

# ANTHROPOLOGY

## Overview and Contact Information

Anthropology at Mount Holyoke College is devoted to the study of human cultural diversity through time and around the world. The approach is cross-cultural, the perspective non-ethnocentric. The analytic tools will help students make sense of the human condition no matter how familiar or foreign it may seem. Our courses are designed to expose students to a variety of cultures and introduce them to the different topics, theories, and methods of the discipline of anthropology.

### Contact Information

**Matthew Watson, Chair**

**Rebecca Thomas, Academic Department Coordinator**

102 Porter Hall

413-538-2283

<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/academics/find-your-program/anthropology>  
(<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/academics/find-your-program/anthropology/>)

## Learning Goals

The Anthropology major is designed to cultivate in students:

- The knowledge of human cultural diversity to foster cross-cultural tolerance and understanding.
- The ability to investigate distinct human conditions around the world by applying an ethnographic perspective.
- Skills to conduct fieldwork in adherence with ethical protocols by using participant observation, in-depth interviews, archival and media research, narrative and discourse analysis and the analysis of material culture.
- Proficiency in the history, development, and contemporary significance of theoretical debates in cultural anthropology.
- Competence to analyze written, visual, and cultural texts and to evaluate evidence.
- Aptitude to clearly and effectively articulate arguments and conclusions in written and spoken form.

## Faculty

**This area of study is administered by the Anthropology faculty:**

Joshua Roth, Professor of Anthropology

Elif Babül, Associate Professor of Anthropology, On Leave 2024-2025

Matthew Watson, Associate Professor of Anthropology

Anisha Chadha, Assistant Professor of Anthropology

Sabra Thorner, Assistant Professor of Anthropology

William Girard, Lecturer in Anthropology

Nadia Latif, Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology

## Requirements for the Major

A minimum of 32 credits:

Code	Title	Credits
ANTHR-105	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	4
ANTHR-235	History of Anthropological Thought <sup>1</sup>	4
ANTHR-275	Research Methods in Cultural Anthropology	4
ANTHR-350	Issues in Contemporary Anthropological Theory	4
One cultural area course in anthropology OR a community-based learning (CBL) course in anthropology other than ANTHR-275		4
Alternatively, this requirement can be fulfilled through: approved study abroad, or foreign language through two semesters at the intermediate level, or an approved area or CBL course in another discipline. While satisfying this specific requirement, these alternative methods of satisfying the cultural area requirement will not count towards the 32 credits required for the major. <sup>2</sup>		
4 additional credits in Anthropology <sup>3</sup>		4
8 additional credits at the 300 level		8
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>32</b>

<sup>1</sup> Majors should take ANTHR-235 before ANTHR-350.

<sup>2</sup> Discuss your plan for fulfilling this requirement with your advisor in advance, to be sure it will satisfy the requirement.

<sup>3</sup> If you have fulfilled the cultural area/CBL requirement in anthropology by taking an approved area or CBL course in anthropology, you would need only 4 additional credits. If not, you will need 8.

## Additional Specifications

- ANTHR-295 or ANTHR-395 do not count toward the requirements of courses in the major at the 200 and 300 level.

## Requirements for the Minor

A minimum of 20 credits:

Code	Title	Credits
ANTHR-105	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	4
4 credits at the 300 level <sup>1</sup>		4
12 additional credits above the 100 level		12
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>20</b>

<sup>1</sup> Cannot be fulfilled by ANTHR-395

## Course Offerings

### ANTHR-105 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

*Fall and Spring. Credits: 4*

Introduces the analysis of cultural diversity, including concepts, methods, and purposes in interpreting social, economic, political, and belief systems found in human societies.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives*

*A. Chadha, W. Girard, L. Holloway, N. Latif, J. Roth, S. Thorner*

*Restrictions: This course is limited to first-years and sophomores.*

**ANTHR-204 Anthropology of Modern Japan***Spring. Credits: 4*

Since the mid-nineteenth century, Americans have viewed Japan as the Orient's most exotic and mysterious recess, alternately enticing and frightening in its difference. Intense economic relations and cultural exchange between Japan and the U.S. have not dispelled the image of Japanese society and culture as fundamentally different from our own. In this course, we will strive for greater understanding of shared experiences as well as historical particularities. Issues covered may vary from one semester to another, but frequently focus on work, women, minorities, and popular culture. Films and anthropological works provide ethnographic examples of some key concepts.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives*  
*J. Roth*

