ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTH 0500    HISTORY OF CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY    3 cr.

Appropriate for any Social Science major, but particularly for Cultural Anthropology majors. The course covers the major ideas in anthropology from the 19th through the 20th century, from cultural evolution and social Darwinism to cognitive anthropology. One concern will be on how fieldwork influenced theory and vice versa. The course will function as a seminar.

Prerequisite: None.

ANTH 0536    MESOAMERICA BEFORE CORTEZ    3 cr.

When Cortez and his Spanish soldiers arrived in Mexico, they found Indians living in large cities with impressive temples raised on tall pyramids, lavish palaces for rulers, elaborate markets, and skilled craftsmen working in gold, copper, feathers, stone, pottery, and other materials. They were astonished at a civilization so like their own and yet so different (so "barbaric" to European eyes). The course explores the development of this civilization back to its roots several thousand years ago, by reconstructing earlier cultures known only from archaeological evidence.

Prerequisite: None.

ANTH 0582    INTRODUCTION TO ARCHEOLOGY    3 cr.

The course examines the nature of modern archeological research. Looks at how archeologists work in the field, their analytic techniques, and some of the principal methodological and theoretical problems facing the field. Specific examples are used to illustrate these topics.

Prerequisite: None.

ANTH 0680    INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY    3 cr.

This course is designed to introduce the issues, theories, and methods of physical anthropology. Beginning with a consideration of evolutionary, genetic, and geologic principles, the course goes on to consider the diversity of fossil and extant primates, including humans. Issues in anatomy, paleontology, and behavior will all be addressed.

Prerequisite: None.
ANTH 0780  INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY  3 cr.

Goals of this course are to 1) achieve a fundamental understanding of the central concepts and methods of sociocultural anthropology (including what sociocultural anthropologists do, how and why; 2) enhance our understanding and appreciation for diverse life ways and worldviews – cultures – and by so doing 3) reflect upon and take a critical stance towards our own culture and society. Some topics to be covered in the course include economics, political systems, gender constructions, kinship and family, religion, language, and social change. Consists of lectures, films, and readings.

Prerequisite: None.

ANTH 0950  TRANSACTION/EXCHANGE IN NON-WESTERN CULTURE  3 cr.

Pig feasts in New Guinea, bride wealth in East Africa, caste relations in India, the Kula ring in the Trobriand Islands, tribal warfare, and the meaning of money, are only a few examples of the different types and levels of exchange to be found in various cultures around the world. The subject of this course combines both economic and ecological anthropology; the materials reflect this orientation and encourage a holistic and contextual treatment of transactional behaviors.

Prerequisite: ANTH 0780.

ANTH 1030  INDIA THROUGH FILM  3 cr.

This course examines Indian culture through the popular medium of art and commercial films since the 1950s. Topics such as gender, class, family, secularism, religion and morality, urban and rural life, communalism and violence, colonialism and nationalism will be analyzed in conjunction with anthropological readings on these issues. All films in this course are produced in India, or have Indian producers outside India. Films are subtitled, and some viewings will be independently screened due to the length of the films.

Prerequisite: None.

ANTH 1110  THEORY IN ANTHROPOLOGY  3 cr.

What are people like? What motivates them? How is “culture” constituted? How do we study culture, past and present? What might be the distinctions between culture and society in approaches to the study of human behavior? To what extent is human behavior comparable and universal? This course seeks to address these questions by examining the development of theory in anthropology from its 19th century roots to the present. We shall do this by looking at some major paradigms (evolution, structuralism, processualism, post-structuralism, etc.) and methodologies which have shaped the cultural component of anthropology (sociocultural anthropology and archaeology) as we find it today. Required for students in the sociocultural track, and is recommended for students in the archaeology track. Taken in at the junior-senior level prior to ANTH 1955.

Prerequisite: ANTH 0582 or ANTH 0780; ANTH major.
ANTH 1164 INTEGRATED FIELD TRIP ABROAD-INDIA 3 cr.

Takes students on a three-week project-focused experience in eastern India. It is literally "Integrated" with the ANTH 1764 and therefore an extension of it.

Corequisite: ANTH 1764.

ANTH 1220 CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE HUMAN CHALLENGE 3 cr.

Drought and famine in the horn of Africa, the affected wine industry in France, loss of islands in the South Pacific, the opening of arctic seas. Environments in flux present us with dilemmas that span the spectrum of human life, from sheer survival to economic “windfalls.” This course explores some of the issues related to shifting climate in various regions in the world today. It examines the impacts, consequences, and “solutions” for human populations and environments, with a focus on the differing worldviews/cultures at play in connection with things economic, political, and ethical.

Prerequisite: None.

ANTH 1305 RELIGION AND CULTURE 3 cr.

The relationship of religion to human behavior in tribal societies will be examined. The objective is to gain an understanding of the different theories that have been offered to explain the widespread existence of religion. Special attention is given to the problem of defining religion and Shamanism.

Prerequisite: ANTH 0780.

ANTH 1310 MIGRATION AND DIASPORAS 3 cr.

