

Department of Anthropology Spring 2015 Undergraduate Course Offerings

APY 105LEC Introduction to Anthropology Instructor TBA

Reg. #23673
Monday/Wednesday 8:30am–9:50am
Knox 110

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 TBA

Reg. #23870
Monday/Wednesday/Friday 11:00am--11:50am
Alumni 97

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

Reg. #23680
Tuesday/Thursday 2:00 pm--3:20pm
Natural Science Center 222

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. Timothy Cheval

Reg.#23681
Tuesday/Thursday 12:00pm—1:20pm
Natural Science Center 228

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

Reg.#23977
Monday/Wednesday/Friday 12:00pm—12:50pm
Fillmore Academic Center 170

Provides an introduction to the mythology of the Greeks and Romans. In addition to considering the myths themselves, we study how they have been employed by ancient through contemporary cultures as reflected in areas ranging from religious and social practice to works of art and architecture.

APY 248LEC
Human Genetics
Instructor Dr. Christine Duggleby

Reg.#23722
Monday/Wednesday/Friday 12:00pm–12:50pm
Fillmore Academic Center 170

Examines contemporary human genetics relevant to families and society, including genetic diseases, family planning and demography, genetic counseling and prenatal diagnosis, genetic engineering, and genetics and the law. Provides students with sufficient understanding of contemporary human genetics to intelligently address these issues.

APY 250LEC
Anthropology Through the Bible
Instructor Dr. Phillips Stevens

Reg.#23741
Tuesday/Thursday 9:00am–10:20am
Capen 262

The Bible, the most influential book in the history of literacy, is a compendium of cultural traditions. Using the bible as our basic text, and drawing comparative data from world ethnology, we will consider basic cultural themes like kinship and social organization, economics, and politics. Religion pervades all, of course; and we will encounter myths and rituals, folktales, taboos, magic and sorcery, blessing and curse, spirit possession and other altered states of consciousness, gods and angels, spirits and demons. We will recognize many standard types: kings, prophets, priests, spirit mediums, heroes and tricksters, soldiers, farmers, herders. All display common human traits: compassion and caring, wisdom and stupidity, deception and treachery, envy, bitterness, and revenge. Readings will be assigned from some required and recommended texts and articles; assessment will be based on attendance and participation, two or three short tests, and individual research projects. Principal course objectives include enhanced familiarity with the Bible, as well as broader knowledge of ethnology, and a unique and interesting learning experience. No prerequisites.

APY 265LEC
People of South East Asia
Instructor Dr. David Banks

Reg.#23723
Monday/Wednesday/Friday 10:00am–10:50am
Capen Hall 262

Examines the history and culture of both mainland and island Southeast Asia, emphasizing kinship, religion, and political systems, as well as art forms.

APY 275LEC
Introduction to Medical Anthropology
Instructor Dr. Fred Klaitz

Reg.#23674
Tuesday/Thursday 2:00pm–3:20pm
Baldy Hall 101

This course uses ecological, evolutionary, and cultural perspectives to study human health. Topics covered include the ecology and epidemiology of disease; genetic, physiological, and cultural adaptation; nutrition; pregnancy and childbirth; stress; culture change; and health disparities in both developing and developed countries. Health issues associated with globalization and increased military conflict will also be covered. Supplementary readings deal with maternal health, midwifery, and children's health and nutrition in Africa and illustrate the biocultural approach to health.

APY 320SEM
Seminar in Cognitive Anthropology
Instructor Dr. Donald Pollock

Reg.#23676
Tuesday/Thursday 2:30pm–3:50pm
Fillmore Academic Center 352

Examines human thinking as a cultural and social, as well as a psychological (or computational), phenomenon. Regards cognition as closely interconnected with cultural forms, social systems, and everyday activities. The course also addresses the very concept of 'cognition' as a cultural product whose social and historical origins require investigation.

APY 321SEM
Special Topics: Indians of North America
Instructor Samuel Rose

Reg.#24036
Monday/Wednesday/Friday 11:00am–11:50am
Talbert Hall 106

This course provides students with a survey of the diverse cultures of native North America (north of Mexico). This course will include units centering on 1) an introduction to the indigenous cultures themselves and the classic “culture areas” of North America, 2) an examination of anthropological approaches to the study of native peoples, 3) the history of anthropology’s engagement with native peoples, and 4) the role that native North America as a region has had in the broader development of socio-cultural anthropology as a discipline. This course also includes anthropological examinations of modern indigenous communities on a number of topical contemporary issues including urbanization, economic development, race and identity, etc.

APY 345LEC
Comparative Primate Anatomy
Instructor Dr. Joyce Sirianni

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

APY 345LEC

Reg.# 23750
Monday 4:00pm--6:40pm
Fillmore Academic Center 170

Students are required to register for 1 lab section:

APY 346

Location: All labs take place in Spaulding Quad, Room 155

LAB A	Monday, 9:00am–12:50pm	(Reg.#23747)
LAB B	Tuesday, 1:00pm–4:50pm	(Reg.#23756)
LAB C	Wednesday, 1:00pm--4:50pm	(Reg.#23761)
LAB D	Thursday, 1:00pm–4:50pm	(Reg.#23762)
LAB E	Friday, 2:00pm–5:50pm	(Reg.#23763)

The lecture studies descriptive and functional primate anatomy, with relevance to the origin and adaptation of groups within the order of primates. The laboratory component covers basic primate gross anatomy learned by dissecting and making comparative observations of various species of primates.

