ANTHROPOLOGY (ANTH)

Anthropology is a field of visionaries, makers and collaborators, taking a critical, creative and holistic approach to the study of humankind. We teach hands-on courses in archaeology and socio-cultural, applied, biological and forensic anthropology, reflecting our faculty members’ research in the Americas, Europe, Africa, and Central and Southeast Asia. Through coursework, fieldwork and study-abroad experiences, you’ll gain life-long learning skills that prepare you for success in cross-cultural understanding and communication, working for diverse organizations and tackling complex social issues in today’s global world. Our students are employed in a range of areas such as public health, business, international development, museums and education.

https://cola.unh.edu/anthropology

Programs


Courses

Anthropology (ANTH)

ANTH 411 - Global Perspectives on the Human Condition: An Introduction to Anthropology
Credits: 4
This course introduces students to the core concepts, methods, and research of contemporary cultural anthropology, as well as to the ways in which the discipline is relevant to their daily lives. Students will learn how anthropology approaches the study of culture, language and communication, family and kinship, gender and sexuality, race and ethnicity, economic relationships, political systems, religion, social change and globalization. Ethnographic material from both the U.S. and cross-culturally, as well as a series of hands-on, experiential and interactive activities, will demonstrate anthropological concepts and questions.
Attributes: World Cultures(Discovery); Writing Intensive Course

ANTH 411W - Global Perspectives on the Human Condition: An Introduction to Anthropology
Credits: 4
This course introduces students to the core concepts, methods, and research of contemporary cultural anthropology, as well as to the ways in which the discipline is relevant to their daily lives. Students will learn how anthropology approaches the study of culture, language and communication, family and kinship, gender and sexuality, race and ethnicity, economic relationships, political systems, religion, social change and globalization. Ethnographic material from both the U.S. and cross-culturally, as well as a series of hands-on, experiential and interactive activities, will demonstrate anthropological concepts and questions.
Attributes: World Cultures(Discovery); Writing Intensive Course

ANTH 412 - Broken Pots and Buried Cities: Adventures in Archaeology
Credits: 4
Traces the history of archaeology’s most spectacular finds and how those moments of adventure and glory developed into a scientific discipline. Provides an introduction to the methods used by archaeologists to recover, analyze, and interpret data in their ongoing effort to understand humanity through the analysis of those small things left behind.
Attributes: Social Science (Discovery)

ANTH 415 - The Human Story: Evolution, Fossils and DNA
Credits: 4
This course uses an evolutionary approach to investigate human biological and bio-cultural variation in time and space. Through a study of the basics of population genetics, an evaluation of our closest living relatives, nonhuman primates, and an exploration of the biological and cultural pathways traversed by our ancestors to become modern Homo sapiens, students learn the depth and complexity of the human story. Laboratory exercises dealing with human genetics, hominin fossils, and evolution are integrated with lectures to give students hands-on learning experience. No credit earned if credit received for ANTH 413.
Attributes: Biological Science(Discovery)

ANTH 440A - Honors/Medicine and Culture: Science, Technology and the Body
Credits: 4
This course takes a comparative, cross-cultural approach to global medicine. Through critical readings, multimedia presentations, class discussions, and expository writing, we consider how techno-scientific developments, transnational flows, environmental transformations, and historical inequities shape how we know and experience our bodies. Key course topics include controversies surrounding new medical technologies, the intersections between Western and non-Western medical systems, and innovative responses to chronic global diseases.
Attributes: Environment, TechSociety(Disc)

ANTH 440B - Honors/Saving Culture: Heritage Management
Credits: 4
Culture and heritage are increasingly important topics for scholars, art connoisseurs, politicians, and the public alike. The Taj Mahal in India is the UNESCO world heritage site, but is yoga that many around the world engage in? Who decides what heritage is and what counts as culture? How do these decisions impact peoples’ daily lives? The course introduces students to the concept of cultural heritage and how it “works” in complex, non-universal ways.
Attributes: World Cultures(Discovery)
ANTH 444 - The Lost Campus: The Archaeology of UNH  
Credits: 4  
In this course, students are active participants in the systematic documentation and examination of the University of New Hampshire’s cultural heritage resources. Students are introduced to the practice and process of archaeology through lectures, readings, assignments and hands-on archival research and archaeological fieldwork. Students learn the foundational methods of archaeology including survey, mapping, documentation, excavation, artifact identification, artifact interpretation, and presenting results to the public.  
Attributes: Historical Perspectives(Disc); Inquiry (Discovery)  

