

## **Department of Anthropology Medical Anthropology Course Descriptions**

### **APY 545 LEC Dental Anthropology Dr. Joyce Sirianni**

Reg. # 23450  
Tuesday 4:00–6:40pm  
Spaulding Quad 158

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 Being Human: The Evolutionary Origins of Human Language Dr. Carol Berman**

Reg. #21205  
Thursday 3:00 pm - 5:40 pm  
Spaulding 158

The topic for this graduate seminar concerns the question "How did the capacity for human language evolve?" As W. Tecumseh Fitch writes " Language, more than anything else, is what makes us human: the unique power of language to represent and share unbounded thoughts...has played a central role in the rise of our species...from a minor and peripheral member of the sub-Saharan African ecological community to the dominant species on the planet today". In the last 50 years, scholars in many disciplines including Anthropology, Linguistics, Evolutionary Biology, Genetics, Neurobiology and Speech Science have devoted themselves to understanding aspects of the evolution of language, but currently no one perspective prevails. Using Fitch's 2010 book *The Evolution of Language* and supplemental readings, we will explore some of these varying perspectives. Fitch plays no favorites. Rather than see them in opposition to one another, he argues that it would be more fruitful in the long run to attempt to bring them together into a coherent synthesis. Although his book doesn't arrive at a single synthesis, he outlines an approach to doing so, in which language is

seen as a unique configuration of many component abilities, some of which can be found in other taxa and some of which represent novel innovations. Several current phylogenetic models are described that attempt to explain the re-construct of these components into their unique human re-configuration. We will explore and attempt to evaluate Fitch's approach, the various models and possible directions forward.

**APY 548SEM**  
**Human Genetics-Legal Ethics**  
**Dr. Christine Duggleby**

Reg. #23448  
Wednesday 12:00–2:40pm  
Spaulding Quad 158

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**  
**Dr. Phillips Stevens**

Reg. #23855  
Please talk with Dr. Stevens if you would like to take this course - Time to be arranged

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**

**APY 578 SEM  
Ethnomedicine**

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

**APY 584 SEM  
Transcultural Psychiatry**

**APY 594 SEM  
Evolution of Sexual Behavior  
Dr. Carol Berman**

Reg. # 24213  
Thursday 3:00pm-5:40pm  
Spaulding Quad 158

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**

**APY 604 SEM (dual listed with APY 477)**

**Disability**

**Dr. Ann McElroy**

MW 3:30 pm - 4:50 pm

Location: Clemens 202

Registration Number: 23559

This course is an introduction to anthropology and disability studies, a new subfield of medical anthropology that integrates several disciplines: anthropology, sociology, psychology, occupational and physical therapy, nursing, and gerontology.

**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**

**Dr. Ann McElroy**

Reg. #23877

Thursday 3:30 pm - 6:10 pm

Fillmore 354

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. Cross-listed with the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine and with the School of Medicine, the class incorporates multiple disciplinary orientations and encourages a range of ethnographic, epidemiological, geographic, and clinical projects. 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.