APY 367LEC
Meso-American Archaeology
Instructor Dr. Warren Barbour

Reg.#23678
Wednesday 9:30am–12:10pm
Fillmore Academic Center 354

Examines art, iconography, architectures, and archaeology of ancient Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize; also covers religious, political, and economic development from its beginning, around 2000 B.C.E., to its decapitation by the Spaniards in 1521.

APY 369LEC
Peoples and Cultures of Sub-Saharan Africa
Instructor Dr. Phillips Stevens

Reg.#23675
Tuesday/Thursday 11:00am–12:20pm
TBA

Explores cultures of hunting, pastoral, and agricultural societies, including history, social structure, political and economic systems, religion, and aesthetics. Also considers the impact of colonialism, industrialization, urbanism, and political independence upon African societies and cultures.

APY 384SEM
Book of Ancient Mayas
Instructor Dr. Dennis Tedlock

Reg.#23976
Tuesday/Thursday 11:00am–12:20pm
Clemens Hall 17

For the ancient Maya, books were instruments for seeing into distance times and places. The course will consider new deciphered hieroglyphic works, together with the works of Mayan writers who used the alphabet after the Spanish invasion. We will examine the results of recent breakthroughs in the decipherment of the Mayan script and even learn to read some hieroglyphs, picking up some basic knowledge of astronomy in the process. We will also read English translations of narratives, prayers, speeches, chants, and songs, at the same time listening to what some of these forms sound like in the original language.

APY 394LEC
Religion and Healing in Native South America
Instructor Dr. Ana Mariella Bacigalupo

Reg. #23726
Tuesday/Thursday 12:30pm–1:50pm
Fillmore Academic Center 352

Surveys the contemporary religions and healing practices of Native South Americans through the ethnographies of a variety of South American groups. Explores Native South American concepts of time, space, power, order, destruction, and renewal and their manifestations in birth, initiation, healing, and death rituals. Attempts to understand different worldviews and practices that help us rethink our way of conceiving the world and our role in it.

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

Reg. #23725
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 443SEM
Advanced Physical Anthropology
Instructor Dr. Christine Duggleby
(dual-listed with APY 594SEM)

Reg. #23777
Wednesday 2:00pm—4:40pm
Spaulding Quad 158

Topic: Genetics of Evolutionary Conflicts.

APY 444SEM
Ethology Practicum
Instructor Dr. Carol Berman

Reg. #23729
Thursday 3:00pm—5:40pm
Spaulding Quad 158

Semester long, quantitatively based research project on the behavior of animals at the Buffalo Zoo. Goals include: becoming familiar with a range of techniques used to study animal behavior in the field and in captivity, learn to observe animal behavior in a scientific manner, an gain experience in all aspects of scientific research - generating an interesting question, researching what is already known about the topic and species, designing a protocol to answer the question, collecting data at the Zoo, analyzing the data, and reporting the results and conclusion both in an oral presentation and in a written scientific report.

APY 488LEC
Kinship and Social Structure
Instructor Dr. David Banks

Reg. #23724
Monday/Wednesday/Friday 1:00pm—1:50pm
Fillmore Academic Center 351

Examines kinship and family patterns in simple and complex societies. Also examines the role of kinship in society and the human quality of kinship patterns, including plural marriage, divorce, the incest taboo, gender, clans, lineages, and joint families.

APY 494SEM
Senior Seminar: Violence and the Nation-State
Instructor Dr. Vasiliki Neofotistos

Reg. #23797
Thursday 9:30am–12:10pm
Fillmore Academic Center 354

How can we make sense of violence? What are the conditions that generate it? Does the state play a role in fomenting violence? How are events such as the shooting at Columbine High School in Colorado and the NATO bombing of Kosovo in 1999 connected, if at all? These are some of the questions around which this senior seminar is woven, with the aim to encourage students to think critically about the nation-state and some of its effects on social life.

We will begin by exploring violence as a social phenomenon that takes place not only in times of war but also in times of peace. Through readings on drug addiction and the US inner city, infant mortality in Brazil, and the death of elderly African Americans during the 1995 Chicago heat wave, we will consider violence as usual and “daily routine” that is embedded in the normative fabric of daily life and passes unnoticed. We will then examine the intricate connections among everyday violence, collective violence and the nation-state and explore the conditions that have made mass violence possible in countries around the world. The seminar will conclude by exploring the ways in which people experience social life in an increasingly violent world.

APY 495SEM
Supervised Teaching
Dr. Joyce Sirianni

Reg. #23730
TBA
Spaulding Quad 158

APY 496TUT
Internship

Tutorial

Credits: 1-6

Semester(s): (No information on typically offered semesters)

Pre-requisites: permission of instructor

Grading: Graded (A-F)

Students wishing to complete an internship with a host agency may register for this course with the agreement of the agency supervisor and the faculty advisor.

APY 499TUT
Ind. Study and Research

Seminar

Credits: 1

Semester(s): (No information on typically offered semesters)

Pre-requisites: permission of instructor

Grading: Graded (A-F)

Individually designed program of reading, research, or skills development in close association with an instructor.

Tutorial

Credits: 1-8

Semester(s): (No information on typically offered semesters)

Pre-requisites: permission of instructor

Grading: Graded (A-F)

Individually designed program of reading, research, or skills development in close association with an instructor.