DPA

Doctoral Program in Anthropological Sciences

DPA 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.)

DPA 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.)

DPA 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.)

DPA 505: Vertebrate Paleontology & Paleoecology of 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 diversity adaptive responses to these changes. They are also significant in placing hominin 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.)

DPA 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.

DPA 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.
Prerequisite: Any other archaeology course.
Fall, 4 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

DPA 512: Comparative Civilizations
A comparative study of the processes of sociocultural evolution from the beginnings of sedentary life to the achievement of early civilization 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.)

DPA 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.)

DPA 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.)

DPA 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.)

DPA 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.

DPA 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.)

DPA 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.

DPA 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.

DPA 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 HBA 658.

DPA 527: Field Methods and Techniques in Archaeology

The course will be held during the summer only. It consists of field and laboratory work on an aspect of Long Island's archaeological heritage. Students' time is divided between surveying and excavation in the field and artifact analysis in the laboratory. Such techniques as map and air photo reading, survey, instruments, stratigraphy, conservation, typology construction, etc. are taught. Students are exposed to the full range of excavation, survey, and laboratory methods and techniques. This course is offered as both ANT 527 and DPA 527.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or permission of instructor

DPA 541: Evolutionary Anatomy

A lecture and laboratory with emphasis on dissection of the entire human body. Includes functional and comparative anatomy with special emphasis on the musculoskeletal morphology of humans and higher primates. This course is offered as both DPA 541 and HBA 541.

Prerequisite: permission of instructor

Fall, 8 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

DPA 550: Theory and Methodology in Primatology

Comprehensive overview of the theory and methodology used in the study of primate behavioral ecology. Includes ecological field methods, behavioral observations, analytical techniques, nonparametric statistics as well as planning, presenting, and reviewing research. Offered as both ANT 550 and DPA 550.

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

DPA 559: Archaeology of Food

Explores the archaeological study of food and foodways. The emphasis is on the social aspects of food, particularly its roles in past power structures, social relationships, conceptions of identity, ritual practices, and gender roles. Also covers the theoretical and methodological approaches archaeologists use to study food in the past.

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

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

DPA 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 pretlliterate 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.)

DPA 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.)

DPA 563: Aspects of Animal Mechanics

An introduction to biomechanics. Covers freebody mechanics and kinematics as applied to vertebrate locomotion. Considers the structure and physiology of muscle as it relates to adaptations of the musculoskeletal system. This course is offered as both HBA 563 and DPA 563.

Prerequisites: Introductory physics and biology or permission of instructor.

Spring, odd years, 2 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

DPA 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.)

DPA 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.)
DPA 566: Studies in Functional Morphology

Introduction to the theory and methods of functional morphology. Various methods of analysis and the application of experimental techniques such as electromyography or bone strain analysis are discussed as they pertain to the understanding of the interaction between form and function. Special emphasis is placed on the analysis of human and nonhuman primate morphology, and the application of this analysis to interpretation of the fossil evidence for human and nonhuman primate evolution. This course is offered as both HBA 566 and DPA 566.

Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. Spring, even years, 2 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

DPA 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.)

DPA 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.)

DPA 573: Archaeology of Human Dispersals

A survey of the archaeological evidence for the dispersal of Homo sapiens during the Late Pleistocene epoch (128,000-130,000 years ago). Topics include African origin of Homo sapiens, dispersals into Eurasia, Australia, and the Americas, large mammal extinctions, origins of art, music, and symbolic behavior, emergence of hunter-gatherers.

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

DPA 582: Comparative Anatomy of Primates

The comparative anatomy of living primates. Laboratory dissection with emphasis on relating structural diversity to behavior and biomechanics. This course is offered as both HBA 582 and DPA 582.

Prerequisites: HBA 364 and previous course in human or vertebrate anatomy and permission of instructor. Spring, alternate years, 4 credits, Letter graded (A, A-, B+, etc.)

DPA 583: Human Demography

The study of human demography has had a long standing focus in anthropology, archaeology, economics and sociology for the simple reason that the distribution and density of people fundamentally shapes many other aspects of the human condition. Human Demography gives students an overview of population dynamics both as they change through time and differ across cultures. The course starts with outlining the history of population studies. Following this introduction, the three major components of population change - fertility, mortality and migration - are explored in depth. We then survey the seminal transitions in human demographic history from hunting and gathering to domestication and through modern postindustrial times. Drawing from the ethnographic, human ecology, demographic and archaeological literature, students read and discuss human demography from a variety of perspectives. The course includes some simple computations and a lab.

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

DPA 585: Prehistoric Peoples of the Americas

ANT 585 Prehistoric Peoples of the Americas Life in the Americas from the first settlement at the end of the Ice Age until the arrival of the Europeans in the 15th and 16th centuries. The culture, history, and evolution of prehistoric peoples of North, Central, and South America are treated. Specific topics covered include settlement by North Americans, hunting-gathering lifeways, plant and animal domestication, the origins of village life, and state-level societies.

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

DPA 600: Practicum in Teaching

May be repeated for credit.

DPA 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.

DPA 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.

DPA 620: Research Seminar in Topical Problems

This course is offered as both ANT 620 and DPA 620.

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

DPA 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.

DPA 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.

DPA 650: Research Seminar in Archaeology

DPA 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
DPA 699: Dissertation Research on Campus  
Prerequisite: Must be advanced to candidacy (G5). Major portion of research must take place on SBU campus, at Cold Spring Harbor, or at the Brookhaven National Lab.

Fall, Spring, and Summer, 1-9 credits, S/U grading
May be repeated for credit.

DPA 700: Dissertation Research off Campus - Domestic  
Prerequisite: Must be advanced to candidacy (G5). Major portion of research will take place off-campus, but in the United States and/or U.S. provinces. Please note, Brookhaven National Labs and the Cold Spring Harbor Lab are considered on-campus. All international students must enroll in one of the graduate student insurance plans and should be advised by an International Advisor.

Fall, Spring, 1-9 credits, S/U grading
May be repeated for credit.

DPA 701: Dissertation Research off Campus - International  
Prerequisite: Must be advanced to candidacy (G5). Major portion of research will take place outside of the United States and/or U.S. provinces. Domestic students have the option of the health plan and may also enroll in MEDEX. International students who are in their home country are not covered by mandatory health plan and must contact the Insurance Office for the insurance charge to be removed. International students who are not in their home country are charged for the mandatory health insurance. If they are to be covered by another insurance plan they must file a waiver by second week of classes. The charge will only be removed if other plan is deemed comparable.

All international students must received clearance from an International Advisor.
Spring, 1-9 credits, S/U grading
May be repeated for credit.

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