ANT

Anthropology, Cultural and Archaeology

ANT 501: Development of Anthropological Theory
Survey of the development of anthropological theory from the 19th century to the present. This course is offered as both ANT 501 and DPA 501.
Spring, 4 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

ANT 502: Social Ecology
This course explores theoretical and methodological issues in the study of human social activity and its relationship to ecological systems and the environment. Readings include both classic studies as well as contemporary research, with particular emphasis placed on the various dimensions and scales of social organization and activity, and on the role of cultural, religious, and political institutions in shaping ecological relationship as well as economic behavior.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

ANT 503: Social Organization
This course explores theoretical models and empirical observations of human social organization in a comparative perspective, including such topics as demography and behavioral ecology, kinship and marriage, reciprocal exchange, and political dimensions of resource mobilization in small-scale as well as complex societies. Organized around different layers of human sociality, the course examines social dependence among humans and nonhuman primates, evolutionary explanations for human mating strategies, cooperation in child-rearing, paradigms of descent and affinity, and the dynamics of hierarchy and alliance in egalitarian cultures as well as stratified states.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

ANT 504: Ecology of the Turkana Basin
This course introduces students to the fundamental principles and techniques of field ecology in the context of the modern East African Lake Turkana environment. The course includes a mixture of fieldwork, lectures, seminars, readings, presentations, and independent research and writing assignments. Emphasis will be on identification of common and important species and the Turkana Basin Institute (TBI) at Turkwel as well as the recognition of important evolutionary and ecological patterns and issues. Fieldwork focuses on plants and insects and aims to generate useful baseline data for longer term studies. Students will be introduced to some basic ecological monitoring methods for plant and insect communities such as topics including mutualism, phenology, invasive species and restoration ecology. We will be looking closely at adaptation to heat stress/high temperatures during this module as well as simple systems around TBI. Students will be exposed to a variety of habitats including the riverine forests and dryland grassland areas around the Turkana Basin Institute as well as the rich freshwater and island systems of Lake Turkana. Semesters offered- Fall and Spring. Components- laboratory, lecture, and recitation.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

ANT 506: Human Evolution the Turkana Basin
Vertebrate fossils are important sources of information about the appearance, evolution, and extinction of major organisms. As such, they provide a valuable window onto changes in climate and selection pressures, and organisms’ diverse adaptive responses to these changes. They are also significant in placing hominid discoveries within a relative local chronology, and helping reconstruct environments associated with hominid fluids. This course acquaints students with laboratory and field methods of paleontology employed in different chronological contexts of the Turkana Basin, used to solve diverse theoretical questions. Graded work includes fieldwork and lab assignments, independent research assignments, quizzes and a final exam. Semesters offered- Fall and Spring. Components- laboratory, lecture, and recitation.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

ANT 507: Archaeology of the Turkana Basin
This course familiarizes students with Africa Stone Age archaeology through class lectures and lab exercises. Students learn how archaeologists document the behavioral characteristics of early humans in Africa through study of material cultural evidence. During field excursions, they learn diverse methods of survey and excavation techniques appropriate for different sites and contexts. Primary areas of discussion throughout the course include the question of the cognitive status of early humans implied by their technologies and the evolution of human adaptation from an evolutionary perspective, exploring the relationship between stone tool technology, paleoenvironments, hominin species, and cognitive evolution. Graded work includes fieldwork and lab assignments, independent research assignments, quizzes and a final exam. Semesters offered- Fall and Spring. Components- laboratory, lecture, and recitation.
3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

ANT 509: Seminar in European Ethnography
Investigation and discussion of selected topics and problems concerning European societies and cultures. The perspectives of culture history and current fieldwork are employed. This course is offered as both ANT 509 and DPA 509.
Fall, 3 credits, S/U grading
May be repeated for credit.