The seemingly accelerated movement of peoples in today’s world is an often misunderstood phenomenon, triggering political and socioeconomic anxieties in recipient localities (for both “internal” and “external” migrations). Examines the situations, conditions, motivations, etc. which initiate the various movements of peoples in different parts of the world, and their respective experiences.

Prerequisite: None.

ANTH 1320 FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGY 3 cr.

This course deals with applications of physical anthropology to criminal investigation. Topics covered include bone growth and development, comparative osteology, methodology, and crime scene search and recovery. Through a combination of lectures and labs, students will learn the skills required of a forensic anthropologist.

Prerequisite: None.
ANTH 1421 GEOARCHEOLOGY 3 cr.
Available to advanced students in Archaeology, is designed to introduce geological principles, methods, and techniques employed in contemporary archeological research. Topics include a detailed study of agencies and environments of sediment deposition, soil formation processes, and paleo-environmental reconstructions.

Prerequisites: ANTH 0582 and (ANTH 1525 or ANTH 1526).

ANTH 1445 LANGUAGE AND CULTURE 3 cr.
Language is the primary means of communication among humans. It operates on multiple levels: verbal, non-verbal, social, and cultural. The first portion of the course seeks to understand what language is by briefly looking at its components such as phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics. The second part of the course focuses on the connexions between language and culture based on the social contexts of its use (gender, class, setting, etc.).

Prerequisite: None.

ANTH 1475 IDENTITY AND ETHNICITY IN SOUTH ASIA 3 cr.
This course explores, from anthropological interpretation and with a historical perspective, the ongoing complexities of individual and group identity constructions on language, class, caste, “nation,” and religion in South Asia (India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal, and Bangladesh).

Prerequisite: None.

ANTH 1481 THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF DEATH 3 cr.
Death as process and as fact generates a plethora of practices, beliefs, and responses cross-culturally. This course explores aging and death by examining cultural meanings and social actions employed by various cultures in dealing with the end of life, from the vantage of both the dying and the living. Included will be issues of identity and transformation, religion and ritual, as well as, the material implications of death.

Prerequisite: None.

ANTH 1485 THE LOCAL AND THE GLOBAL IN ANTHROPOLOGY 3 cr.
The contemporary “global” world, so labeled due to an interlocked economy, bears with it an array of seeming “dilemmas,” confusions, and blurs of boundaries. Accelerated movements of peoples, cultures and ideas, labor and work, diseases, etc. serve to transform human experience everywhere and to bring into question notions of autonomy and identity in the world at large. Using anthropological insight and engagement, the course addresses the dynamic interaction between local cultures and the forces of globalization.

Prerequisite: None.
ANTH 1510  SURVEY OF WORLD PREHISTORY  3 cr.

This course surveys the evolution of culture over the past four million years. Topics include the evolution of Homo sapiens, development of agriculture, and rise of civilizations from the perspectives of the Old World and the Americas.

Prerequisite: None.

ANTH 1525  EASTERN NORTH AMERICAN ARCHEOLOGY  3 cr.

This course deals with cultural development in the eastern United States from 12,000 years ago to the period of European contact. Particular attention will be paid to man’s adaptation to late Pleistocene and Holocene environments, initial occupation of the region, origins of agriculture, and the rise of complex societies, including the Adena, Hopewell, and Mississippian.

Prerequisite: ANTH 0582.

ANTH 1526  WESTERN NORTH AMERICAN ARCHEOLOGY  3 cr.

The prehistory of western North America is examined in detail from the initial peopling of the area to the period of historic contact. Special emphasis is given to the Paleo-Indian and archaic techno/subsistence stages in the arid portions of the west.

Prerequisite: ANTH 0582.

ANTH 1534  ARCHEOLOGICAL DATA ANALYSIS 1  4 cr.

This course covers all salient methods of site investigation from excavation and mapping to basic artifact analysis and interpretation. Course sometimes offers fieldwork experience in a laboratory setting using a simulated archeological site.

Prerequisites: ANTH 0582 and (ANTH 1525 or ANTH 1526).

ANTH 1535  BASIC ARCHEOLOGICAL FIELD TRAINING  3-6 cr.

The Pitt-Greensburg summer field training program in Archeology is conducted at various locations. Features of the excavations include basic training in mapping, archeological survey, excavation methods, soil analysis, data recording, and preliminary artifact analysis.

Note: Department Consent required.

ANTH 1540  SPECIAL TOPICS IN ARCHEOLOGY  3 cr.

Topics covered vary greatly with instructor and term.

Prerequisites: ANTH 0582, ANTH 1525, ANTH 1526.
ANTH 1544  ANCENT CIVILIZATIONS  3 cr.

The course examines the rise and fall of several ancient civilizations. It covers the archaeology and earliest history of regions recognized as significant independent centers for the development of early civilization: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Indus Valley, China, Southeast Asia, Mesoamerica, and Andean South America. Central themes concern: Why and how civilizations first emerge and then collapse; relationships among economic, political, social, and ideological factors in early civilizations; generic versus unique qualities of different early civilizations.

Prerequisite: None.

ANTH 1626  PALEOINDIAN NORTH AMERICA  3 cr.

