

Department of Anthropology
Spring 2019 Undergraduate Course Descriptions

APY 104 LEC
Great Sites and Lost Tribes
Instructor Dr. Will Meyer

This class examines the romantic element in archaeology in the great sites of the world, such as Troy, Olduvai Gorge, Stonehenge, and so forth. Since the sites cannot be separated from their discoverers and excavators, we also consider the lives of many famous archaeologists including Schliemann, Garrod, Mellaart, Leakey, and Kenyon, to name a few. Comparisons are made to modern and historical fictional archaeologists.

APY 105 LEC
Introduction to Anthropology
Instructor Melanie Lacan

This class is a general introduction to the field of anthropology, the study of humanity. It is designed to pique your interest in the broad diversity of human behavior and lifestyles across the world and throughout time. This course will take a look at our four major subfields - archaeology, linguistic anthropology, physical anthropology, and cultural anthropology - and include discussions on our "youngest" subfield, applied anthropology. The goal of this class is to understand the wide range of issues covered by the fields of anthropology, the ways in which these issues are studied by specialists in the field, and the practical effects of the questions covered by anthropological study. In order to survey such a wide range of issues, the class is structured in a standard lecture format, with small group exercises and class discussions.

APY 106LEC
Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
Instructor Dr. Meghana Joshi

What is culture and how does it affect our understanding of the world and the ways we behave? How do cultural anthropologists approach the study of human societies and what methods do they use to do research? These are some of the questions that we will examine in this class. The course introduces students to ethnographic methods and theories of cultural anthropology. The aim is to enhance our knowledge of our own culture and of other cultures around the world. All majors are welcome.

APY 107LEC
Introduction to Physical Anthropology
Instructor Dr. Stephen Lycett

For centuries preceding modern times, our uniqueness as a species was taken as a sign of special creation; we were not seen to be a part of nature. But as knowledge of human evolution, our closeness to other primates, and our adaptations to specific environments emerged, we have taken our place in the animal kingdom. Here, we learn how those insights developed, and about current methods of understanding human origins and the natural forces that have shaped us.

APY 108LEC
Introduction to Archaeology
Instructor Dr. Douglas Perrelli

This course is designed to provide the student with a general introduction to the field of archaeology, including the methods and techniques that archaeologists use to identify and investigate archaeological sites. The course will focus on some of the key issues in archaeology, from human evolution and origins of agriculture, to the beginning of the modern age, including examples from the Old World and the New World. Students will learn how archaeologists use material culture to construct interpretations of human behavior in the past.

APY 168LEC
Myth & Religion in the Ancient World
Instructor Dr. Roger Woodard

In this course, we will investigate mythic and religious traditions of ancient Greece and Rome. Our study of myth and religion will, however, be comparative in emphasis. We will thus have a twofold goal: (1) to encounter the Greco-Roman traditions themselves and (2) through our comparative investigations, to attempt to identify the mythic and religious traditions which the Greeks and especially the more conservative Romans inherited from their Indo-European ancestors. We will also turn our full gaze upon comparative materials, but even as we are engaged in discovering the mythic and religious traditions of the ancient Indic, Iranian Celtic, Germanic and Hittite cultures, we will continue to encounter new materials and motifs from Greece and Rome.

APY 313 LEC
Anthropology and Film
Instructor Dr. Vasiliki Neofotistos

The course explores the multiple relationships between anthropology and film. We will explore how anthropologists have used and debated film as a mode of ethnographic representation, that is, as a way of constructing and communicating knowledge about the world. We will also explore how the medium of film has helped to shape anthropology, specifically the debates on ethnographic representation. Key issues include, but are not limited to, the representation of human realities and the ethical dilemmas involved in filming real people, "truth," authority, reflexivity, and spectatorship.

APY 330 LEC
Prehistory of Europe
Instructor Jacob Brady

This course offers an overview of the archaeology of prehistoric Europe from the peopling of the region in the Lower Palaeolithic through the florescence of art and culture in the Upper Paleolithic, to the introduction of agriculture and the formation of complex societies in the Neolithic and Copper Age, to the beginning of early states and empires in the Bronze Age and Iron Age.

APY 345 LEC
Comparative Primate Anatomy
Instructor Dr. Joyce Sirianni

Co-requisite: APY 346: Primate Dissections

This course focuses on studying the differences and similarities in the anatomy of living primates in order to understand the biological relationships of various primate species and the selective adaptations which led to differences in their anatomy. Knowledge of how living primates are adaptive to diverse environments is useful in interpreting the evolutionary history of primate species. By establishing behavioral and morphological correlates paleontologists may better understand how fossil primates may have utilized their environment. Basic to this course is the comparison of the gross anatomy of three closely related primates, e.g. monkeys, apes and humans.

APY 346 LAB
Dissections in Primate Anatomy
Instructor Dr. Joyce Sirianni

Co-requisite: APY 345: Comparative Primate Anatomy

The laboratory component covers basic primate gross anatomy learned by dissecting and making comparative observations of various species of primates.

