

COURSES FOR ANTHROPOLOGY

Anthropology Courses

ANT500 Discussions in Anthropological Practice

Hours 1

Students will explore the multifaceted landscape of anthropological practice in this lecture series. This course is designed to cultivate a nuanced understanding of the various methods, theories, challenges, and ethical considerations that shape contemporary anthropological research and practice. Through a blend of theoretical exploration and real-world case studies, students will develop the intellectual tools necessary to conduct research within the complex intersections of culture, society, and human experience.

ANT501 Theory and Method in Linguistic Anthropology

Hours 3

Advanced introduction to contemporary linguistic anthropology; explores various theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of language as a semiotic resource for social actors and communities.

ANT502 Health Inequities

Hours 3

Explores the gendered, ethnic, cultural, and class dimensions that underlie the patterning of disease and illness worldwide, with attention to the long-term health effects of racism, sexism and poverty. Topics include reproductive and sexual health, obesity, body image, HIV/AIDS, mental illness, homelessness, and more.

ANT505 Culture, Mind, and Behavior

Hours 3

The cultural and linguistic basis of cognitive organization, local systems of folk classification, and the collection and analysis of data of shared cultural and social information. Offered according to demand.

ANT506 Biocultural Bodies

Hours 3

This course will explore the body as the object and subject of culture. It will examine how viewing the body as a biocultural canvas and looking at culture as "lived through" the materiality of the body influences our understandings of health and health care. Students will be challenged to examine health as a concept that is quantifiable and generalizable as well experiential and person-centered. They will be challenged to view the discipline of medicine as a framework for employing verifiable and shared (or questionable and contested) knowledge of biological systems whose foundational assumptions and core meanings are grounded in particular social and cultural worlds.

ANT507 Psychological Anthropology

Hours 3

In this course, we review three main models of research within psychological anthropology: psychodynamic, cognitive, and experiential/phenomenological. We also gain a comprehensive understanding of person-centered ethnography, which involves in-depth interviews designed to reveal individuals' self-perceptions and experiences in relation to the sociocultural context. Students gain practice in this methodology by conducting a series of interviews over the course of the semester.

ANT509 Ancient Maya Civilizations

Hours 3

What was the lived daily experience in the pre-contact Maya world? How did aspects of material culture such as architecture, food, musical instruments, tools, and clothing frame Maya society, and how were these elements also framed by it? How are perceptions of the ancient Maya marshaled in today's politics and policies? In this course, we will engage with the world of the pre- and post-contact Maya, through scholarship that explores the material culture of daily life. The course is arranged around framing questions about the past through ethnographic and ethnohistoric accounts of daily life; using diverse scientific methods and theoretical perspectives to address these questions; and interpreting and possibly re-interpreting daily life of the ancient Maya, focusing on the dynamic interplay between the material and the social.

ANT510 Ethnography of Communication

Hours 3

Students in this course will learn to use the concepts and methods of ethnography of communication by developing and carrying out a research project on language and social interaction. You will learn how social interaction is organized, how to document and study it, and how to address such evidence to anthropological and applied problems. Graduate students will produce a research report worthy of submission to a research conference of their professional scholarly organization. All students will finish the course with a critical and sophisticated understanding of how social interaction works in a variety of contexts.

ANT511 Culture Health & Healing

Hours 3

Provides the student with an overview of health, illness, and healing as they vary between and within cultural systems.

ANT512 Anthropology of Europe

Hours 3

The course examines ethnicity, nationalism, democratization, unification, and fragmentation with an emphasis on specific countries or regions within Europe. Classic anthropological topics, such as kinship, political organization, ritual, and religion are employed in the study of European nations, ethnicities, and minority communities.

ANT514 Anthropology of Africa

Hours 3

Students in this class will learn about the diversity of cultural beliefs and behaviors across the African continent, make connections between local/global historical events and contemporary contexts, and evaluate the factors influencing perceptions of African cultures. Topics covered include continent history, stereotypes of Africa, sorcery, health and disease, apartheid, subsistence living, childhood, feminism, identity in the diaspora, and art. Students will additionally compare contemporary and historical ethnographies as well as those written by African and non-African anthropologists.

ANT519 Myth, Ritual, And Magic

Hours 3

Across cultures, people rely on various belief systems to bring meaning to their lives and understanding of the world around them. This course will dive into the anthropological literature on themes related to religion, including myth, ritual, magic, witchcraft, totemism, shamanism and trance. Cross-cultural ethnographic examples—including a range of religious, spiritual, and magical belief systems—will be provided to illuminate how anthropologists analyze belief systems in their interpretations of culture.

