anthropology
fall 2020 course guide
Anthropologists study global human experience, combining social, cultural, biological, archaeological, and linguistic approaches within a single discipline. Our questions and topics are diverse. In our courses, students examine (for example) the relationship between culture and human rights, the globalization of childhood, concepts of animal life in industrial farming, place making in global cities, the political shaping of gender, how human bodies relate to their environments, questions of cultural ownership in art, new uses of social media, indigenous rights in contexts of environmental destruction, nationalist uses of archaeology, and the intersection of transnational diasporas with US notions of "race." While in the past anthropology was typically the study of non-Western societies, today anthropologists also work "at home"—wherever in the world that "home" is.

Our embrace of both qualitative and scientific research gives our methods flexibility, depth, and analytical rigor. Ethnography, cultural anthropology’s signature set of research methods, is in demand in design, consulting, technology, marketing, human services, and other industries, where it drives innovation through the field of "user experience.” Ethnographic techniques such as participant observation, semi-structured interviews, and participant photojournaling help researchers view cultural practices and social interactions with new eyes, find implicit patterns and meanings, and see the actual workings of technologies and institutions in practice. For anthropologists, however, ethnography is more than a tool: it is a practice that generates critical thinking and ethical awareness.

Anthropology at Tufts gives students opportunities for ethnographic research though our Fieldwork Lab (ANTH 161), several upper-level seminars (ANTH 162 and over), internships (ANTH 99), and independent research projects (ANTH 197 and 199). Our students can present their research and engage with others through Tufts’ student Anthropology Collective and Spring Student Anthropology Symposium (SSAS). This combination of hands-on research, disciplinary breadth, global and local understanding, and intellectual community makes Anthropology a strong major and an excellent preparation for a wide range of careers.
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<td>ANTH 24</td>
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<td>Tatiana Chudakova</td>
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<td>ANTH 40</td>
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<td>Lara Durgavich</td>
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<td>ANTH 135</td>
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<td>ANTH 136</td>
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<td>ANTH 148</td>
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<td>Tatiana Chudakova</td>
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<td>ANTH 168*Δ</td>
<td>Anthropology of Colonialism/Decolonizing Anthropology*Δ (ca, sja)</td>
<td>Amahl Bishara</td>
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<td>ANTH 185-05*Δ</td>
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Crosslisted Courses in other departments or programs:

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<td>ANTH 149-49</td>
<td>Music as Culture (ca)</td>
<td>Stephanie Khour</td>
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<td>ANTH 149-52</td>
<td>Evolutionary Perspectives on Human Development (ba)</td>
<td>Martha Pott</td>
<td>E</td>
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<td>ANTH 185-06</td>
<td>Art and Anthropology (ca)</td>
<td>Peter Probst</td>
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(ba, ca, ma, sja) indicate Minor course designations
* counts towards the critical geographies (area) course requirement
Δ counts towards the ca/sja methods intensive course requirement
Amahl Bishara | Associate Professor | Chair  
amahl.bishara@tufts.edu | Eaton Hall Room 305  
Media, human rights, the state, journalism, democracy, the politics of place, knowledge production, expressivity, the Middle East

Alex Blanchette | Assistant Professor  
alex.blanchette@tufts.edu | Eaton Hall Room 309  
Ecology, labor, green capitalism; biotechnology, animals; modernity, alienation, determination; food politics; industrial agriculture, United States

Tatiana Chudakova | Assistant Professor  
tatiana.chudakova@tufts.edu | Eaton Hall Room 311B  
Medical anthropology, science and technology, environment, ethnicity and indigeneity, nationalism, post-socialism; Russia; North Asia.

Sarah Luna | Kathryn McCarthy Assistant Professor in Women’s Studies  
*s on leave AY 2020-21*  
sarah.luna@tufts.edu | Eaton Hall Room 304  
Gender and sexuality studies, migration, sexual labor, mission work, Mexico/U.S. border

Zarin Machanda | Usen Family Career Development Assistant Professor  
*z on leave Fall 2020*  
zarin.machanda@tufts.edu | Eaton Hall Room 308  
Biological anthropology, primatology, chimpanzee behavioral ecology, primate life history and development, the evolution of social relationships, the ecology of male-female relationships

Sarah Pinto | Professor  
*s on leave AY 2020-21*  
sarah.pinto@tufts.edu | Eaton Hall Room 307  
Medical anthropology, gender, psychiatry, kinship, history of medicine, global feminisms, India.