**ANTHR-212 Shopping and Swapping: Cultures Consumption and Exchange***Spring. Credits: 4*

We shop for our food, for our clothes, for our colleges. We purchase cars, manicures, and vacations. It seems that there is little that cannot be bought or sold. But we also give and receive gifts, exchange favors, 'go dutch' in restaurants, and invite friends for potlucks. This course examines exchange systems cross-culturally, in order to understand their cultural significance and social consequences. It explores how our own commodity exchange system, which appears to be no more than an efficient means of distributing goods and services, in fact contains intriguing symbolic dimensions similar to the gift exchange systems of Native North America, Melanesia, and Africa.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives*  
*J. Roth*

*Prereq: ANTHR-105.*

**ANTHR-216 Special Topics in Anthropology****ANTHR-216AD Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Approaching Death: Culture, Health, and Science'***Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

This class challenges assumptions about death and dying as we examine its meanings and related practices in various cultural contexts. We will ask: what is universal about death and dying, and what is socially constructed? What can the social sciences, bio medicine, literature, the arts, and our own qualitative research tell us about the processes of dying, of grieving, and of providing care? In essence, what does it take to approach death?

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives*  
*F. Aulino*

*Prereq: ANTHR-105.*

**ANTHR-216AU Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Peoples and Cultures of Indigenous Australia'***Fall. Credits: 4*

Indigenous peoples of Australia have long been objects of interest and imagination by outsiders-for their ceremonial practices, social structures, religious forms, aesthetic expressions, and relationships to land. This course will explore how Aboriginal peoples have struggled to reproduce and represent themselves and their lifeways on their own terms – via visual media (pigment designs on bark, acrylic paintings on canvas); performances (cultural festivals, plays, other forms); archival interventions (photographic, textual, digital); museum exhibition; and various textual genres (autobiography, fiction, poetry). We will examine "traditional" and "contemporary" productions as all part of culture and culture-making in the present, emphasizing that this is ongoing and intercultural work.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives*  
*S. Thorner*

*Prereq: ANTHR-105.*

**ANTHR-216BE Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Black Ethnographers'***Fall. Credits: 4*

The aim of this class is to underscore the significance of Black perspectives and contributions within the field of anthropology. Black anthropology, and especially Black feminist anthropology, has historically been sidelined within anthropological discourse. In this course, we will collectively challenge this historical erasure by centering the work of Black ethnographers. By delving into works spanning continental Africa, the Caribbean, and the United States, students will begin to understand the vast impact Black ethnographers have had both in and outside the field of anthropology.

*Crosslisted as: CRPE-240BE*

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives*

*Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive*

*L. Holloway*

**ANTHR-216CF Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Cultures of Africa and the African Diaspora'***Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

This course considers experiences of power, personhood, and community across a range of societies in contemporary Africa and the African Diaspora. We explore how complex cultural repertoires are creatively drawn upon to engage with social challenges and crises including climate change, biodiversity and habitat loss, gender inequality, food insecurity, public health emergencies, displacement, and uneven urbanization. Special attention is given to the roles of prophetic and spiritual movements across the Black Atlantic world in inspiring and helping forge struggles for liberation, democratic renewal, environmental sustainability, health security, social inclusion, and human rights.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives*

*M. Auslander*

*Prereq: ANTHR-105.*

**ANTHR-216FD Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Ethnographic Food Documentary'**

*Spring. Credits: 4*

Students will learn basic skills on ethnographic methods in anthropology as they are introduced to issues of food and culinary cultural practices, politics and history. Selected readings and films will explore the intersections of food with colonialism, race and ethnicity, gender, health, political economy, and social movements. The course has a focus on Latinx and Latin American/Caribbean foodways, however students will apply the course's conceptual toolkit in a wide range of cultural settings. Students will learn techniques of participant observation, interviews, script writing and visual analysis to conduct fieldwork in a local cultural community in South Hadley and surroundings, as they are guided towards producing a short ethnographic food documentary.

*Crosslisted as: CRPE-240EF*

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives*

*Other Attribute(s): Community-Based Learning*

*P. Guevara*

**ANTHR-216GH Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Case Studies in Global Health'**

*Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

This class is designed to provide an introduction to the field of global health intervention. We will first acquire some historical and analytical tools, including familiarity with a set of social theories to help us identify relevant issues and understand the complexity of situations we will examine over the course of the semester. We will then delve into particular case studies from around the world, using a biosocial approach that draws on a range of disciplines (including anthropology, clinical medicine, history, public health, economics, and delivery science) to understand global health problems and to design intervention strategies. With attention to historical precedent and a critical sociology of knowledge, we will explore how global health problems are defined and constructed, and how global health interventions play out in expected and unexpected ways.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives*

*Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive*

*F. Aulino*

*Prereq: ANTHR-105.*

**ANTHR-216HM Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Feminist Engagements with Hormones'**

*Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

This course takes a transdisciplinary and multi-sited approach to explore the social, political, biocultural, and legal complexities of hormones. Hormones "appear" in many discussions about reproductive and environmental justice, identity, health and chronicity. But what are hormones? What are their social, political and cultural histories? Where are they located? How do they act? The course will foster active learning, centering feminist pedagogies of collaborative inquiry. Examples of topics to be explored are: transnational/transcultural knowledge production about hormones; hormonal relations to sexgender, natureculture, bodymind; and hormone-centered actions and activism.