ANT521 Ethnography

Hours 3

Ethnography is a hallmark of anthropology. It is at once a theoretical approach, set of methods, and style of writing. This course highlights ethnographic theory, methods for collecting ethnographic material, and techniques for writing about culture by reading exemplary texts, discussing key concepts, and practicing various methods. Each student will develop an ethnographic project that involves fieldwork, data analysis, and writing.

ANT522 Archaeological Ethics

Hours 3

Students all encounter dilemmas in their everyday lives. Oftentimes, these situations do not present a clear solution, forcing us to ponder the morals and codes we live by and the manner in which we attempt to present logical responses to ethical conundrums. The field of archaeology may, at first, seem like an odd candidate for discussion of ethics given that it studies past peoples. Students will learn that archaeology is indeed heavily situated in the present and has many ties to such subjects as identity, notions of nationhood and nation-building, collective memory, and historical revision. This class will explore the legal and ethical dimensions of modern archaeology through a consideration of the archaeology as a profession, professional codes on archaeological ethics, the relationship between archaeology and others (the public, ethnic groups, collectors, etc.), international and national approaches to archaeological heritage management, the antiquities trade, maritime law, underwater archaeology, and treasure hunting, cultural resource management in the United States, and archaeological education.

ANT523 Legal Anthropology

Hours 3

What is law? Do all societies have it? Is there really something distinct about “thinking like a lawyer”? This seminar primarily draws on anthropological studies of legal systems and practices to show that the answers to these questions are surprisingly complex. We will study law both cross-culturally and, within the United States, cross-contextually, in order to explore what really distinguishes legal rules from cultural norms and to ask whether basic legal concepts exist across cultures.

ANT525 Geographical Information Systems for Archaeologists

Hours 3

This course covers the basic background and skills necessary to manage and analyze spatial datasets using GIS (Geographic Information Systems). We will emphasize the GIS concepts and techniques that are most useful to archaeologists, and we will be working with real archaeological data for all labs and projects. Topics include data acquisition, spatial queries, working with rasters, catchments, cost# surface analysis and visualization analysis. The course includes a weekly guided lab on ESRI ArcGIS software.

ANT527 Radiocarbon for Archaeologists

Hours 3

Radiocarbon (AMS 14C) dating is the most commonly used dating method in archaeological research. The purpose of this class is to gain a deep understanding of radiocarbon so that we, as archaeologists, can better sample/collect, calibrate, and analyze these data for our own research, and critically evaluate the scholarly literature. We will further our understanding of radiocarbon and its archaeological applications through course lectures, presentations and discussions of the recent literature, calculation and calibration activities, and individual research projects. This course has relevancy for any student interested in field archaeology, as it will train them to collect appropriate samples for dating and design dating strategies that are consistent with their research goals.

ANT528 Analytical Archaeology

Hours 3

Contemporary issues in concept formation, theory construction, methods, and techniques. Offered according to demand.

ANT533 Geoarchaeology

Hours 3

Geoarchaeology is a field-based discipline that implements earth science methods in archaeology. This course explores the varied applications of earth science in the investigation of archaeological sites by using a landscape-approach to survey geoarchaeological case studies. Methodological emphasis will be on stratigraphy, sedimentology, and soils. This course include will be mixed lecture and student-led seminar-style discussion on our weekly readings. Student participation in the form of weekly discussions, a research paper, and a final class presentation are expected. This course is intended for any student interested in learning more about field interpretation of archaeological sites.

ANT534 Archaeology of Food

Hours 3

This course will undertake a broad survey of the literature on modern and ancient foodways, addressing major themes including the domestication of plants and animals; food and social complexity; food, power, politics, and status; the daily meal; feasting and drinking; plating and presentation; food preferences/taste and disgust; and the intimate relationship between food and identity. Furthermore, we discuss the wide range of methods and techniques in the archaeologist’s toolkit that aid in the undertaking of gastronomic research, including the analysis of plant and animal remains, residues recovered from cooking and serving ware, and the chemical composition of human bones.

ANT543 Adv Field Archaeology

Hours 3

Directed field study in the excavation and analysis of archaeological deposits. Each student must design and conduct a research project, then adequately report the results. Off campus.

ANT545 Historical Archaeology

Hours 3

12 hours of anthropology or permission of instructor; graduate standing This course combines the methods used in historical archaeology with a basic survey of the archaeological record of the historic period of North America.

