anthropology

SPRING 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.
ANTH 20  Global Cities  (ca)
Cathy Stanton  
K+, MW, 4:30-5:45 PM

ANTH 27  Human Rights and Justice in Cultural Context  (ca, sja)
Thomas Abowd  
H+, TR, 1:30-2:45PM  CL: PJS 27

ANTH 30  Food, Nutrition, and Culture  (ba, ca, ma)
Zarin Machanda & Alex Blanchette  
E+, MW, 10:30-11:45 AM

ANTH 32  Introduction to the Anthropology of Science and Technology  (ca, ma)
Nick Seaver  
I+, MW, 3:00-4:15PM  CL: STS 32

ANTH 44  Primate Social Behavior + Lab  (ba)
Zarin Machanda  
G, MWF, 1:30-2:20 PM  CL: BIO 44
(Lab A) R+, W, 9:00-10:15 AM  (Lab B) K+, W, 4:30-5:45 PM

ANTH 128  Mesoamerican Archaeology
Lauren Sullivan  
M+, MW, 6:00-7:15 PM  CL: ARCH 128, LAS 128

ANTH 137  Language and Culture  (ca, sja)
Tatiana Chudakova  
F+, TR, 12:00-1:15 PM  CL: LING 137

ANTH 147  Sex and Money: Anthropology of Sex Work  (ca, sja)
Sarah Luna  
L+, TR, 4:30-5:45 PM  CL: WGSS 147

ANTH 149-06  Fiber and Fashion  (ca, sja)
Alex Blanchette  
6, T, 1:30-4:00 PM

ANTH 149-07*  Displacement, Mobility, and War in the Middle East and Beyond  (ca, sja)
Amahl Bishara  
D+, TR, 10:30-11:45 AM  CL: CST 194-01, CVS 151-04

ANTH 174  Thinking with Plants: Plants, People, and Society  (ca, ma)
Tatiana Chudakova  
5, M, 1:30-4:00 PM

ANTH 185-02  Anthropology of Race and Racism  (ca, sja)
Sarah Luna  
10, M, 6:30-9:00 PM  CL: CST 194-02, WGSS 185-30

ANTH 185-04*  Science and Society in South Asia  (ca, ma)
Sarah Pinto  
11+, T, 6:00-9:00 PM  CL: WGSS 185-31

ANTH 189  How to Pay Attention  (ca)
Nick Seaver  
1, T, 9:00-11:30 AM

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

Crosslisted Courses in other departments or programs:

ANTH 149-20  Asian American Arts: Dynamics and Creativity  (ca)
Stephanie Khoury  
8, R, 1:30-4:15 PM  CL: AAST 94-02

ANTH 149-21  Choreographies of Resistance  (ca, sja)
Sharon Kivenko  
10, M, 6:30-9:00 PM  CL: EXP 0008-S

ANTH 155  Environment, Communication and Culture  (ca, sja)
Ninian Stein  
D+, TR, 10:30-11:45 AM  CL: ENV 150

ANTH 159  Practicing in Food Systems  (ca, sja)
Cathy Stanton  
7 W  1:30-4:00 PM  CL: ENV 190

*starred courses count towards the Anthropology critical geographies (area) course requirement
(ba, ca, ma, sja) indicate Minor course designations
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
sarah.luna@tufts.edu | Eaton Hall Room 304
Gender and sexuality studies, migration, sexual labor, mission work, Mexico/U.S. border

Zarin Machanda | Assistant Professor
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
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

Rosalind Shaw | Associate Professor  *on leave*
rosalind.shaw@tufts.edu
Violence, memory, and futurity; the anthropology of post-conflict; children and youth; transitional justice; West Africa; Sierra Leone

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 20  Global Cities  (ca)
Cathy Stanton      K+, MW, 4:30-5:45 PM

As the world continues to become more urbanized, cities take on increasingly important roles as nodes in global flows of people, capital, and images. Using theory and case studies from anthropology and other disciplines, this course examines how shared identities are shaped, contested, memorialized, and erased in urban spaces, and how those spaces relate to their “natural” contexts. The course introduces students to some of the ways that social scientists have thought about issues of urban place-making, social cohesion and conflict, and mobility. We will focus on the tensions between planned and lived urban space, on the co-construction of “the global” and “the local” in urban experience, and on ethnography as a set of methods for investigating the embodied and inherently political realities of life in cities. This course counts toward the Anthropology sociocultural gateway requirement, the Cultural Anthropology minor, and the Social Sciences distribution requirement.