Nick Seaver | Assistant Professor  
nick.seaver@tufts.edu | Eaton Hall Room 311A  
Computing and algorithms, sound and music, knowledge and attention, taste and classification, media technologies, science and technology studies

Cathy Stanton | Senior Lecturer  
cathy.stanton@tufts.edu | Eaton Hall Room 303  
Tourism, museums, myth and ritual, cultural performance, culture-led redevelopment, mobilities, farm history/heritage

Lauren Sullivan | Lecturer  
lauren.sullivan@umb.edu | Eaton Hall Room 303  
Mesoamerican archaeology, Mayan archaeology, the rise and fall of complex societies, prehistory of the American Southwest, Paleoindians of North America, human evolution, cultural anthropology, ceramic analysis, Belize
ANTH 12  Gender in World Cultures (ca)  
TBA  K+, MW, 4:30-5:45 PM  
CL: WGSS 85-44

This course is an introduction to the anthropology of gender, a field that considers diverse ways gender is imagined, performed, and constructed. Beginning with the basic idea that sex and gender are not singular things, this course will read ethnographic material from a variety of geographical, political, and cultural contexts to answer questions such as: What are sex, gender, and sex/gender systems? How do people work creatively within and against the conditions they create? How is gender a social process? Do all cultures understand sex or gender in binary terms? How are these constructions enmeshed in conditions of power? What are the stakes - in local terms - for the ways sex and gender are understood? And how do people challenge and reimagine conditions of gendering in ways that do justice to diverse experiences and identities? This course counts toward the Anthropology sociocultural gateway requirement, the Cultural Anthropology minor, and the Social Sciences distribution requirement.

ANTH 24  Anthropology of Environment (ca, sja)  
Alex Blanchette  G+, MW, 1:30-2:45 PM

This course provides an overview of intellectual debates in Environmental Anthropology across the 20th and 21st centuries, with an emphasis on the shifting human place in nature amidst our current epoch of global ecological crises. Topics are wide-ranging and include the Western cultural idea of pure nature; ethnography; how the material world influences culture; human adaptation and environmental determinism; resource extraction and capitalist natures; species extinction and biodiversity; and environmental racism and justice. This entry-level course grounds students in key terms and debates in anthropology and social theory, while interrogating popular ideas such as nature and sustainability. This course counts toward the Anthropology sociocultural gateway requirement, the Cultural and Social Justice Anthropology minors, and the Social Sciences distribution requirement.
How does communism live on today? This course explores the political, cultural, and economic transformations that have swept across the former Soviet Union after the collapse of state socialism. Often labeled “postsocialist,” this part of the world – territorially, about 1/6th of the globe – is typically narrated in relation to its socialist past. But what does it mean to be “post-socialist”? What was state socialism, and how did it shape the highly diverse cultural worlds it brought together under the same political mantle? This class is concerned with how the “specters” of state socialism live on – or are exorcised – in institutions, political and economic practices, cultural narratives, and everyday lives and habits. We will explore such topics as: power and political resistance; ethnicity and nationalism; gender and body politics; health and illness; commodification and consumption; religion, magic, and rationality; resource extraction; nuclear and militarized environments; and the rise of criminal economies. We will draw on a variety of texts, but primarily ethnography, popular media, and film to reflect on the “afterlives” of socialist projects and formations, tracing their hauntings and remainders in the present. We will survey case studies from Russia, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and Inner Asia. This course counts toward the Anthropology sociocultural gateway and area/critical geographies requirement, the Cultural and Social Justice Anthropology minors, the Social Sciences distribution requirement.
ANTH 40 Biological Anthropology+ Lab (ba)
Lara Durgavich   E+, MW, 10:30-11:45 AM
**Lab A:** E+, F, 10:30-11:45 AM  |  **Lab B:** F+, F, 12:00-1:15 PM

This course introduces the theories and scientific questions of biological anthropology. This course is divided into four sections. First, we will review the processes of evolution and natural selection, including discussion of evolutionary fitness, adaptation, basic inheritance, and population genetics. Second, we will discuss the diversity, evolution, ecology, and behavior of non-human primates, and consider how insights from the study of non-human primates can enrich our understanding of humans. Third, we will trace the morphological and technical evolution of humans from the earliest bipedal woodland apes through Neanderthals and modern humans. Fourth, we will consider how an evolutionary framework can enrich our understanding of modern human genetic, phenotypic, and cultural diversity and behavior. This course counts toward the Anthropology biological/archaeology gateway requirement, the Biological and Medical Anthropology minors, and the Natural Sciences distribution requirement.

