

Anthropology ~ Fall 2005 Courses

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Anthropology ~ Fall Courses

Anth. 10: Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology

TBD

Time Block: K – Monday & Wednesday 4:00- 4:50

Cross cultural analysis of the varieties of human experience in social life. Topics include belief systems and symbolic forms, politics, warfare and social control, family and kinship, subsistence, economic production, and cultural critique. This course emphasizes problems inherent in understanding unfamiliar cultures in their own terms.

Note: Students must also register for recitation.



Anth. 30: Prehistoric Archaeology

Lauren Sullivan

Time Block: L+ - Monday & Wednesday 5:30 – 6:45



Survey of human culture from the earliest Paleolithic hunters and gatherers to the formation of states and the beginning of recorded history. Course provides an introduction to archaeological methods, a worldwide overview of prehistoric life ways, and a more detailed analysis of cultural development in the New World.

Note: cross-listed as ARCH 30

Anth. 50: Freshman Seminar: Armies of the Young: Children & Youth in Armed Conflict

Rosalind Shaw

Time Block: 7 – Wednesday 1:30 – 3:55

- “I joined the guerillas to escape. I thought I’d get some money and could be independent.” (Girl soldier with FARC in Columbia)
- “Other trainees, if they were caught trying to run away, their hands and feet were beaten with a bamboo stick.” (Boy abducted at age 13 by government forces in Myanmar [Burma])
- “I joined the Mahdi army to fight the Americans.” (12-year-old boy in Najaf, Iraq)



Children and youth are used as soldiers in armed conflicts all over the world. Those who do not become fighters are often displaced and separated from their families. In this full-credit discussion-based class for Freshmen only, we will explore the lives of children and youth in war zones through the lens of Anthropology. Why are children and youth used as combatants? How are they recruited and trained? How do armed groups retain them? What are young peoples’ experiences as fighters or camp followers? What are the challenges of disarming and reintegrating them after conflict? How do the lives of young combatants differ from those of non-combatants, and how do the experiences and needs of girls differ from those of boys? How do cultural ideas about childhood and youth shape these experiences? We will explore these questions through a focus on children and youth in African and Latin American conflicts. As a final project, members of this class will collect materials for a post-9/11 comparison of children and youth in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the USA.

Prerequisite: Freshmen only

Anth. 118: Culture and Power in Africa

TBD

Time Block: M+ - Tuesday & Thursday 5:30 – 6:45



Instead of viewing culture in Africa as a static, “traditional” way of life that is “corrupted” by Westernization, we will explore people’s creativity as cultural actors. Both in the past and today, people in African rural and urban communities alike reshape their cultural ideas and practices with new historical circumstances. In conditions of unequal power such as the slave trade, colonialism, labor migration, postcolonial domination, and globalization, African cultural practices do not simply wither away or become “deformed.” Through the dynamic production of culture, people address processes of modernity and often seek to reshape them in new forms of religion, new forms of ethnic, cultural, cultural, and gendered identity, new legal practices, and new syntheses of art, music, and drama . In this course, we will explore this production of culture through studies in West, East, and Southern Africa.

Prerequisite: Sophomore standing or consent.

Anth. 130: The History of Anthropological Thought

Sarah Pinto

Time Block: J+ - Tuesday & Thursday 4:00 – 5:15



An exploration into the history of anthropological thought from its origins in 19th century France, Britain, and the United States to the present. Evolutionist, historical-particularist, functionalist, structuralist, materialist, and symbolic approaches will all be discussed.



Prerequisite: Anthropology major or consent.

Anth. 132: Myth, Ritual, and Symbol

Cathy Stanton

Time Block: F+ - Tuesday & Thursday 12:00 – 1:15



Kaswende, Mami Wata
Lubumbahsi 1990

Myth, ritual, and symbol exist in all human societies and play key roles in helping humans to comprehend, function within, and re-shape their worlds. Mythography—the study of these topics—can deeply enrich our sense of human possibility and creativity. The course will begin by surveying mythography’s own origin story and development over the past century. We will examine some of the ways in which anthropologists and others have explained myth, ritual, and symbol, including functionalist, historical-geographic, structuralist, psychoanalytical, and interpretive approaches. In the middle part of the semester we will explore some of the specific ways in which myths, rituals, and symbols can serve to organize societies, integrate individuals, facilitate change, and explain and maintain our connection to the cosmos. Drawing on the work of Victor Turner and others, we will investigate liminality, tricksters, shamans, initiation, and the changing relationship of myth and science. Finally, we will ask how myth, ritual, and symbol become located in bodies and landscapes, finishing with a particular focus on contemporary tourist rituals and spaces.

Prerequisite: Anthropology 010, sophomore standing or consent.

Anth. 148: Medical Anthropology

Sarah Pinto

Time Block: H+ - Tuesday & Thursday 1:30 – 2:45

This course introduces students to the cultural basis of illness and curing. The course is concerned both with how non-Western societies perceive and treat illness, and also with how knowledge of non-Western practices can be used to critique and inform the management of our own health problems. The course addresses the meanings of sickness, the nature of relationships between patients and healers, and the effects of culture on health. Ethnographic examples will be drawn from a variety of societies and cultures.

