

Department of Anthropology

Medical Anthropology Course Descriptions

APY 545 LEC

Dental Anthropology

This seminar covers topics such as embryological development and growth of primate jaws and teeth; basic craniofacial anatomy; theories of dental evolution; basic dental anatomy; nonhuman and human dental variation; forensic odontology, and dental pathologies. Students will be required to make presentations on various dental topics, e.g., dental adaptations to diet, evolutionary trends in hominid tooth size, ethnic differences in tooth morphology and size.

APY 546 SEM

Physical Anthropology Topics

This course will present topics in physical anthropology and the content will vary depending upon the instructor's area of specialization.

APY 548SEM

Human Genetics-Legal Ethics

Recent advances in genetic technology have presented the scientific and lay community with ethical and legal problems, yet to be resolved. The objective of this course is to provide an opportunity for informed discussions of such issues relating to contemporary human/medical issues.

APY 556 SEM

Religion and Society

The history and nature of the social scientific study of religion will be considered, and various theories and explanations offered. Religion will be viewed as a cultural system which cannot be satisfactorily understood without reference to its relationships with other cultural systems; and "culture" is based in human neurobiology. Specific topics include: the nature of the "supernatural"; types of supernatural agencies; types of religious practitioners; theories of religion; myth; ritual; divination; sacrifice; totemism; taboo; magic and sorcery; witchcraft; shamanism; religious altered states of consciousness: spirit possession, ecstasy, and simple trance; supernaturally-caused illness and religious-based healing; religion in cultural change; new religions, cults, and "the occult" today; and others. The course will be illustrated throughout with films, slides, videos, religious objects, etc.

APY 565 SEM**Gender and Healing in Latin America**

This course explores how constructions of gender and sexuality shape understandings of self, spirit and the altered states of consciousness of Latin American healers. The idea that gender is culturally constructed, performed and enmeshed in relations of power is generally accepted in anthropology, but the ways in which gender and sexuality relate to the spiritual experiences of possession and ecstasy change in different contexts are often ignored. In this class we will analyze the individual and relational constructions of shamanic personhood and the discontinuities in the gendered and sexual identities and personhoods of practitioners.

APY 576 SEM**Healthcare in the U.S.****APY 578 SEM****Ethnomedicine**

“Ethnomedicine” is a convenient if slightly out-of-date term for the study of beliefs and practices relating to illness cross-culturally. In this course we will survey the major contemporary approaches to the study of such beliefs and practices, the goal of this course being to develop a fairly good understanding of the theoretical perspectives that have shaped ethnomedical research, and vice versa. These will range from meaning-centered approaches to political-economy models of health and illness, with attention to the role of embodiment studies, gender, globalization and the domestication of otherness. We will devote some attention to the cultural and historical specificity of ‘scientific’ forms of medical practice as well as those lumped under the label of ‘traditional.’

APY 584 SEM**Transcultural Psychiatry****APY 594 SEM****Evolution of Sexual Behavior**

The topic for this graduate seminar concerns the evolution of human sexuality from nonhuman primate origins. More specifically, we will ask to what extent does an understanding of sexual selection theory and nonhuman primates help explain the nature and origins of some aspects of human sexuality. We will explore recent data and theories surrounding the relevance of sexual selection theory to human anatomy, physiology, and marriage patterns. We will also focus on male sexual coercion of females, a common behavior in many human societies. To what extent does coercion occur in other primate species, and

what principles govern its form and frequency? To what extent are human forms of coercion unique? Can we use this information to inform theories about the origins of sexual coercion in humans, and about the cultural conditions and contexts that are likely to facilitate or discourage it. Finally, we will focus on homosexual behavior, asking again about the extent to which it occurs in nonhuman primates and about the principles that govern it. While research on human homosexuality is still in its infancy, we will also review current hypotheses about its origins.

APY 603 SEM

Topics in Medical Anthropology

Topics vary.

APY 606 SEM

Anthropology of Reproduction

APY 607TUT

Individual Readings- Physical

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 the Graduate Secretary 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 710 LEC

Geographic Medicine

An introduction to medical anthropology and medical geography with an intensive review of communicable, parasitic, and nutritional diseases found in isolated populations, developing countries, and among disadvantaged groups in industrial societies. The course is team-taught by a medical anthropologist (McElroy) and a physician (Richard Lee) who has done research in many countries and is an expert in travelers' medicine. Course work consists of lectures and seminars, case presentations, and library research. Students will be expected to present selected topics in seminars and to prepare a poster presentation on a topic of choice that integrates anthropology, environment, and medicine.