ANTH 50 Prehistoric Archaeology
Lauren Sullivan   M+, MW, 6:00-7:15 PM   **CL:** ARCH 50

Prehistoric Archaeology provides an introduction to archaeological theory, methods, and goals. The course examines contemporary methods used by archaeologists, and a history of archaeological investigation, and provides a summary of worldwide prehistoric human cultural developments. The focus is on the major turning points in the history of humanity including human evolution, the origins of culture, domestication of plants and animals, and the evolution of cities and ancient civilizations. This course is designed to introduce you to building an argument, to think critically and use scientific analysis in archaeology, to appreciate and explore diverse cultures, and to develop an understanding of the ways in which comparative frameworks in archaeology are used to illuminate broader social processes. This course counts toward the Anthropology biological/archaeology gateway requirement, the World Civilization requirement, and the Social Sciences distribution requirement.
ANTH 130  Anthropological Thought *(ca, ma, sja)*
Nick Seaver    J+, TR, 3:00-4:15 PM
Required course for Anthropology majors
Recommendation: One anthropology course + junior standing, or permission of instructor

Anthropology as a discipline is uniquely concerned with its own history, and that history began, by most accounts, with an interest in kinship and classification. This course surveys the history of anthropological thought through these lenses, tracing the disciplinary relationships and changing categories through which anthropologists have made sense of the world since the late 19th century. By engaging writings, theories, and debates from across anthropology's history, we will try to understand how contemporary research interests fit into broader patterns of inquiry. We will treat anthropology as a knowledge-making project, which, since its inception, has been entangled with other knowledge-making projects, both among the people it has studied and in adjacent academic disciplines. Through regular written responses, student-led discussions, and experimental exercises, students will practice generous and critical readings, understanding primary sources in their original contexts while learning how to make use of them for contemporary concerns. Students will be encouraged to consider themselves as part of an anthropological genealogy, recognizing their own positions in long-running debates. This course counts toward the Cultural, Medical, and Social Justice Anthropology minors, and the Social Sciences distribution requirement.
ANTH 132 Myth, Ritual, and Symbol (ca)
Sharon Kivenko  F+, TR, 12:00-1:15 PM  
CL: REL 134

Symbols, rituals and mythological tales are important elements of human societies. Once appreciated as timeless and unchanging symbols, rites and stories are now recognized for how they are entwined with the historical moments in which they are performed. Contrary to widely held assumptions that secularism is the trend in these “post-modern” times, the opposite in fact holds true. Neo-liberalism, post-coloniality, and nationalist ideas are no strangers to the symbols societies invoke, the rituals communities perform, and the stories that are publicly recounted. In this course, we will trace the changing meanings of symbol, ritual, and myth within the field of anthropology as a means of tracking the ways in which these technologies of society and sociality are continually adapted to and engaged with the material and historical forces of our times. This course counts toward the Cultural Anthropology minor, the World Civilization requirement, and the Social Sciences or Humanities distribution requirement.

ANTH 135 Visual Anthropology (ca)
Harsha Menon  11+, T, 6:00-9:00 PM  
CL: FMS 59