Prerequisite: Sophomore standing or consent



Anth. 149A Sophomore Seminar: Performance & Politics

Cathy Stanton

Time Block: 6 – Tuesday 1:30 – 3:55

This seminar will explore the interweaving of the political and the performative in human cultures. We will explore at the political dimensions of many forms of performance and display (for example, parades, films, plays, festivals, reenactment, museum exhibits, visual art and monuments) as well as the performative aspects of such explicitly political behavior as election campaigns, legal proceedings, speeches, party conventions, and military display. The class will consider how different groups may make use of various performance forms to support, legitimate, challenge, or re-make nation-states and other political systems. We will examine how performative or symbolic violence may relate to actual violence, and some of the complex ways in which performances—often drawing on notions of authenticity and tradition—can be used to articulate and negotiate many kinds of cultural differences. Course materials will be drawn from a wide range of time periods and human cultures, but there will be an emphasis throughout on performance and politics in the U.S., particularly relating to race and nation-building. The iconic figure of Abraham Lincoln will serve as a case study, connecting the course thematically with the exhibit “Forever Free: Abraham Lincoln’s Journey to Emancipation” at Tisch Library during the fall of 2005. We will consider Lincoln both as a political performer in his own right and as a potent symbol invoked in countless performance forms over the past century and a half.



Anth. 149B: Growing Up Latino

TBD

Time Block: G+ - Monday & Wednesday 1:30 – 2:45

What's it like to grow up Latino/a in the United States around the turn of the millennium, a time when Latinos/as are the nation's largest and fastest growing minority? What are the consequences of speaking two languages and living between two cultures? How have US concepts of race influenced the formation of Latino/a identities? What does it mean to be Latino/a, anyway? This course will explore the social and cultural forces shaping how Latino/a youth define themselves within an increasingly multi-cultural society.



Anth. 149C: Music, Blackness, Caribbean Latinos

Raquel Rivera

Time block: J+ M+ - Tuesday 4 – 6:45

Blackness and latinidad (Latinoness) are too often imagined as discreet categories that do not intersect. This course explores the ways in which they do intersect using Caribbean Latino history, identities and musical expressions as examples (from "traditional" Afro-Caribbean music like Dominican palos, Puerto Rican bomba and Cuban rumba, to more recent genres like salsa, rock, hip hop and reggaetón). This course explores the similarities and differences among Spanish



Caribbean Latino groups, and also the cultural convergences between Spanish Caribbean Latinos, African Americans and non-Latino Caribbeans. The assigned readings, films and recordings examine the historical and social contexts from which these musical forms have emerged (both in the Caribbean and in the United States), highlighting the intricate relationship between music, race, ethnicity, national identities, migration, gender and commercialization.

Prerequisites: Sophomore standing

Note: cross-listed as Soc 188B

Anth. 149D: Royal Arts of Africa

Peter Probst

Time Block: L+ - Monday & Wednesday 5:30-6:45

Based upon a critical examination of what royal African arts reveal about the nature of kingship and ideas about the divine in Africa, the lecture will focus on three dimensions of art: 1. art as a medium of representation (enhancement, and sublimation of political status) 2. art as a medium of communication (particularly communication with deities, spiritual beings, by sacrificial offerings) and 3. art as a medium of remembrance. (art as a means to arrest, store and report about the past).



Note: cross-listed as FAH 006

Anth. 150: Human Evolution

Stephen Bailey

Time Block: F+ - Tuesday & Thursday 12:00-1:15



Detailed examination of the human evolutionary record from Australopithecus through contemporary populations. Emphasis on the analysis of functional morphology. Particular problems are stressed, including the interplay of early social organization, ecological systems, and bipedalism; origins of modern human populations; and the impact of technology on cognitive evolution.

Prerequisite: Anthropology 020 or consent.

Anth. 182WW: Human Physique

Stephen Bailey

Time Block: 10 – Monday 7 - 10

Our bodies are adaptive landscapes formed by genes, environment, and culture. Physique is studied in the context of biological growth from conception to adulthood with an emphasis on childhood and adolescence. Topics include prenatal determinants of shape and size; impact of malnutrition and disease on children's growth; sex differences in body



composition and shape; the interplay between cultural and biological constructions of physique; and selective models of attractiveness.

Prerequisite: Anthropology 020, consent or graduate standing.

Anth. 191: Directed Reading in Anthropology

Department Members

Prerequisite: Consent. Credit to be arranged.

Anth. 197: Directed Research in Anthropology

Department Members

Areas for directed research may include physical anthropology, social anthropology, and archaeology. Credit to be arranged.

Prerequisite: Consent

Anth. 198: Apprenticeship in Anthropological Research

Department Members

An intensive application of research techniques to projects currently underway with direct supervision. Credit to be arranged.

Prerequisite: Consent

Anth. 199: Senior Honors Thesis

Department Members

If you are an anthropology major who has been on the dean's list you may be eligible to do an honors thesis in anthropology. Please discuss this with your advisor, after you have read the section on "Thesis Honors" in the Tufts Bulletin.

Prerequisite: Consent