ANTH 450 - Introduction to Race, Culture, and Power  
Credits: 4  
Race, culture, and power intersect at a social space where those in that space experience differing opportunities and access to social and economic privileges, resources, and power. This course explains the way race functions today as a social and cultural category to justify systematic inequality and differences in power and to obscure the functioning of the global economy. The course draws on emerging literature on Blackness, Whiteness, and Minorities and on analyses of the differential implementation of social welfare policies in the United States.  
(Also listed as INCO #450.)  

ANTH 500 - Peoples and Cultures of the World  
Credits: 4  
Explores cultures and peoples from specific geographic regions of the world. Broadly considers social, gendered, economic, and political changes in ecological and historical context, focusing on precolonial, colonial, and contemporary societies and globalization.  
Attributes: World Cultures(Discovery)  

ANTH 501 - World Archaeological Cultures  
Credits: 4  
The development of prehistoric cultures worldwide offered in the following sections: A) North America; B) Mesoamerica; C) South America; D) Near East; E) Europe; F) Asia. North America: from earliest settlement to European contact, includes Eastern Woodlands, The Plains, and the Southwest. Mesoamerica: from earliest cultures through Spanish conquest, includes the Olmec, Maya, and Aztec civilizations. South America: Cultural development from earliest migrations to the Inca Empire. Near East: from earliest agricultural villages to the world’s first civilizations.  
Attributes: World Cultures(Discovery)  

ANTH #508 - Anthropology of the Internet  
Credits: 4  
While adopting an anthropological lens in this course we explore how and in what ways digital environment, cyberspace in particular, affects an individual, community, and the state, and how, in turn individuals affect the digital landscape. Focusing on the dynamic interaction between digital environment and humans we will (1) tease out what is “new” about our contemporary moment, (2) clarify changes and continuity that characterize this digital age and its effects on our daily lives, (3) explore vitualitias part of our daily experiences, and (4) learn how in what ways cyberspace becomes a place of personal achievement, dwelling of community-like formations, social control, and politics.  
Attributes: Social Science (Discovery)  

ANTH 510 - Animals, Identity, and Culture  
Credits: 4  
This course explores the roles of identity and culture in shaping the relationships humans form with other animals. A range of relationships are investigated, including those that figure animals as beings sharing in personhood, as prey, as technologies, as workers, as food, and as family. Inspired by the explosion of new research in multiple disciplines, this course emphasizes cross-cultural and transhistorical variations, while also exploring some of the biosocial features humans share with other animals.  

ANTH 511 - Core Concepts in Anthropology  
Credits: 4  
This foundational course, required of anthropology majors in the first year of declaring their major, provides students with a broadly biocultural approach to important anthropological topics. These themes will be explored through a focus on writing in the major, involving extensive research and reading in anthropological publications and writing according to the conventions of the field of Anthropology. Students will learn about humans as both biological and cultural beings, how we adapt to our social and natural environments over time, and how anthropology applies to today’s changing world. Past and present examples of human biocultural adaptation will be explored (e.g., technological, linguistic, and social developments).  
Attributes: Writing Intensive Course  

ANTH 513 - Ethnographic Methods  
Credits: 4  
The course introduces students to social science research and differences between quantitative and qualitative research methods, and provides a hands-on experience to develop skills in interviewing, participant-observation, life-history, surveying, socio-linguistics, fieldnotes, and ethics of the research.  
Attributes: Inquiry (Discovery)  

ANTH 514 - Method and Theory in Archaeology  
Credits: 4  
Basic method and theory; techniques in recovering and interpreting data; laboratory exercises in ceramic and lithic analysis. Critical evaluation of archaeological literature.  
Attributes: Inquiry (Discovery)  

ANTH #515 - Anthropology and Contemporary Issues  
Credits: 4  
Anthropological approaches to current world issues such as racism, poverty, religious movements, revolution, and environmental stress. Selected topics examined in the context of both western and nonwestern societies.  