Development of visual anthropology from early travel documentary forms to more recent multivocal works on video. Relationship between written and visual documents. Viewing classic ethnographic films as well as contemporary films that challenge the classic genre of ethnographic films. Consideration of other forms of visual culture including maps, drawings, and photos. Special attention to ethical issues in visual anthropology. This course counts toward the Cultural Anthropology minor and the Social Sciences distribution requirement.
This course offers a mid-level survey of topics in the cultural analysis of computing. Where popular and engineering discourse around computing often takes it to be a universalizing force that “impacts” culture and society without being significantly influenced by them, we will take the opposite approach, investigating how computers embody cultural ideals and depend on social contexts. Areas of inquiry will range from the mines that provide the rare earth metals necessary for computers to function, to the culture of Silicon Valley workplaces, to global distributions of labor in chip manufacturing and new forms of “micro-work.” In addition to ethnographic research on the contemporary variability of experiences with computers, we will attend to the historical development of computing as a cultural form, from its origins in gendered calculational labor to the mid-century emergence of cybernetics to the connections between counterculture and cyberculture. Through regular written responses, student-led discussions, and experimental exercises, students will learn how to examine the sociocultural aspects of computing in their everyday lives. Topics will also include the cultural life of algorithms and big data, the social analysis of mathematics, post-colonial computing, and social media. This course counts toward the Cultural Anthropology minor and the Social Sciences distribution requirement.
This course introduces students to the central topics and methodological approaches in medical anthropology. We will track how different medical systems and institutions — Western biomedicine among them — conceive of and act upon individual and collective bodies and subjects. Drawing from both classical and contemporary texts, we interrogate how social, political, and economic forces shape medicine, illness, and healing, and how these are made into objects of inquiry in the social sciences. Topics will include an examination of meaning, belief, and efficacy; the role of medicine in statecraft and colonialism; public health and population management; global health and humanitarianism; environmental health and the distribution of risk; cross-cultural theories of the body; the intersections between medicine and capital; and the effects and promises of new medical technologies. We will pay special attention to the ways in which race, ethnicity, sexuality, and gender structure and are structured by medicine and its interventions. This course counts toward the Cultural, Medical, and Social Justice Anthropology minors, the World Civilization requirement, and the Social Sciences distribution requirement.
ANTH 161 Fieldwork Lab \( \Delta \) (ca, ma, sja)
Cathy Stanton 5+, M, 1:20-4:20 PM
*Required course for majors who matriculated at Tufts after September 2018*
*Fulfills upper-level seminar requirement for majors who matriculated at Tufts before September 2018*

This workshop-style class offers a hands-on introduction to ethnographic methods, the signature toolkit of cultural anthropology. Students will work individually and collaboratively on small-scale projects. Methods and skills covered will include the key strategy of “participant-observation”; research design; spatial, visual, and discourse analysis; formal and informal interviewing; fieldnote writing and coding; ethnographic writing and other products; and ethical considerations, including those arising from the politics of difference, encounter, experience, and representation as well as the balancing of scholarly, community, and client goals. The course is open to students at all levels and counts toward the Cultural, Medical, and Social Justice Anthropology minors (methods intensive), and the Social Sciences distribution requirement.

ANTH 168 Anthropology of Colonialism/Decolonizing Anthropology*\( \Delta \) (ca, sja)
Amahl Bishara 7+, W, 1:20-4:20 PM  
*CL: CST 194-03*
*Recommendation: one course in Anthropology or permission of instructor*

This course presents students with anthropological tools to analyze colonialism, as well as to evaluate anthropology’s shifting and contradictory relationships to colonialism and decolonization. It introduces students to key readings in critical indigenous studies. We study how colonial states and societies maintain dominance, when and how colonialism ends, and what anthropology has to do with colonialism and decolonization. We consider how indigenous politics and cultures thrive, resist, change, and survive and how indigenous people mourn and commemorate what is lost. We analyze when and how anthropology has been complicit with colonial projects. We explore how anthropologists can build a decolonizing anthropology. This course counts toward the Anthropology upper-level seminar and critical geographies requirement, the Cultural and Social Justice Anthropology minors (methods intensive), and the Social Sciences distribution requirement. This course counts toward the Anthropology upper-level seminar and critical geographies requirement, the Cultural and Social Justice Anthropology minors, and the Social Sciences distribution requirement.
ANTH 185-05 The End of Work in the United States*Δ (ca, sja)
Alex Blanchette  12+, W, 6:00-9:00 PM
Students previously enrolled in ANTH 149-02 (Fall 2018) may not register for this course

The United States is a place where most people not only work to live, but also one where many seem quite willing to live for work. That is, work has been culturally naturalized as a largely apolitical, inevitable, and unquestioned good. This remains true even at a moment when neoliberal policies have decimated dignified working-class employment, environmental protections and safety nets are being stripped in a seemingly desperate bid to create fleeting jobs, and automation technologies may make capitalism less dependent on human bodies. In rejoinder, this course looks at how anthropologists of the U.S. have imagined getting a life beyond work. It examines other ways of organizing society — from play, to sex, to faith — that do not revolve around unending growth and labor productivity. In so doing, we trace a host of issues seldom featured within the same conversation: capitalism and the labor theory of value; “disruptive” technologies; de-growth movements; programs for universal basic income; housework; video games; youth subcultures; aging and retirement; and various American utopian communities. At root, this course suggests work consumes too much collective imagination. To this end, we will also try to experiment with practicing forms of learning that are not overdetermined by inherited work ethics, images, and values. This course counts toward the Anthropology upper-level seminar and critical geographies requirement, the Cultural and Social Justice Anthropology minors (methods intensive), and the Social Sciences distribution requirement.