*Crosslisted as: GNDST-241HR*

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences*

*J. Luce*

*Prereq: 4 credits in Gender Studies.*

**ANTHR-216HP Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Feminist Health Politics'**  
*Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

Health is about bodies, selves and politics. We will explore a series of health topics from feminist perspectives. How do gender, sexuality, class, disability, and age influence the ways in which one perceives and experiences health and the access one has to health information and health care? Are heteronormativity, cissexism, or one's place of living related to one's health status or one's health risk? By paying close attention to the relationships between community-based narratives, activities of health networks and organizations and theory, we will develop a solid understanding of the historical, political and cultural specificities of health issues, practices, services and movements.

*Crosslisted as: GNDST-241HP*

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences*

*J. Luce*

*Prereq: 4 credits in Gender Studies.*

**ANTHR-216HR Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Anthropology and Human Rights'**

*Fall. Credits: 4*

This course explores anthropological approaches to human rights – a key theme of transnational politics and international law. Anthropologists have contributed to discussions on human rights since the UN Declaration and the field has provided a vibrant platform to analyze ideologies, politics, and practices surrounding human rights. We will survey an array of anthropological studies that approach human rights from the perspective of cultural relativism, contextualization, advocacy, and practice. Students will gain a critical perspective on the seemingly universal rhetoric of human rights by learning how it produces diverse effects in places such as Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives*

*N. Latif*

*Prereq: ANTHR-105.*

**ANTHR-216LA Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Anthropology of Latin America'**

*Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

Latin America has undergone massive political, economic and cultural transformations since the end of the Cold War. Indeed, during the final decades of the twentieth century, much of the region embraced neoliberal governance and free market capitalism. However, by the turn of the millennium, many Latin American governments had made a sharp "turn to the Left," as states began to intervene more directly in the economy, promote alternative imaginings of modernization, and recognize greater rights for Indigenous and Afro-descendent peoples. This course will begin with a focus on these shifts in governance, but largely focuses on the consequences of these changes within people's everyday lives.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives*

*W. Girard*

*Prereq: ANTHR-105.*

**ANTHR-216LT Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Race and Religion in Latin America'**

*Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

We often imagine race and religion as two distinct aspects of social life. However, this course considers their historical and contemporary interconnections in Latin America. It begins with an investigation of the proto-racial and religious categories through which Europeans in the early modern era conceived of human difference. We then trace how the encounter between Europeans, Africans, and Indigenous Peoples transformed these notions, with particular attention to how the overlapping racial and religious hierarchies that emerged were both constructed and resisted. We conclude with a series of ethnographies that highlight the contemporary entanglements of race and religion in the region.

*Crosslisted as: RELIG-225LT*

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives*  
*W. Girard*

*Prereq: ANTHR-105 or an introductory course in Religion.*

**ANTHR-216MB Special Topics in Anthropology: 'The Medical Body'**

*Spring. Credits: 4*

How has medical anthropology apprehended bodies through its decades-long history? In this course we will answer this question by nesting larger anthropological understandings of the body within central concepts in medical anthropology. We will begin the course by exploring the history of medical anthropology from the mid-20th century to the present. The second part of the course will be devoted to a few key topics in medical anthropological scholarship: caregiving labor, access to healthcare, bioethics, biopolitics, and structural violence. We will then turn to a series of discussions on key topics of interest to contemporary medical anthropologists in the third part of the course. Taken together, this course will shed light on the porosity and multiplicity of embodied states.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences*

*A. Chadha*

*Prereq: ANTHR-105.*

**ANTHR-216MH Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Migration and Human Rights'**

*Spring. Credits: 4*

Can the history of nation-states and global capitalism also be understood as a history of migration? In what ways are the experiences of refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants different from the legal categories assigned to them? Italian philosopher Giorgio Agamben's conceptualizations of "state of exception" and "bare life" are frequently invoked in current scholarship on refugee and detention camps. What – if any – is the difference between life in concentration camps, refugee camps, and migrant detention centers? Are human rights frameworks adequate to the task of addressing protracted statelessness and migration brought about by the intersection of conflict, economic crises, and climate change? These questions will be examined through scholarship on migration, human rights, and humanitarianism.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives; Humanities*

*Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive*

*N. Latif*

*Prereq: ANTHR-105.*

**ANTHR-216MT Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Multispecies Ethnography: Across Humans, Animals, and Plants'**

*Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

This course considers emerging strategies in Anthropology and allied disciplines for researching, witnessing, and documenting the full web of life, broadly conceived, within which human and non-human beings are entangled. We explore debates over non-human personhood and the rights of natural ecosystems, such as rivers, mountains, and the earth itself. Close attention is given to varied indigenous perspectives on reciprocal (and non-extractive) relations among diverse living beings, and the possibilities of intersubjective awareness across human and animal domains.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives*  
*M. Auslander*

*Prereq: ANTHR-105 or ENVST-100.*

**ANTHR-216PY Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Anthropology of Play'**

*Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

We associate play with childhood, a time of spontaneous and creative activity, in contrast to the boring routine of adult responsibilities. And yet play is more than just fun and games. It is through play that children develop lasting cognitive and social skills. For adults too, there can be serious play – play that has real consequence – play that shapes the intimate lives of individuals, as well as entire social formations. In this course, we will explore play cross-culturally, from the Balinese cockfight to American football, from gambling to roll playing. We will design games based on the anthropological readings in order to appreciate the game-like qualities of many domains of life.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives*  
*J. Roth*

*Prereq: ANTHR-105.*

**ANTHR-216RC Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Representing Race'**

*Fall. Credits: 4*

This class takes a ~look~ at the components of racial representation in audio-visual media: How can ideas and theories be conveyed or communicated through a visual mode? What ethical concerns emerge when representing others in different media? Drawing from written texts, documentaries, graphic novels, and artwork, we will explore the myriad ways media creatives construct racial representations, and question the perceived boundary between research and art. Starting with early anthropological film, this class will move through both conventional and nontraditional material that is used to tell stories, make political statements, and represent people's lived experiences.

*Crosslisted as: CRPE-240RE*

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives*  
*Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive*

*L. Holloway*

**ANTHR-216RE Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Anthropology of Reproduction'***Fall. Credits: 4*

This course focuses on the biological and cultural components of childbirth through evolutionary and cross-cultural perspectives. From the evolution of the pelvis to how nutrition, growth and development, health, trauma and cultural contexts can affect successful childbirth, we explore the birth process in the ancient world, historical trends, and recent dialogues surrounding the technocratic model of birth, to understand the changing focus of birth as female centered to a medical condition. Indigenous birthing customs and beliefs from a number of different cultural contexts will be considered, as well as contemporary rates of maternal mortality to understand the risks facing some today.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives**Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive**P. Stone**Prereq: ANTHR-105.***ANTHR-216WC Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Writing Capitalism's Ruins'***Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

There's a low buzz; we feel nervous. Is this capitalism's end? Have zombies hit the horizon yet? Keep checking. Anthropology narrates collective feeling, gives form to the ambience. But what is late industrialism's ambience? As factory buildings crumble, we wonder whether the tap water's clean. The question of how to write the world is also a question of how to survive and even flourish. Drawing from archaeology, cultural anthropology, ecology, and literary theory, this course is a writing-oriented study of contemporary experiences of infrastructural failure, capitalist collapse, and ruination. One focus is the effects of capitalism on people of color and North American non-English speakers.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives**Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive**M. Watson**Prereq: ANTHR-105.***ANTHR-216WT Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Witchcraft, Misfortune, and Ritual Healing'***Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

This course explores the often-misunderstood concept of "witchcraft," past and present. "Witchcraft" is at times used to characterize nuanced cultural systems of power and healing, which seek to explain and redress suffering. In turn, many societies experiencing environmental insecurity, health crises, and rapid economic transitions have seen the rise of "witch-hunting" movements, from the Salem witch trials to present-day global conspiracy theories. We consider the causes and trajectories of these movements, which often promise collective redemption and salvation through the scapegoating of suspected malefactors, and examine alternative approaches to redressing injustice and misfortune.

*Crosslisted as: RELIG-225WT**Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences**M. Auslander**Prereq: ANTHR-105.***ANTHR-221 Anthropology of Media***Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

This course critically examines how media make a difference in diverse peoples' lives. How are media produced, circulated, and consumed? Together, we will explore the material forms through which subjectivities, collectivities, and histories are produced; and the social practices of constructing and contesting national identities, forging alternative political visions, transforming religious practice, and producing new relationships. In this 21st century, media are not just indispensable to what is known, but also, to how we know. Case studies will include film, TV, photography, art, archives, journalism, and digital platforms; ethnographic examples will be drawn from around the world.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives**Other Attribute(s): Writing-Intensive**S. Thorne**Prereq: ANTHR-105.***ANTHR-230 Language in Culture and Society***Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