ANTH 525 - Anthropology of the Body: Fat, Fitness and Form  
Credits: 4  
This course surveys the way our human bodies are valued, transformed, experienced and made subject to control in different societies around the world. It explores cultural constructions of fatness and obesity, fitness and sports as sites of politics, economics and social change, and bodily modification and dis-integration in tattooing, injury, biomedical technology, disability, aging, and extreme environments of war and outerspace. Uses anthropological and feminist theories and introduces ethnographic methods.  
Attributes: Social Science (Discovery)
ANTH 550 - Introduction to Forensic Anthropology  
**Credits:** 4  
This course provides an overview of forensic anthropology, a sub-field of biological anthropology that applies knowledge of skeletal anatomy to problems of medico-legal significance (i.e., identification of human skeletal remains and interpretation of the circumstances surrounding death). This course outlines concepts underlying the recovery and analysis of human remains, the determination of the biological profile (including age, sex, ancestry, and stature), and the interpretation of skeletal trauma and pathology.

ANTH 597 - Special Topics  
**Credits:** 4  
Occasional and experimental offerings on an entry level. May be repeated for different topics.

ANTH 601 - Topics in Popular Culture  
**Credits:** 4  
This course explores the anthropology of popular culture using film, novels, and other media as well as widely disseminated texts. The course focuses on myths about culture and human behavior which become part of the global cultural mainstream, and counterposes popular stereotypes with data from cultural anthropology and archaeology. A) Native Americans and Popular Culture B) Archaeology and Popular Culture C) Popular Culture and Physical Anthropology D) Poverty and Popular Culture E) Gender and Popular Culture F) Other. May be repeated but not in duplicate areas.

ANTH 610 - Medical Anthropology: Illness and Healing  
**Credits:** 4  
Intermediate-level introduction to medical anthropology through sociocultural and bioarchaeological approaches to describing health-related ideas and practices in cross-cultural, historical and ecological contexts. Focuses on human illness and religious experiences of disease and the end of life. Considers how suffering, diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and care are shaped by: religion and ritual; symbolism and language; age, gender and sexuality; families, social movements, and governments; and the worldwide expansion of biomedical expertise and technologies.

ANTH 610W - Medical Anthropology: Illness and Healing  
**Credits:** 4  
How we as humans define sickness and health, our theories of who or what made us ill, our approach to biological processes from birth to death and our search for cures have varied through history and from culture to culture. This course provides an overview of illness and healing beliefs and practices in different cultures both around the world and in the United States. The course examines the practices and belief systems of healers, voodoo priestesses, midwives, Taoist priests, psychiatrists and medical doctors through the same analytical lens. Operates on a seminar format. Writing intensive.

ANTH 611 - History of Anthropological Theory  
**Credits:** 4  
Provides a grounding in the history of social thought in cultural anthropology and sister disciplines from 19th century evolutionism to the present. Course reading is based on primary sources - original essays written by theorists central to the discipline. Assessment is partly based on students' ability to apply theoretical concepts to novel contexts, as well as the ability to evaluate and compare theories on the basis of logic and evidence.

ANTH 612 - Applied Anthropology  
**Credits:** 4  
Introduces students to the ways anthropological questions, concepts, and methods are applied to real world problems. Students learn how anthropological knowledge and methods can be used in a wide range of disciplines and careers. The course includes experiential learning where students engage with professionals doing work within applied anthropology. Students gain perspective on the practical possibilities in their major and acquire skills to position themselves for future careers.

ANTH 616 - Religion, Culture, and Society  
**Credits:** 4  
Major anthropological theories of religion; analysis of religious beliefs as symbolic systems and their interrelations with ritual and other social institutions. Detailed study of specific religions. Operates on a seminar format. Writing intensive.

**Attributes:** Writing Intensive Course

ANTH 620 - Ritual and Religion of Ancient Mesoamerica  
**Credits:** 4  
This course examines the religious beliefs and ritual practices of ancient Mesoamerican cultures, such as the Olmec, Maya, and Aztecs. Students learn about the meaning of ritual practices (like human sacrifice and burial rites) and the myths that underlie this mysterious ritual behavior from an archaeological perspective. This class is writing intensive and involves primarily in-class discussion. Students are evaluated based on their participation, oral presentations, and a number of writing assignments. Writing intensive.