Intensive scrutiny of the peopling of the New World. Emphases include antecedent Siberian Paleolithic cultures, Paleoclimatic backgrounds, as well as, the spread and development of indigenous Paleo-Indian populations throughout the Western Hemisphere.

Prerequisites: ANTH 0582.

ANTH 1627  PRIMITIVE TECHNOLOGY  3 cr.

Workshop designed as an introduction to flint knapping and lithic analysis used in contemporary archeological research. Provides hands-on experience in all facets of stone tool manufacture, use, and analysis.

Prerequisites: ANTH 0582 and (ANTH 1525 or ANTH 1526 or ANTH 1626).

ANTH 1705  SUPERNATURAL WORLDS: ANTHROPOLOGY OF RELIGION  3 cr.

This course endeavors to place things religious within the wider context of society and culture. This approach to religion is comparative, allowing for greater insights into the influences of supernatural beliefs in one’s own social and cultural setting. Examines theories in the anthropology of religion and address specific topics such as 1) myth, symbol, and ritual; 2) magic, witchcraft, and divination; 3) healing and possession; 4) “divine politics.”

Prerequisite: None.

ANTH 1732  POLITICS IN CROSS-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE  3 cr.

Whether it be Melanesian big men, caste councils in India, Polynesian chiefdoms, or modern states, an understanding of political realms involves a consideration of both systemic and individual levels of cultural ideologies and practice. In this course, we will examine some of the key literature in political anthropology that focus on notions of power and powerlessness, agency, and autonomy from an anthropological cross-cultural vantage, past and present.

Prerequisite: ANTH 0780.
Students who wish to gain academic credit for attendance and participation in “News of the World” may now do so. The format of the meetings will remain informal and continuous, and will be for 1 credit per term, for up to three credits for three (not necessarily contiguous) terms. Students who wish to register for credit will be evaluated on a minimum number of attended meetings, on participation and sharing, and on two write-ups. This course fulfills an international culture requirement.

Prerequisite: None.

This course analyzes gender perspectives in Anthropology. Gender, as understood here, is inclusive of female, male, and alternate genders. We also account for the connections and distinctions between biology, sexuality, and gender from evolutionary and cross-cultural vantages. Students are asked to consider how gender categorizations relate to productive labor, property rights, family and kin relations, and violence. Special attention is given to the way gender and sexual differences are represented in culture.

Prerequisite: None.

Survey of the aboriginal peoples of North America stressing cultural areas and continuity of culture patterns.

Prerequisite: None.

Comparative study of political organization and control in non-Western societies using ethnographic data from several major areas. Such areas as leadership, decision making, sanctions, and political symbols will receive particular attention. A comparative framework will be the basis for the analysis of political change.

Prerequisite: None.

Surveys the field of Medical Anthropology and its history within the discipline of Anthropology, from the perspective of sociocultural theory. Topics include ethno medicine, ethnographic cases, cross-cultural studies of healing practices, and connections between medicine and religion. Reference is also made to applied research in contemporary situations.

Prerequisite: None.
ANTH 1762  HUMAN ECOLOGY  3 cr.

This course explores the relationship of humans and their environments. We shall examine how humans adapt and manipulate their physical and non-physical environments, both in terms of classical ethnographic accounts of resource exploitation and the current problematic of human-environment relations. Broad topics to be explored are political ecology, subsistence strategies and production decisions, population growth and regulation, resource management, and energy exploitation and human society.

Prerequisites: ANTH 0780 and one other ANTH course.

ANTH 1764  CULTURES AND SOCIETIES OF INDIA  3 cr.

This course introduces students to the description and analysis of modern India. As a part of our understanding, we will by necessity, also explore some of the historical cultural, social, and political linkages that continue to shape today's India. Topics to be covered include religion, caste, kinship and marriage, women, politics, and urban-rural communities.

Prerequisite: None.

ANTH 1767  ETHNIC IDENTITIES  3 cr.

This course addresses the re-emergence of ethnicity as a major node of identity in the contemporary world. From an anthropological perspective, it examines the meanings and the cultural, social, economic, political, and historical content of ethnic identity, its links with nationalism and "multiculturalism," with a focus on South Asia, Europe, and the United States.

Prerequisite: None.

ANTH 1787  SPECIAL TOPICS IN ANTHROPOLOGY  3 cr.

From time to time, and according to pertinent expertise and demand, specialized topics will be offered in sociocultural Anthropology. Past topics have included Slavery, Popular Culture, and Environmental Movements in India.

Prerequisite: ANTH 0780.

ANTH 1955  ANTHROPOLOGY CAPSTONE  3 cr.

Taken in the senior year by Anthropology majors, this course presumes a basic knowledge of anthropological information and technique. Using a research seminar format, students will develop a substantial group or individual research project. Following discussion and revision, they will complete this project. The project will be presented to the seminar in oral and written form.

Prerequisites: Senior; ANTH 0780. Note: Instructor Consent required.
ANTH 1956  ARCHEOLOGY CAPSTONE  3 cr.

Taken in the senior year by students in the Archaeology track.

Prerequisites: Senior; ANTH 1525, ANTH 1526 or (ANTH 1534 and ANTH 1626).  Note: Instructor Consent required.