Language is integral to human experiences across cultures. Interpersonal communication holds social worlds together, lending them significance. This course examines language as a complex, embodied field of cultural practice and performance. It bridges core concepts within linguistic anthropology and semiotics – such as relativity, indexicality, performance, and language ideology – with critical analyses of social fields including race, gender, and sexuality. Illustrative examples are drawn from Western and non-Western societies.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives**M. Auslander**Prereq: ANTHR-105.***ANTHR-235 History of Anthropological Thought***Spring. Credits: 4*

This course offers a historical foundation for themes in contemporary social theory and ethnography. We build this foundation through readings of twentieth-century anthropological and critical theories, including historicism, interpretive anthropology, structuralism, feminism, and postcolonialism. The course encourages critical and creative responses to anthropology's history through readings that challenge the canon and through active engagement with primary documents revealing the field's social, ethical, and political contexts.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives**Other Attribute(s): Writing-Intensive**M. Watson**Prereq: 4 credits in Anthropology at the 200 or 300 level.***ANTHR-240 Medical Anthropology***Fall. Credits: 4*

This course provides an introduction to medical anthropology. Core topics will include: the culture of medicine, the interaction of biology and society, the experience of illness, caregiving, addiction, violence, and humanitarian intervention. We will explore how ethnographic research and social theory can enrich understanding of illness and care, raising issues for and about medicine and public health often left out of other disciplinary approaches. Throughout, we will emphasize the vantage point of the local worlds in which people experience, narrate, and respond to illness and suffering, and the ways in which large-scale forces contribute to such local experience.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives**A. Chadha**Prereq: ANTHR-105.*



**ANTHR-248 Science, Feminism, and Mount Holyoke***Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

Students in this course will develop a collaborative history and ethnography of cultures of science at Mount Holyoke College. Through archival and ethnographic research carried out across the semester, we will examine scientific education and knowledge production at Mount Holyoke in cultural perspective. The collaborative project will introduce students to two broader stories: a history of feminist activist and scholarly challenges to the power of the life sciences; and a history of feminist scientists' work to reform their own institutional cultures. The interdisciplinary field that emerged at the nexus of these two movements, feminist science studies, will offer critical frameworks.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences**Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive**M. Watson**Prereq: ANTHR-105.***ANTHR-261 Cultures of Power in Mexico***Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

This course introduces the anthropology of Mexico through ethnographies of power, knowledge, and indigeneity. Drawing on feminist and decolonial critical methods, we will trace constructions of Mexican indigeneity through two intersecting stories. The first centers the effects of neocolonial capitalism on indigenous lives, with attention to contemporary ethnographic themes including bioprospecting, narcoculture, social movements, and resistance/refusal. The second lends historical texture to these themes by tracing how state anthropologists have constructed and governed indigenous communities since the Revolution.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives**Other Attribute(s): Writing-Intensive**M. Watson**Prereq: ANTHR-105.**Advisory: No previous knowledge of Mexican culture and history is required.***ANTHR-275 Research Methods in Cultural Anthropology***Fall. Credits: 4*

Topics include research design, ethical dilemmas, and the relationship between academic research and community based learning. Applied fieldwork and presentations are an integral part of this course.

*Applies to requirement(s): Meets No Distribution Requirement**Other Attribute(s): Community-Based Learning**J. Roth**Restrictions: This course is limited to Anthropology majors.**Prereq: ANTHR-105.***ANTHR-295 Independent Study***Fall and Spring. Credits: 1 - 4**The department**Instructor permission required.***ANTHR-316 Special Topics in Anthropology****ANTHR-316CA Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Carbon Christianity'***Fall. Credits: 4*

This seminar investigates the multiple connections between modern forms of Christianity and fossil fuels. The course begins with a consideration of recent scholarship that details how workers' everyday experiences in coal mines and oil fields profoundly shaped their religious sensibilities. We then examine how fossil fuel companies funded many of the most significant Christian institutions in the United States—both liberal and conservative—during the twentieth century. Finally, the course will reflect on contemporary Christian responses to climate change, both those that seek to halt the burning of fossil fuels and those that deny it is taking place.

*Crosslisted as: RELIG-331CA**Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences**Other Attribute(s): Writing-Intensive**W. Girard**Prereq: 8 credits in Anthropology or Religion.***ANTHR-316DE Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Settler Colonialism: Working Towards Decolonizing Indigenous American History'***Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

What is settler colonialism? What does it mean to decolonize Indigenous history? This class offers an overview of settler colonialism and the complex ways in which colonial narratives, imperialism, and white supremacy infiltrate interpretations of the past. Exploring theoretical frameworks alongside empirical data, readings and discussions will focus on the long legacy of these colonial practices throughout North America, shedding light on the impact and legacy of colonial encounters. By recognizing the ways that settler colonialism works, we will then examine the formation of the Genízaro ethnic identity in the American Southwest to illuminate the lasting impact of colonial encounters.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives**Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive**P. Stone**Prereq: 8 credits in the department.**Notes: Two students in this course may be selected to join Prof. Stone for field research in New Mexico in May and June.***ANTHR-316DM Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Decolonizing Museums'***Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