Independent Study Courses

Recommendation: Permission of instructor required
Contact anthropology@tufts.edu to register

ANTH 99  Internship
ANTH 191  Directed Reading
ANTH 197  Directed Research
ANTH 198  Apprenticeship
ANTH 199  Senior Honors Thesis
requirements

ANTHROPOLOGY MAJOR

Eleven courses, including:

1. One gateway (introductory) sociocultural anthropology course (ANTH 10-39)
2. One gateway biological anthropology or archaeology course (ANTH 40-59)
3. ANTH 130 - Anthropological Thought
4. ANTH 161 - Fieldwork Lab
5. Seven additional anthropology courses, at least one of which must be a “critical geographies” course (course adopting a regional focus), and two of which must be upper-level seminars (ANTH 162-189)

We recommend taking the theory course (ANTH 130) in the junior year and the ethnographic methods course (ANTH 161) prior to the senior year. The department encourages majors to explore the possibility of undertaking an internship (ANTH 99) or independent study (ANTH 191-199).

A minimum of 50% of courses counted toward the Anthropology major must be completed at the Tufts University home campus or in Tufts University sponsored programs abroad. A maximum of two courses cross-listed in other Tufts departments may be counted toward the Anthropology major. Students must achieve a grade of C- or better for a course to count for credit toward the major.

Old requirements for students who matriculated at Tufts before September 2018

Ten courses, including:

1. One Gateway (introductory) sociocultural anthropology course (ANTH 05-39)
2. One Gateway biological anthropology or archaeology course (ANTH 40-59)
3. ANTH 130 - Anthropological Thought
4. One area-focused course numbered below 160 (gateway or mid-level)
5. Two upper-level seminars (ANTH 160-189)
6. Four additional courses in anthropology
ANTHROPOLOGY MINORS

Five courses and no less than 15 SHUs, including:

**Biological Anthropology (ba)**

**Advisor: Zarin Machanda**

1. **ANTH 40**, Biological Anthropology
2. Three additional courses related to biological anthropology one of which may be taken in another department but must be approved by anthropology dept.
3. Capstone project in biological anthropology. For details of capstone project options and requirements, students are referred to the department website.

**Cultural Anthropology (ca)**

**Advisor: Cathy Stanton**

1. One gateway course in cultural anthropology (ANTH 10-ANTH 39)
2. **ANTH 130** - Anthropological Thought
3. **ANTH 161** - Fieldwork Lab or other methods course designated by dept.
4. Two additional courses in cultural anthropology (designated by dept.)

**Medical Anthropology (ma)**

**Advisor: Sarah Pinto**

1. One gateway course in cultural anthropology (ANTH 10-ANTH 39)
2. **ANTH 130** - Anthropological Thought
3. **ANTH 148** - Medical Anthropology
4. Two additional courses in medical anthropology (designated by department)

**Social Justice Anthropology (sja)**

**Advisor: Amahl Bishara**

1. One gateway course in cultural anthropology related to social justice (courses designated by dept. in range of ANTH 10-ANTH 39)
2. **ANTH 161** - Fieldwork Lab or other methods course designated by dept.
3. Two additional anthropology courses related to social justice and activism designated by dept. which may include **ANTH 130** - Anthropological Thought
4. Capstone project in social justice anthropology, which must be completed after taking **ANTH 161** or approved methods course. For details of capstone project options and requirements, students are referred to department website.

For the sake of the minors in Cultural Anthropology & Social Justice Anthropology, a Methods intensive course will be one in which students read and discuss the history, ethical dimensions, and practical elements of anthropological methods and are taught about and required to carry out anthropological research with at least two distinct methods, including: participant-observation, ethnographic interviews, conversation analysis or other linguistic anthropological methods, digital ethnography, media analysis, or auto-ethnography.

See course list and descriptions for designations