

ANTH Spring 2027 — Course Descriptions

ANTH 1010-01

This course provides an introduction to the study of Homo Sapiens from an evolutionary, biological, behavioral, and biocultural perspective. Topics covered include: the history of evolutionary thought, basic human genetics, the anatomy and behavioral ecology of the living primates, human evolution via the study of fossil hominins, modern human variation and adaptation, and the study of the human skeleton in forensic anthropology and bioarchaeology.

ANTH 1010-02

This course provides an introduction to the study of Homo Sapiens from an evolutionary, biological, behavioral, and biocultural perspective. Topics covered include: the history of evolutionary thought, basic human genetics, the anatomy and behavioral ecology of the living primates, human evolution via the study of fossil hominins, modern human variation and adaptation, and the study of the human skeleton in forensic anthropology and bioarchaeology.

ANTH 1020-01

The observed range of variation of ways of life around the world. The cross-cultural investigation of becoming and being human. Comparative treatment of social organization, subsistence activities, values, and religion.

ANTH 1020-02

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ANTH 1040-01

Introduction to key transformations in human history and prehistory as they have been identified and discussed by anthropological archaeologists. Consideration of basic principles of archaeology, human evolution and expansion, origins of agriculture and sedentary village societies, development of archaic states and ancient civilizations. Of interest to majors and prospective majors in anthropology and related fields.

ANTH 2340

Introduction to basic principles of archaeological method and theory. Consideration of the history of archaeology, major paradigms in archaeological thought, basic techniques of fieldwork, basic techniques in analyzing archaeological finds, and intellectual frameworks for interpreting patterns in archaeological datasets. Consideration of selected case studies.

Of interest to majors and prospective majors in anthropology, and potentially to majors in classical archaeology and related fields.

ANTH 2370

This semester we will focus on the practice of global health. We will read important texts on the emergence of global health in Uganda and the transformation of healthcare in Tajikistan among others. We will address important topics like neoliberalism, standardization, and the creation of a globally relevant medicine.

ANTH 2810

This class explores how a small group of people living in a remote corner of Peru created Tawantinsuyu, one of the ancient world's largest empires. Throughout the semester, the class will use documentary and archaeological evidence to investigate theories on the origins of the Inca state, imperial expansion, religion and economic organization, as well as frameworks for the comparative study of empires.

ANTH 2811

Who decides what is preserved, displayed, and interpreted – and for whom? This course situates museums and collections within the broader histories of colonialism and cultural exchange, tracing how power shapes what gets collected, catalogued, and shown. Students engage with the theoretical frameworks driving anthropological interpretations of cultural heritage, the practical realities of collections care and curation, and contemporary debates around repatriation, accessibility, and digitization. These frameworks come to life through hands-on work with on-campus collections and exhibits.

ANTH 2812

Anthropology in the World explores how anthropological thinking shows up in more places than you'd expect, including Silicon Valley boardrooms to global newsrooms. Through real-world case studies, interviews, and guest speakers, students discover how anthropology's core tools such as ethnography, material cultural analysis, and systems thinking are powerful lenses for understanding human behavior wherever it occurs. Prior coursework not required.

ANTH 2813

History, prehistory, and present situation of Native and traditional societies of Greater Amazonia; Indigenous views of environment, diversity, endemism; changes in spirituality; impacts of colonialism, urbanization, deforestation, globalization; effects of and responses to climate change in the Amazon Basin.

ANTH 2814

A study of the historic and contemporary heterogeneous African and Afro-descendant communities of Louisiana, which applies the theoretical framework of cultural creolization towards an analysis of modern culture and identity within New Orleans' Black communities.

ANTH 3090

This is a seminar course for advanced students. The major goal of the course is two-fold: to explore the roots of our economic philosophy; and to enhance our understanding of the relationship between social formation and economy in past societies. Through discussing a broad range of readings including ethnographies, archaeology, sociology, history, economics, political science, and cognitive science, we will try to re-define human economy.

ANTH 3091

Why does violence become part of everyday life, and how does it shape who we are, how we see others, and whose stories get heard? Through ethnography, film, and visual art, we explore how violence takes shape through race, gender, incarceration, war, and the state, as well as how people respond, resist, and seek redress. You'll leave with sharper tools for analyzing power, questioning easy explanations, and communicating thoughtfully about complex social issues, skills useful in research, policy, law, journalism, advocacy, and beyond.

ANTH 3094

Sports and athletics give people an opportunity to push their anatomy and physiology to extremes in competitive social settings. Why do some people worry about safety and health of women and girls in athletics? How has evolution influenced our physical capabilities? How does sport, as a social and cultural phenomenon, shape our understandings of bodies? We will explore these and other topics as part of Bioanth and the Female Athlete.

ANTH 3010

Comparative study of selected modern and past groups of hunter-gatherers. Anthropological approaches to understanding subsistence practices, social organization, and cultural change in non-agricultural societies. Both ethnographic and archaeological cases will be considered.

ANTH 3030

How has climate shaped the course of human evolution? This course examines the environmental context of hominin evolution across multiple scales, exploring how ancient climates and landscapes influenced our earliest ancestors. It reviews methods in paleoenvironmental reconstruction and basic features of the hominin paleontological and archaeological records.

