. We will consider a range of case studies from a diversity of chronological periods and geographic settings (including contemporary settings). We will also critically consider the concept of “culture,” its presence (or otherwise) in animals other than humans, and what this may mean for the study of cultural phenomena. By the end of the course, students will have an understanding of both the theoretical and practical (methodological) tools involved in this type of work, and be able to conceive of how to apply them to their own work, across various aspects of anthropological research.

APY 654LEC
Graduate Survey: Social & Cultural Anthropology II
Instructor Dr. Frederick Klaitz

Reg.#23738
Wednesday 9:30am–12:10pm
Fillmore Academic Center 354

This seminar will introduce you to current theoretical issues within social and cultural anthropology. After gaining some historical perspectives on our discipline during the past 25-30 years, we will take stock of socio-cultural anthropology in the early 21st century. We will read theoretical and ethnographic work drawing from a variety of subfields and geographic regions.

This course is required for all first-year graduate students in cultural anthropology.

APY 700TUT
Dissertation Guidance

Variable Credit
Permission of Instructor

Graduate students should register for at least 1 credit hour of their major professor's section of this every semester until the dissertation is complete when writing their PhD dissertation.