Museums collect, preserve, categorize, and exhibit objects, and through these practices, produce and circulate knowledge. This course takes "the museum" as an object of ethnographic inquiry, focusing especially on Indigenous peoples and their ways of knowing, being, and doing things. How might museums acknowledge the confronting truths of colonization, and the intergenerational and ongoing trauma endured by Indigenous peoples? How might this often-intercultural work offer possibilities for healing? Teaching and learning will be guided by principles of Indigenous sovereignty, and grounded in storytelling and in making things as Indigenous ways of transmitting knowledge.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives**M. Auslander**Prereq: 8 credits in the department including ANTHR-105.*

**ANTHR-316EG Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Eggs and Embryos: Innovations in Reproductive and Genetic Technologies'**

*Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

This seminar will focus on emerging innovations in the development, use and governance of reproductive and genetic technologies (RGTs). How do novel developments at the interface of fertility treatment and biomedical research raise both new and enduring questions about the 'naturalness' of procreation, the politics of queer families, the im/possibilities of disabilities, and transnational citizenship? Who has a say in what can be done and for which purposes? We will engage with ethnographic texts, documentaries, policy statements, citizen science activist projects, and social media in order to closely explore the diversity of perspectives in this field.

*Crosslisted as: GNDST-333EG*

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences*

*J. Luce*

*Prereq: 8 credits in Gender Studies or Anthropology.*

**ANTHR-316ET Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Advanced Seminar in Ethnomusicology'**

*Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

Designed for music and non-music majors, this advanced seminar examines core theoretical and methodological issues in ethnomusicology and the debates that have shaped its practice since its origins in the early twentieth century as comparative musicology. Drawing on musical traditions from different parts of the world and supplemented by workshops conducted by visiting professional musicians, the course explores the interdisciplinary approaches that inform how ethnomusicologists study the significance of music "in" and "as" culture. Topics covered will include ethnographic methods, the intersection of musicological and anthropological perspectives, the political significance of musical hybridity, applied ethnomusicology, and sound studies.

*Crosslisted as: MUSIC-374*

*Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Multicultural Perspectives*

*Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive*

*B. Fairley*

*Restrictions: Course limited to sophomores, juniors and seniors*

**ANTHR-316EX Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Craft and Composition: Experimental Ethnography'**

*Fall. Credits: 4*

Above all else, ethnography is a form of writing. Its formal properties range widely, running a gamut that transects art criticism, speculative fiction, travel writing, memoir, science writing, and poetry. But the genre's soul is an imaginative experiment: transporting one world into another. Ethnographers, then, share practices of representation and evocation with the arts. This course introduces the craft of imaginative ethnography, paying central attention to writing that refuses the (social) sciences' stodgy conventions. We will reflect on experiential shapes of reading – what does ethnography do for or to us? – as we recompose ourselves as a collective of ethnographic experimentalists.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives*

*Other Attribute(s): Writing-Intensive*

*M. Watson*

*Prereq: 8 credits in Anthropology.*

**ANTHR-316LA Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Race and Religion in Latin America'**

*Spring. Credits: 4*

The course will begin with an investigation of the proto-racial and religious categories through which Europeans in the early modern era understood human difference. From there, we will trace how these notions were re-conceptualized in the centuries following the encounter between Europeans, Africans, and the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas. As we examine this history – including the emergence of slavery, eugenics, *mestizaje*, and Liberation Theology – we will pay particular attention to how interwoven racial and religious hierarchies were both constructed and resisted. The final section of the course will concentrate on the contemporary entanglements of race and religion in the region.

*Crosslisted as: RELIG-331LA*

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives*

*W. Girard*

*Prereq: 8 credits in Anthropology, Religion, or Latin American Studies.*

**ANTHR-316LV Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Living in End Times: Religion and Climate Change'**

*Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

Religion and climate change might seem to be an odd combination. After all, we tend to imagine religion as the domain of faith, emotion, and the otherworldly and the climate as the realm of science, objective knowledge, and the here and now. Nevertheless, this course investigates the sometimes surprising connections between them. For example, how do religious communities work to promote or oppose political action on climate change? How do religious conceptions about God's relationship with nature or with humanity have consequences for adherents' views on climate change? How do the futures predicted by climate models and those prophesied in sacred texts affect people's actions today?