ANT550 Probs In Anthropology

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Hours 3

Devoted to issues not covered in other courses. Offered according to demand.

Special Topics Course

ANT562 Ancient Andean Civilizations

Hours 3

The Andes is a region of geographic and environmental extremes that witnessed the early rise of complex societies long before the Inca Empire. In this course, we examine the prehispanic cultures that resided in this region—from the peopling of South America to the aftermath of Spanish Conquest.

ANT564 Paleoethnobotany

Hours 3

This laboratory class is designed to introduce archaeological laboratory methods, reasoning and interpretation through paleoethnobotanical identification and data analysis. We will be studying the major classes of plant remains likely to be encountered in archaeological sites, how to identify them, and how to organize the data to produce interpretable results. The course will emphasize the use of plant remains to answer archaeological questions, rather than study the plant remains for their own sake.

ANT571 Fossil Humans and Evolution

Hours 3

A survey of the discoveries, methods, and theories that provide the background for modern research in macroevolution in the human lineage.

ANT573 Human Osteology

Hours 4

A detailed introduction to human osteology, emphasizing the identification of fragmentary remains and the criteria for determination of age, sex, and race. Offered according to demand.

ANT574 Neuroanthropology

Hours 3

This course provides an introduction to evolutionary and biocultural approaches within anthropology to the central and peripheral nervous systems and their interconnections. Topics include the evolution of the brain; how culture and social structure shape the brain, its development, and its activity; and anthropological perspectives on connections among culture, behavior, brain, mind, and body.

ANT575 The Plastic Human: Our Biology, Culture, & Evolution

Hours 3

An introduction to the biocultural and evolutionary bases of human adaptability.

ANT576 Nutritional Anthropology

Hours 3

An introduction to anthropological inquiries and methods in nutrition including food habits, food systems, dietary variability, and food movements using an engaged anthropological framework. This experiential learning class teaches students how to conduct nutritional anthropological fieldwork within local community settings.

ANT578 Anthro of Human Development

Hours 3

Health culturally competent socialized adults and mature physical forms arise from a developmental process with evolutionary, biological, social and cultural dimensions. We survey child/human development from an anthropological perspective, considering interactions across levels of analysis from genes to culture.

ANT581 Anthropology is Elemental: Teaching Anthropology in Primary and Secondary Settings

Hours 3

This course is an introduction to teaching anthropology at the primary and secondary levels. It is a service-learning course, which means that all students will serve as instructors in a local anthropology course offered in the Tuscaloosa area. This course will expose students to applied anthropology through teaching the anthropological perspective via an activity-based four-subfield curriculum in conjunction with local elementary schools, after-school programs, or similar community partners. These programs will be taught by teams, and each student will be responsible for attending weekly course meetings, developing curricular material and implementing it in a classroom setting, and co-teaching with other students.

ANT598 Individ Investigations

Hours 1-9

Directed nonthesis research in archaeology, cultural anthropology, anthropological linguistics, or physical anthropology.

ANT599 Thesis Research

Hours 1-6

*No description available***ANT600 Research Design**

Hours 3

This course will acquaint incoming graduate student with the logical sequence of stages involved in the conduct of original research, and to provide an introduction to the broad range of skills necessary to achieve this. Each student will be expected to design and carry out preliminary data collection, write up the results, and use the experience as the basis for writing a fundable research grant proposal. Prerequisites for the course are graduate standing, and consent of professor for any student not enrolled in the UA Anthropology graduate program.

ANT601 Advanced Research Methods

Hours 3

This seminar is designed to refine doctoral students' background in qualitative and quantitative research methods necessary for dissertation research. Emphasis is placed on the integration of qualitative and quantitative methods for students doing ethnographic research, and techniques of numerical induction for archaeology students.

ANT602 Advanced Qualitative Methods in Anthropology

Hours 3

This course provides students with an in-depth understanding of qualitative ethnographic research methods. It also provides students with the skills to understand and critically evaluate reports based on qualitative analysis. Students will learn to formulate qualitative research questions that tie directly into existing research literature.

ANT603 Theory & Method In Archaeology

Hours 3

An examination of contemporary archaeological theory and method and their development during the 19th and 20th centuries.

ANT604 Sem Archaeology Complex Society

Hours 3

Contemporary issues in the archaeology of complex societies, including different aspects of complexity and attempts to classify and measure them.

ANT610 Theory Method Medical Anthropol

Hours 3

A detailed introduction to theory and method in medical anthropology. Approaches include adaptation, biocultural, psychoanalytic, stress, and other theoretical perspectives.