**Attributes:** Writing Intensive Course

ANTH 625 - Sexuality in Cross-Cultural Perspectives  
**Credits:** 4  
This course examines the ideologies and practices associated with sexuality from a broad perspective that incorporates diverse case studies from the ethnographic record. Working from the argument that much of human sexual behavior is culturally constructed rather than biologically determined, the course invites students to expand their notion of the "normal" and to consider the human condition from a cross-cultural perspective. Topics discussed include cross-cultural varieties of transgendered experience, same-sex sexualities, and heteronormative identities.

ANTH #627 - Urbanization in Africa  
**Credits:** 4  
Explores the process of urbanization and describes the creation of urban culture in sub-Saharan Africa by investigating the effects of urbanization on socio-economic and cultural conditions. An attempt is made throughout the course to study urbanization and urban life within the context of broader societal, economic, cultural, and political relations in order to understand the dynamics inherent in these processes. Urbanization is discussed in the context of colonialism, post-colonialism, and other social relations of dependency that continue to shape urban life and urban-rural relations.

ANTH 640 - Anthropology of Islam: Muslims' everyday lives in contemporary communities  
**Credits:** 4  
This course introduces students to different ways of being Muslim in contemporary world, focusing on Muslim communities residing in Central Asia (post-Soviet independent countries, China, and Afghanistan); the United States and some parts of Europe; and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).
ANTH #670 - Language and Culture  
Credits: 4  
Investigates the relationship between language and culture and how their interpenetration produces meaning. Special attention to the issues of class, gender, and ethnicity and the ways in which inequality is maintained through culturally patterned speech styles and associated prejudices. Speech communities in the United States are emphasized.

ANTH 674 - Archaeological Survey and Mapping in Belize  
Credits: 4  
Involves hands-on training in field reconnaissance, survey and mapping of archaeological sites, and the use of ARCGIS mapping software. This field course takes place in Belize (Central America) and will be of interest to students studying anthropology, geography and geospatial technologies, among others. Special fee.  
Co-requisite: INCO 589  

ANTH 675 - Archaeological Field School Belize  
Credits: 8  
The Archaeological Field School in Belize is an intensive, four-week summer program focused on the ancient Maya civilization in the eastern Belize River valley in Central America. Project participants will map and excavate archaeological sites and receive hands-on training in field and lab methods. Students will be graded on their participation, their submission of a field notebook, an exam based on readings and nightly lectures, and a final written report based on original field research. Special fee. Majors only.  
Co-requisite: INCO 589  

ANTH 685 - Gender, Sexuality and HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa  
Credits: 4  
HIV/AIDS has been defined as one of the exceptional global pandemics of the Millennium. This course traces the rise and global spread of HIV and AIDS and the introduction of antiretroviral therapies and prevention in sub-Saharan African and its Diasporas with a focus on sex and gender. Includes findings on heterosexual and LGBTIQA individuals, couples, and communities and perspectives on: kinship, marriage, love, transactional sex, reproduction, contraception, gender-based violence, and activist movements. Uses ethnographies and health sciences databases.  
Attributes: Writing Intensive Course  

ANTH 690 - Ethnographic Field Research  
Credits: 4  
Explores history, theory, and practice of ethnographic research. Students read and practice such techniques as mapping, taking life histories, compiling genealogies, and analyzing use of space, language, and rituals. Each student also carries out, writes up, and presents an independent research project. Prereq: ANTH 411 or SOC 400; one 500-level or higher anthropology or sociology course, or permission. No credit for students who have completed ANTH 630. Operates on a seminar format. Writing intensive.  
Attributes: Writing Intensive Course  

ANTH 695 - Globalization and Global Population Health  
Credits: 4  
This course traces how political economies drive global movements of people, diseases, and health interventions. It takes a multidisciplinary approach through medical anthropology and humanities, public health, and sustainability, looking at: histories of health intervention and biomedical technologies; under-development; shifting public-private sector governance; humanitarianism, cultural knowledge, expertise, and translation; and health-related social justice approaches and liberation theologies. Topics may include: epidemics, non-communicable diseases, metabolic disorders, substance abuse, violence, injury, and aging.  
Attributes: Writing Intensive Course  

ANTH 697 - Special Topics  
Credits: 4  
Occasional or experimental offerings. May be repeated for different topics. Prereq: ANTH 411 or permission. Operates on a seminar format. Writing intensive.  
Attributes: Writing Intensive Course  