ANT 511: Paleolithic Archaeology
A survey of the archaeological record of foraging peoples in Africa, Europe, and Asia prior to the emergence of agriculture. The course emphasizes particular problems including the relationship between behavioral and biological change, different adaptive strategies in temperate and tropical zones, the origins of modern humans, and the emergence of complex hunter-gatherer societies. This course is offered as both ANT 511 and DPA 511.
Ant 512: Comparative Civilizations

A comparative study of the processes of sociocultural evolution from the beginnings of sedentary life to the achievement of early civilizations in the Near East, Egypt, the Indus Valley, China, Mesoamerica, and the Andean area. The seminar covers such topics as urbanization, demography, irrigation, craft specialization, militarism, and trade and exchange. This course is offered as both Ant 512 and Dpa 512.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or permission of instructor

Spring, 4 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

Ant 513: Origins of Agriculture

This course will trace the history of anthropological thought on the origins of agriculture and will assess the evidence from the Old and New worlds for this economic revolution. The course will not only explore areas where early agriculture is evidenced, but will also contrast these areas with those where agriculture was a later development. Emphasis will be on the environmental, technological, biological, social, and cultural processes associated with the "Neolithic Revolution." This course is offered as both Ant 513 and Dpa 513.

Fall, 4 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

Ant 515: Theory and Method in Archaeology

Theoretical and methodological approaches employed in archaeology. The goals of the course are to provide an historical perspective on the growth of theory and method in archaeology and to examine in detail some of the pertinent research topics being studied today. This course is offered as both Ant 515 and Dpa 515.

Fall, 4 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

Ant 516: Research Design in Archaeology

An examination of the ways in which archaeologists develop successful research strategies for arriving at answers to the key questions in the field. Students will analyze grant proposals that received funding from the major sources of funding for archaeology before developing research proposals of their own. The aim of the course is to provide the class with the skills needed to plan their future and compete successfully for funding both for their thesis research and in their future careers.

Fall, alternate years, 4 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

Ant 517: Primitive Technology

An introduction to the technology of hunter-gatherers. The course examines how archaeologists use both ethnographic and experimentation to shed light on prehistoric human technological adaptations. Techniques for making and using primitive tools are practiced in weekly laboratory sessions.

Fall, alternate years, 4 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

May be repeated for credit.

Ant 518: Lithic Technology

A detailed overview of the methods archaeologists use to extract behavioral information from prehistoric stone tools. The course examines raw material economy, technological strategies, tool use, and discard behavior. Analytical methods are practiced through the computer-assisted analysis of stone tools from simulated archaeological sites.

Spring, 4 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

Ant 519: Archaeozoology

An introduction to the study of animal bones from archaeological sites. Special emphasis is on identification of fragmented bone, identification of bone surface modification, calculation of indexes of abundance, and measurement and metrical analysis of mammal bone. Computer analysis is stressed, and the class seeks to synthesize traditional archaeozoology and actualistic studies. This course is offered as both Ant 519 and Dpa 519.

Fall, odd years, 4 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

Ant 520: Principles of Social and Cultural Anthropology

Concepts and principles of social and cultural anthropology; historical background, structure and function, social processes, transactions, culture, communication, continuity, and other change; topics and problems of contemporary interest. Some ethnographic monographs are discussed in terms of their relevance to the general concepts and principles treated in the seminar. This course is offered as both Ant 520 and Dpa 520.

Fall, 4 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

Ant 526: The Use of Remote Sensing and GIS in Environmental Analysis

An introduction to the use of aerial and satellite imagery in environmental analysis and the manipulation of geographic data sets of all types using Geographic Information Systems.

This course is designed to teach students in archaeology, physical anthropology, and related disciplines, how satellite imagery combined with various maps can be manipulated using GIS software to perform powerful geographic analysis. Although students are eventually likely to use these tools in many different parts of the world, this course focuses on Long Island as a research area, and each student designs and completes a research project on a particular section of the area, focusing on the habitats of local wildlife, the locations of archaeological sites, coastal regimes, etc. This course presumes computer literacy and familiarity with database management. Offered as Ant 526 and Dpa 526 or Hph 658.