Prerequisite(s): ANT 511 and ANT 600

ANT612 Sem Biocultural Anthropology

Hours 3

A biocultural overview of the anthropology of health. Topics include biological and cultural approaches to various dimensions of human health and illness.

ANT621 Native Americans Ethnohy Persp

Hours 3

An examination of Indians and Eskimos of North America during the historical period, focusing on the impact of European contact on culture and society.

ANT625 Survey History Archaeology

Hours 3

A critical examination of archaeology's history as a science, with emphasis on intellectual trends, changes in method and theory, and recent developments. Offered once a year.

ANT640 Landmarks Anthropology Resear

Hours 3

This course examines seminal works in the history of anthropology. Works may include books or smaller publications that exemplify important developments in theory and method.

ANT641 Culture

Hours 3

This seminar reviews past and contemporary theories and approaches used in cultural anthropology.

ANT670 Principles of Biological Anthropology

Hours 3

A series of seminars and lectures designed to refine the student's knowledge of research on nonhuman primates, fossil hominids, population genetics, and human variation and adaptation. Offered once a year.

ANT698 Individual Investigations

Hours 1-9

Directed dissertation research in archaeology, cultural anthropology, anthropological linguistics, or physical anthropology.

ANT699 Dissertation Research

Hours 1-15

No description available

MUSM500 Museum Internship

Hours 3

This course is normally taken near the end of the museum studies program after the majority of other required courses have been completed. For the internship, students will develop a project proposal for a 40-hour unpaid internship at a host museum of their choice. Once the proposal is approved by the MUSM Internship Coordinator and MUSM Chair, students will complete the internship at their chosen host museum and be evaluated by their host museum supervisor and MUSM Internship Coordinator.

Prerequisite(s): Enrollment in the MUSM program, completion of at least two of the required courses (MUSM 501, MUSM 502, and MUSM 503), Academic Advisor's approval of the internship proposal, and MUSM Administrator's approval of the internship proposal.

MUSM501 Museum Administration

Hours 3

This course utilizes case studies, analysis of timely topical issues, and problem-based learning exercises to explore many facets of museum studies relevant to administration and management in not-for-profit museums of various types (art, history, natural history, or science/technology). Intended for students considering a career in arts administration, or museums specifically, this course provides an inter-disciplinary introduction to museum work. Students will gain an understanding of the history and philosophy of museums, the role of museums in society, collecting policies, governance, strategic planning, budgeting, grant-writing, museum ethics, multicultural issues, and legal issues in museums. Behind-the-scenes visits to museums and guest speakers will be included.

MUSM502 Museum Collections Management

Hours 3

This course considers the intellectual, physical, legal, financial, social, and ethical challenges of preserving and providing access to museum collections. Through lectures, readings, hands-on activities, and field trips students explore the theory and practice of collections management and learn how to maximize available resources for collections care in any museum regardless of size.

Prerequisite(s): This course has no prerequisites. Students are expected only to have an interest in the course topic and content, a willingness to be active participants in the learning community that the course is designed to create, and the time and energy to complete the required in-class and out-of-class learning activities and assignments.

MUSM503 Museum Education and Exhibition

Hours 3

This course provides an overview of museum exhibition and education initiatives; two of the most important functions of all museums. The emphasis of the first part of the course will be on critiquing, designing and presenting museum exhibitions to various audiences. As exhibition and education are intricately linked in museums, the education component of this course will explore various ways to engage the visiting public through museum displays as well as other public outreach programs. Students should be prepared to not only design appealing museums displays but also successfully export their content in various formats to various publics that include schoolchildren.

Prerequisite(s): This course has no prerequisites. Students are expected only to have an interest in the course topic and content, a willingness to be active participants in the learning community that the course is designed to create, and the time and energy to complete the required in-class and out-of-class learning activities and assignments.

MUSM505 Exhibit Design & Production

Hours 3

This course introduces future museum professionals to an artistic perspective on exhibit design and production. We will learn to use modern tools to enhance a variety of design scenarios. Lighting, material, and manufacturing technologies will be explored. Digital design software training will establish a skill set with immediate practical applications that students can easily build upon. Student designers will refine strategies and techniques required to engage today's ever-changing audience, developing unique artistic responses to inspirational content selected from the vast collections of the University Museums. The class will visit sites for both display and manufacturing research. Hands-on exhibit development will help students to generate a portfolio of projects to assist with placement in the professional museum job market.