*Crosslisted as: RELIG-331LV*

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences*

*Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive*

*W. Girard*

*Prereq: 8 credits in Anthropology or Religion.*

**ANTHR-316LW Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Ethnographies of Law'**

*Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

This seminar focuses on the anthropological study of the legal field. The class will begin with a survey of some classical texts that underpin the legal thought in the modern era. We will then see how anthropologists contributed to the study of law by conceptualizing it as part of larger socio-political processes and as a field that includes social relations, processes, and practices. The students will learn how some key legal issues such as dispute management, decision making, and reconciliation are actualized in diverse cultural and social settings, to think critically and evaluate legal processes in a multicultural setting and in plural societies.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences*

*Other Attribute(s): Writing-Intensive*

*E. Babül*

*Prereq: 8 credits in Anthropology.*

**ANTHR-316MD Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Museums, Difficult Dialogues, and Social Repair'***Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

Museums increasingly are called to nurture courageous conversations about the most difficult challenges of the day. This course explores strategies for museum design, exhibition development, and public programming that promote meaningful, civil debate about such topics as climate change, environmental justice, and the biodiversity crisis; race and the legacies of slavery and social violence; indigeneity and cultural diversity; gender and sexuality, and the rights of non-human beings. What roles in turn might, and should, museums play in building partnerships and processes of social and ecosystem repair, restorative justice, and reconciliation across painful divides of history? Students will work closely with local museums, historical societies, libraries, and community organizations to develop innovative exhibitions and public programs that promote meaningful dialogues about inclusivity, belonging, and social justice.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives**Other Attribute(s): Community-Based Learning**M. Auslander**Prereq: 8 credits in anthropology.***ANTHR-316ME Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Political Anthropology of the Middle East'***Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

This seminar focuses on anthropological studies of how power - both in its open and hidden forms - manifests itself and shapes everyday life in the contemporary Middle East. It explores how authority is established and contested in various domains including bureaucracy and the state; sexuality and the family; religion and civil society; markets and the media. We will trace how experiences of colonization, imperialism, modernization, nationalism, capitalism, occupation, war and revolt mold the conditions of living for peoples of the Middle East. We will also examine how specific forms of knowledge production attribute coherence to the region, allowing its imagination as an object of intervention in the name of development and security.

*Crosslisted as: ASIAN-362**Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives**E. Babül**Prereq: 8 Credits in Anthropology.***ANTHR-316MT Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Multispecies Ethnography: 'Across Humans, Animals, and Plants'***Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

This course considers emerging strategies in anthropology and allied disciplines for researching, witnessing, and documenting the full web of life, broadly conceived, within which human and non-human beings are entangled. We explore debates over non-human personhood and the rights of natural ecosystems, such as rivers, mountains, and the earth itself. Close attention is given to varied indigenous perspectives on reciprocal (and non-extractive) relations among diverse living beings and to the possibilities of intersubjective awareness across human and animal domains.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives**M. Auslander**Prereq: 8 credits in Anthropology or Environmental Studies.***ANTHR-316NC Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Across Nature and Culture: Anthropology and the Environment'***Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

This course explores the complex, dynamic relationships between "nature" and "culture" in various systems of human thought and practice, past and present. We explore worldviews predicated on reciprocal exchanges between human and non-human entities, as well as those anchored in hierarchical relations of extraction and exploitation of natural resources. Students draw on anthropological methods to observe and interpret contested local sites of biodiversity and resource management. Special attention is given to struggles over the rights of indigenous peoples to manage local ecosystems and natural resources and to collaborative partnerships nurturing environmental sustainability and restoration.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives**Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive**M. Auslander**Prereq: 8 credits in Anthropology.***ANTHR-316ND Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Indigenous Data Sovereignty'***Spring. Credits: 4*

This course offers a qualitative approach to Indigenous Data Sovereignty. As we explore examples of innovative tools and technologies, and investigate how Indigenous ways of knowing, being, and doing are online/ in digital environments, we ground all learning in Indigenous ontologies: relationality, interconnectedness, and storytelling as a primary form of knowledge transmission. No system/structure for preserving or ensuring access to data is neutral; we will work together in a thought-experiment to radically reimagine digital infrastructures (as well as ideas about security and privacy online) from Indigenous perspectives.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives**S. Thorne**Prereq: ANTHR-105 and at least one course in Native American and Indigenous Studies (NAIS).**Advisory: All students who enroll in Indigenous Data Sovereignty must have taken at least one course in Native American and Indigenous Studies (NAIS).**Please contact the instructor with any questions.***ANTHR-316PG Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Who's Involved?: Participatory Governance, Emerging Technologies and Feminism'***Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

Deep brain stimulation, genome sequencing, regenerative medicine...Exploring practices of 'participatory governance' of emerging technologies, we will examine the formal and informal involvement of citizens, patients, health professionals, scientists and policy makers. What initiatives exist at local, national and transnational levels to foster science literacy? How do lived experiences of nationality, ability, class, race, ethnicity, gender and sexuality become visible and/or disappear within constructed frameworks of participatory governance? How can feminist ethnographic research and feminist theory contribute to a larger project of democratizing knowledge production and governance?