Spring, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)
ANT 560: Ancient Mesopotamia
An examination of the cultural history of Mesopotamia based on the archaeological, textual and art historical record. Focusing on the fourth through second millennia, this course investigates both the long term developmental process of this civilization, and ways to understand its settlement systems, urban structure, social and political organization, economic structure and the role played by religion.

Fall, alternate years, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

ANT 561: Peasant Societies and Cultures
The concept of peasantry is examined from political, religious, and social class viewpoints as well as from the more traditional economic view. These agricultural peoples, who are essentially preliterate and preindustrial, are described and analyzed especially in relation to the national societies of which they form a part. This course is offered as both ANT 561 and DPA 561.

Spring, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

ANT 562: Long Island Archaeology
Life on Long Island and the surrounding area from its first settlement by Native Americans 12,000 years ago until the end of the nineteenth century. Trends and changes in human behavior are studied in the context of environmental and cultural processes affecting all of northeastern North America.

Spring, 3 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

ANT 564: Primate Evolution
The taxonomic relationships and evolutionary history of primates as documented by their fossil record and structural and chemical evidence. Emphasis on primates prior to the origin of the human lineage. This course is offered as ANT 564, DPA 564 and HBA 564.

Spring, even years, 4 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

ANT 565: Human Evolution
A survey of the fossil record of hominid evolution through the Pliocene and Pleistocene with emphasis on the morphological structure and function of locomotor, masticatory, and neural systems. Includes utilization of comparative anatomical material and an extensive cast collection. This course is offered as ANT 565, DPA 565 and HBA 565.

Fall, even years, 4 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

ANT 567: Primate Behavior and Ecology
A comparative approach to the behavior and ecology of living lemurs, monkeys, and apes. Emphasis is placed on sociobiological theory, life history strategies; morphological adaptations; comparisons of primate communities in Asia, Africa, Madagascar, and South America; and primate conservation. This course is offered as both ANT 567 and DPA 567.

Fall, odd years, 4 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

ANT 568: Hunters and Gatherers
The course focuses on the relationship between ecology and adaptation to explore the cross-cultural diversity of hunter/gatherers. The first part of the course looks at a number of key theoretic issues and debates that surround the study of hunter/gatherers. Once this foundation is laid, students learn about modern and historic hunter-gatherers from all the major geographic regions of the world. This overview draws on studies from behavioral ecology, ethnoarchaeology and cultural anthropology. The focus of the course is both to explore hunter/gatherer variation in relationship to their environment, and to give students an appreciation of the ways in which hunter-gatherers have been historically documented. The course is designed to be applicable to archaeologists, anthropologists and to those in other disciplines who make inferences about past ways of life.

Spring, 3-4 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

ANT 569: M.A. Thesis Research
May be repeated for credit.

ANT 602: Research Seminar in Anthropological Theory
This course is offered as both ANT 602 and DPA 602.

Fall and Spring, 0-12 credits, S/U grading
May be repeated for credit.

ANT 610: Individual Research
Research supervised by faculty. Students must have permission of instructor and enroll in appropriate section. This course is offered as both ANT 610 and DPA 610.

Fall and Spring, 1-12 credits, S/U grading
May be repeated for credit.

ANT 620: Research Seminar in Topical Problems
This course is offered as both ANT 620 and DPA 620.

Fall and
ANT 630: Research Seminar in Physical Anthropology
This course is offered as both ANT 630 and DPA 630.

Fall and
Spring, 3 credits, S/U grading
May be repeated for credit.

ANT 640: Research Seminar in Ethnography and Ethnology
This course is offered as both ANT 640 and DPA 640.

Fall and
Spring, 1-3 credits, S/U grading
May be repeated for credit.

ANT 650: Research Seminar in Archaeology

ANT 680: Special Seminar
Selected topics in cultural and social anthropology. Topics reflect current interests of faculty and graduate students. This course is offered as both ANT 680 and DPA 680.

Fall and
Spring, 1-3 credits, S/U grading

ANT 800: Summer Research
This course is offered as both ANT 800 and DPA 800.
S/U grading
May be repeated for credit.