APY 349 LEC
Human Genetics
Instructor Dr. Melanie Mayberry

Over the course of the last 100 years, prevention and treatment have greatly reduced the amount of illness and death due to infectious diseases. This has had the effect of increasing the relative importance of genetic defects on the health and well-being of the human population. In addition to human costs incurred, genetic problems may impose extensive financial burdens on individuals and on society as a whole. Thus, what may seem to be an individual or family problem at first, may ultimately be the object of public policy. Such policies may be seen as totally beneficial (mandatory screenings of newborns for PKU) or potentially discriminatory (mid-1970's sickle-cell legislation). Methods of human reproduction which may be utilized by families to avoid transmission of genetic disorders (artificial insemination, surrogate motherhood) also become a matter of public concern when their legal status is questioned. Rapid advances in genetic engineering have led to an increased potential for diagnosis and treatment of genetic diseases. People have expressed concern regarding the hazards and mortality of some aspects of genetic engineering. The purpose of this course is to provide students with sufficient understanding of contemporary human genetics to intelligently address such issues.

APY 356 SEM
Cultural Evolution
Instructor Dr. Stephen Lycett

Humans pass on and receive information, consciously and unconsciously, via social interactions. Some of this information manifests itself in the form of cultural traditions; for example, 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, language, 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. A large part of the class deals with evolutionary theory, and allows students to better understand evolutionary theory and its application. 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).

You 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. Students will come to see how contemporary applications of this approach differ from previous (and often theoretically erroneous) applications of evolutionary principles to the study of human behavior, which negatively taint evolutionary approaches to humanity to this day. The course will also help to dispel common misconceptions regarding the use of evolutionary theory to study culture, but be sensitively astute as to the reasons why these issues arise. 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 across various aspects of anthropological research.

APY 393 LEC
Anthropology of Religion
Instructor Dr. Frederick Klaitz

What is “religion”? How do anthropologists understand and study religion? What role does religion play in social life? How are religious experiences and identities performed? How do religious traditions deal with themes of time and place? How does authority work in religious practice? Why do religions go global? These and other questions will guide our work in this course as we discuss the varieties of religious experience across cultures, the place of religion amidst other aspects of social life, and the status of religion as a conceptual category.

APY 401 LEC
Theory in Anthropology
Instructor Dr. Meghana Joshi

This course reviews the history of sociocultural anthropology from the late 19th century to the beginning of the 21st century through engagement with major theoretical works that shaped the discipline. We will move chronologically and topically and pay attention to the historical, sociocultural and institutional conditions from which anthropological theories emerged. In the process we will examine how major issues and debates unfolded over time and consider how different personalities, national traditions and ideologies contributed to the making of the anthropological discipline. Throughout the course, students will learn to apply major theoretical concepts towards an examination of sociocultural problems from the past and the present.

APY 414 SEM
Museum Management
Instructor Dr. Peter Biehl

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 420 SEM
Archaeology of Complex Societies
Instructor Dr. Timothy Cheval

Archaeologists have long been interested in what have often been called ‘complex societies’: groups traditionally called chiefdoms, states and empires. After all, dynastic Egypt, ancient Mesopotamia, early China, the Inca, the Maya, and many others are the highly visible, architecturally rich, and materially elaborate cultures that first caught the eye of antiquarians in the 18th and 19th centuries, as well as the early and mid-20th century archaeologists who first excavated many of these cultures’ major sites.

Because of these famous scholars’ early work, and the place that pyramids, palaces and tombs have in our collective imagination, ideas about such cultures remained the same for much of the 20th century. Most people first learn about them in introductory courses on world history, using textbooks based on archaeology that is often close to 50 years old. The last couple of decades, however, have seen tremendous changes in both our knowledge of the prehistory and archaeology of such societies, and our way of thinking about and understanding them.

Today, we study more than the highly visible traces of rulers and elites. We are also concerned with pre-state roots and development, internal organization, successes, crises, and problem-solving strategies of such states and empires, their phases of reorganization and sometimes, collapse. We can also examine their impacts on cultures with whom they maintain contact, and their role as change agents in regional or even global networks. We can think about their large-scale interactions with environment and climate, relationships between rulers, institutions, and populations, and also about what it might have meant for various kinds of individuals to live in such societies.

This course will encourage you to explore current archaeological findings, as well as the many ways they have been interpreted through time, and to think both individually and comparatively about these societies, many of which have contributed to shaping the current world.

APY 434 SEM
North American Archaeology
Instructor Dr. Ezra Zubrow

Using current and classic texts and articles we will discuss the various issues in temporal and geographic periods of North American Archaeology which are if not unique then have been endemic in the practice of North American Archaeology from its beginnings to the present. The course will cover the span of prehistory and history of the North American continent up into the period of contact with Europeans. This will include the people of the Americas, the Paleoindian period, the Archaic Period, and the Woodland Period including interactions of Woodland Cultures with Europeans.

APY 494 SEM
Senior Seminar: Culture of Science
Instructor Dr. Donald Pollock

We think of “science” as objective, value-free, and somehow independent of “culture,” yet science is conducted by people, in various settings, and inevitably is shaped or flavored by the cultures and social settings in which it is done. In this seminar we will look at the culture of science, including how scientific theories are shaped and influenced by cultural issues, how scientific research is guided by cultural and social agendas, and how “science” differs from culture to culture and country to country. The goal of the course is to arrive at a more sophisticated and nuanced view of what “science” is, and how it gets done and why, as a symbol and as social activity.

APY 495SEM
Supervised Teaching
Instructor Dr. Joyce Sirianni

Reg. #19113

TBA

Spaulding Quad 158

Requires permission of instructor.