*Crosslisted as: GNDST-333PG**Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences**J. Luce**Prereq: 8 credits in Gender Studies or Anthropology.*



**ANTHR-316PR Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Productive and Reproductive Labor in the Middle East'**

*Spring. Credits: 4*

How has global capitalism shaped labor and the lives of working people in the Middle East, a region that has historically been considered marginal to European and North American metropolises? This question will guide our analysis of "free" versus "unfree" and "formal" versus "informal" labor. We will develop a better understanding of the shifting location of the Middle East within the world economy. We will examine ways in which the region's incorporation into the global economy has relied on and encouraged the spread of "unfree" and "informal" labor. Finally, we will study the effects of this proliferation of unfree and informal labor on the organization of reproductive and care labor within households in different parts of the Middle East.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives*

*Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive*

*N. Latif*

*Prereq: 8 credits in Anthropology or Middle Eastern Studies.*

**ANTHR-316RC Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Ethnographic Research in Religious Communities'**

*Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

With a focus on local religious communities, this course puts into practice the research methods, modes of analysis, and writing styles that characterize ethnographic fieldwork. We first consider prominent ethnographies of religious communities in the United States in order to better understand the specific questions, debates, and ethical challenges that this literature addresses. Students then gain hands-on experience with a variety of ethnographic methods through course field trips to local places of worship. Final projects are rooted in extensive independent ethnographic research with a religious community.

*Crosslisted as: RELIG-331RC*

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences*

*Other Attribute(s): Writing-Intensive*

*W. Girard*

*Prereq: 8 credits in Anthropology or Religion.*

**ANTHR-316SE Special Topics in Anthropology: 'Anthropology of Secularism'**

*Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4*

What is secularism? For many of us, the answer is obvious: the world without religious belief, or the separation of church and state, or even the "really real" world. In recent years, scholars in number fields have begun to question these common sense notions about secularism. In this course, we will investigate this rapidly expanding literature and the critical lines of inquiry it has opened up: Under what specific cultural and historic conditions did secularism first emerge? Is secularism experienced today in the same way throughout the world? If not, how do they vary? What ways of being and living does secularism encourage or allow to flourish? Which does it stunt, block, or prohibit?

*Crosslisted as: RELIG-331SE*

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives*

*W. Girard*

*Prereq: 8 credits in Anthropology or in Religion.*

**ANTHR-342 Science as Culture**

*Spring. Credits: 4*

What is science? The progressive discovery of Nature's laws?

The process of honing claims about the universe? Is science the act of postulating and testing hypotheses? Or is it tinkering, experimentation? This course offers an advanced introduction to cultural and anthropological studies of science. Through careful readings of work in areas such as the sociology of scientific knowledge, actor-network theory, feminist science studies, and affect theory, we will explore the sciences as complex systems of cultural production. The course will culminate in a series of critical ethnographic studies of how the sciences shape concepts and experiences of race, the body, gender, and sexuality.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives*

*Other Attribute(s): Writing-Intensive*

*M. Watson*

*Prereq: 8 credits in the department.*

**ANTHR-350 Issues in Contemporary Anthropological Theory**

*Fall. Credits: 4*

This course explores the major theoretical frameworks developed and debated by anthropologists of the past two decades. It covers core issues in anthropological epistemology, the relationship of ethnography to social and cultural theory, trends in anthropological analysis, and the place of anthropological theory in broader academic and public discourses.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences; Multicultural Perspectives*

*Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive, Writing-Intensive*

*M. Watson*

*Restrictions: This course is limited to seniors.; This course is limited to Anthropology majors.*

*Prereq: 8 credits in anthropology including ANTHR-235.*

*Advisory: Anthropology majors should take ANTHR-235 before ANTHR-350.*

*Notes: Five College students must obtain instructor permission to register.*

**ANTHR-352 Digital Cultures**

*Fall. Credits: 4*

In the last decades, digital media have become integral to our quotidian lives as well as to myriad translocal processes. "New" technologies are hailed in celebratory narratives of democratization and participation, access and innovation, enchantment and possibility; and newly-available gadgets, devices, and platforms are taken up with great speed and facility. This course is designed to ethnographically explore "the digital," as both a site and subject of scholarly inquiry, in which we think through how this form is shifting the ways in which we know ourselves, our social networks, our bodies, and the dynamic cultural and political contexts in which we live.

*Applies to requirement(s): Social Sciences*

*S. Thorne*

*Prereq: 8 credits in the department.*

**ANTHR-395 Independent Study**

*Fall and Spring. Credits: 1 - 8*

*The department*

*Instructor permission required.*