ANTH #698 - Folklore and Folklife  
Credits: 4  
Examines the materials and methods used to study folklore and folklife, emphasizing the historical context and development of folklore studies in North America and Europe, field research, performance theory, and other topics. (Also offered as ENGL #732.) Operates on a seminar format. Writing intensive.  
Attributes: Writing Intensive Course  

ANTH 699 - Senior Thesis  
Credits: 4 or 8  
Independent work in the library or field; recommended for, but not confined to, majors intending to pursue graduate studies. Contact staff to obtain approval and arrange supervision prior to senior year. 4 or 8 credit 2 semesters; an IA grade (continuous course) given at end of first semester. Writing intensive.  
Attributes: Writing Intensive Course  

ANTH 699H - Honors Senior Thesis  
Credits: 4 or 8  
Independent work in the library or field; recommended for, but not confined to, majors intending to pursue graduate studies; required for honors candidates. Contact staff to obtain approval and arrange supervision prior to senior year. 4 or 8 credit 2 semesters; 8 credits required for honors; an IA grade (continuous course) given at end of first semester. Writing intensive.  
Attributes: Writing Intensive Course  

ANTH 700 - Internship  
Credits: 1-4  
Provides student with supervised practical experience in anthropology in one of the following areas: A) professional or community support work within an academic or applied anthropology setting; B) teaching; C) museum work; D) archaeological laboratory or fieldwork; E) research on a faculty research project; F) editorial work on a journal or faculty book project. May be repeated up to 8 credits. Prereq: permission.
ANTH 705 - Topics in Mesoamerican Anthropology
Credits: 4
Examines the very origins of civilization in the New World by first focusing on the domestication of staple food crops and the development of inequality and carefully tracing the ever increasing socio-political complexity displayed by early Mesoamerican peoples. Includes the successive rises of the Olmec, the Zapotec, the Preclassic Maya and Teotihuacan in an effort to understand the mechanisms driving the development of agricultural intensification, economic specialization, long-distance trade networks, and the institution of divine kingship. Operates on a seminar format, open only to juniors and seniors.

ANTH #730 - Anthropological Thinking on Education
Credits: 4
Course introduces the students to key anthropological concepts that, taken together, underpin anthropological thinking on education. The concepts are Culture (Geertz, White), Evolution (Morgan Steward), Function (Malinowski, Radcliffe-Brown), Interpretation (Geertz, Turner), Feminism and Postmodernism (Leacock, Rosaldo) and Process (Bailey, Vincent). The course analyzes and synthesizes them into a conceptual framework by which to understand human behavior, activity, production and reproduction in formal education.

ANTH #740 - Teaching Race
Credits: 4
How do we teach about race? What are schools and universities communicating about the meanings of racial ascription, of color and whiteness? How can we best use the power of educational institutions to further the struggles for equality and racial justice? And how can we do this in ways that constructively educate all our students? This course brings together prospective teachers and other students interested in human relations to discuss ways of combining the insights of new scholarship on race with personal experiences and challenges in the classroom to address these questions.

ANTH 750 - Islam and Gender: Gendered Lives of Muslims
Credits: 4
This seminar focuses on the lives of Muslims. While critically questioning some existing ideas about and representations of Muslims, it introduces students to practical and historical aspects of gender politics in different Muslim communities.
Attributes: Writing Intensive Course

ANTH 770 - Anthropology of the Sinister
Credits: 4
Examines narratives of the sinister-stories about witches, demons, vampires, extraterrestrials, and other in-human and human evils-that are told as if true, and the cultural, political, and economic contexts of their production. Variations of the sinister are compared cross-culturally and historically. Links between worldwide circulation of narratives of sinister phenomena, conspiracies, and processes of globalization are emphasized. Operates in a seminar format, and open only to juniors and seniors.

ANTH 785 - The Anthropology of Dreams and Dreaming
Credits: 4
This course emphasizes the "dream theories" of indigenous societies and how beliefs and practices associated with dreaming are integrated into cultural, ontological, political, economic, and religious systems. Western theories are also examined from within a comparative perspective—from basic Freudian models to contemporary scientific debates about the neurological origin and significance of dreaming. Writing intensive.
Attributes: Writing Intensive Course