ANTH 3140

Primates are a fascinating group of animals that exhibit extraordinary diversity. In this class, you will be given an introduction to this diversity, focusing on biology, ecology, social and mating behavior, communication, and conservation of living nonhuman primates. We will explore these topics from an evolutionary perspective in addition to discussing who studies, and how we study, primates in different settings.

ANTH 3395

This course focuses on symbolic meaning in the vernacular expressive culture or folkloric forms of community groups in New Orleans, French Louisiana, the Gulf South region and selected out migrant locations. It addresses differential identities of tribal, ethnic, regional, religious, linguistic, occupational, class and gender affiliations--and examines aesthetic forms as a primary means to do so. Some of these are largely intangible such as music and dance, ritual and festival, narrative and jokes; others are tangible or material culture to varying degrees such as the built environment (houses, boats, landscape use), crafts, costumes and cuisine. All are examined via ethnographic and historical writing, oral histories and documentary media as to how shared cultural knowledge is performed in an array of contexts. These include dancehalls, Carnival parades, second lines, work settings, festivals, neighborhood museums, sacred spaces and so on.

ANTH 3430

Landscape and place are powerful forces that frame the human experience. How do people relate to places? How do people shape the landscapes in which they live? This course considers these topics through archaeological case studies from around the world. ANTH 6430 is open to graduate students and advanced undergraduate students; students in ANTH 6430 will write longer term papers than students in ANTH 3430 and will also write one book review. ANTH 3430 can be taken as an archaeology or elective within the ANTH major or minor, as an elective for the EVST major or minor, as an elective for LAST, or as a course to fulfill the social sciences requirement or the global perspectives requirement in the NTC core curriculum.

ANTH 3441

Why use a dictionary to look up a word when you can just google it? Can a dictionary save a language from extinction? Take this class on dictionary making and decide.

ANTH 3535

Native American Languages have a wealth of structures uncommon in European languages.: really long words -.Yup'ik Tuntussuqatarniksaitengqiggtuq 'He had not yet said again that he was going to hunt reindeer' and/or required reporting of the source of one's knowledge-mythistory, hearsay, eyewitness, dreams, speculation, or just lying. Come explore a language of the Americas.

ANTH 3560

This course examines the fundamentally important relationship between human behavior and environmental change in the past. It looks at both the ways in which humans have responded to their environmental circumstances and the ways in which human activities have influenced environmental conditions at various scales. The course explores methods for learning about environmental conditions in the past and the nature of human interaction with the environment. The course also presents basic information on some particularly important topics concerning past human/environment interactions, including

(1) causes of global climate change, (2) human roles in Pleistocene megafauna, (3) post-Pleistocene adaptation, (4) the origins of agriculture and animal domestication, (5) agricultural landscape modification and environmental over-exploitation, and (6) Holocene changes in human health, including the origins of modern disease epidemics.

ANTH 3580

How do you research people, communities, and social issues without reproducing the very inequalities you want to understand? Through ethnographies, films, real-world research dilemmas, and hands-on workshops, we explore how power shapes fieldwork and examine feminist, activist, Indigenous, and decolonizing approaches to research. By the end of the course, you'll have designed your own creative research project and gained practical tools for research, analysis, and ethical engagement across a wide range of academic and professional settings.

ANTH 3720

Biological adaptations of living human populations to their environments, and the interaction of these adaptations with cultural patterns. Relationships of body size, form, and composition to climatic and nutritional factors in various geographical groups of modern man. Major adaptive problems facing the human species are discussed and implications for the future explored.

ANTH 3755

The human skeleton is an essential element of the human body, and to the trained analyst (osteologist), human bones can reveal important information on the dynamic relationship between the body, its genes, and the environment throughout an individual's lifetime. Through lecture and hands-on laboratory work, students will be able to identify whole and fragmentary skeletal elements, the side of the body to which they belong, and key anatomical landmarks. We will also explore important themes surrounding osteological analyses including ethical treatment of human remains, bone histology and biology, excavation and preservation, bio-profile analyses, taphonomy, and pathology.

ANTH 6096

"The dead don't bury themselves." Death is one of the few universal human experiences. Mourning, preparing the deceased, and the death ritual shift across time and space. This course focuses on death through a cross-cultural and deep temporal perspective to understand how people engage with death. With particular emphasis on mortuary archaeology, together we will explore ethnographic, bioarchaeological, archaeological, and material culture approaches to understanding the dead and death ritual. Understanding how we approach death and the deceased reveals just as much about the living as those who have departed.

ANTH 6097

This semester we will consider the intersection of culture, emotions, and experience. We will also read important texts about mental health care by considering psychopharmacology, neuroimaging, and trauma. Topics and materials covered will be drawn from around the world with particular emphasis on North America and Asia as well as gender, indigeneity, and science.

ANTH 6210

Origin and development of anthropology since the Renaissance.

ANTH 6520

Theory and techniques involved in collecting, analyzing, and reporting ethnographic data. Validity, reliability, and precision of participant observation: probes and free lists; sampling frames and types of samples appropriate to the unit of analysis; surveys and questionnaires; selection of key informants; interdisciplinary methods; research design. Consideration of ethical issues, potential conflicts of interest, and university review board procedures and policies. Classroom exercises and field projects.