ANTH 27  Human Rights and Justice in Cultural Context  (ca, sja)
Thomas Abowd      H+, TR, 1:30-2:45PM     CL: PJS 27

This introductory course examines anthropological approaches to human rights and justice. It introduces key anthropological methods, like participant-observation, linguistic analysis, media analysis, reflexivity, and cultural critique. It will take up theories on topics like culture, identity, power, and globalization. We analyze controversies about cultural relativism and universalism, approaches to both violent conflicts and structural violence, and the relationship between anthropology and human rights. We also study ethnographies that are anti-racist and anti-colonial and examine some strengths and pitfalls of various activist approaches. This course counts toward the Anthropology sociocultural gateway requirement, the Cultural and Social Justice Anthropology minors, the World Civilization requirement, and the Social Sciences distribution requirement.
Food is a key dimension of understanding human being, becoming, and diversity — from the ways that cooking shaped early human evolution, to how present-day eating practices naturalize embedded inequalities. This course experiments across fields of anthropology by putting the intellectual frameworks and methodologies of biological and socio-cultural traditions into dialogue around the raising, distribution, and consumption of food. Topics include the relationships between food and human biology, including mismatches between evolution and current consumption practices; natural selection and food’s relationship to reproductive success; nutrition, malnutrition, and human growth; toxicity, pesticides, epigenetics, and violent environments; domestication practices from the emergence of agriculture to the ongoing industrialization of plants and animals; sexual divisions of labor with respect to food; co-operation and food sharing in human and non-human groups; the development, circulation, and co-optation of national cuisines (including fast food); the gut microbiome and interspecies relationships; the biology and politics of meat-eating, along with human and bovine lactation; capitalist metabolisms; the engineering of non-human diets such as livestock feed; and burgeoning movements for food sovereignty and justice. Assignments will take the form of papers, tests, and perhaps even non-traditional tasks such as making stone tools, outdoor cooking, and developing natural flavors. This course counts toward the Anthropology sociocultural gateway requirement, the Biological, Cultural, and Medical Anthropology minors, and the Social Sciences distribution requirement.

This course introduces students to the sociocultural study of science and technology. Popular understandings of science and technology suggest that they work independently from their social and cultural contexts; this course surveys work demonstrating the various ways that this is untrue. Texts will be drawn from across the history of anthropology and from science and technology studies. We will cover major theories about the relationship between science, technology, society and culture such as technological determinism and social construction. We will investigate how facts are made and how sociocultural contexts shape technologies, from Papuan eel traps to music recommender systems. Potential topics include the relationship between magic, technology, science, and religion; how Western science has and has not recognized “other knowledges” from around the world; cyborg feminism; the rituals of laboratory science; genetics and new kinship studies; and the social life of algorithms. This course counts toward the Anthropology sociocultural gateway requirement, the Cultural and Medical Anthropology minors, and the Social Sciences distribution requirement.
ANTH 128 Mesoamerican Archaeology
Lauren Sullivan M+, MW, 6:00-7:15 PM
CL: ARCH 128, LAS 128

This course is an introduction to the archaeology of the pre-Columbian cultures of Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico. The cultures of Mesoamerica have been studied since the Spanish arrived and this course will examine the history of archaeological research in the region as well as the latest finds and interpretations. The Olmec, the Maya, the Zapotec, and the Aztec will be studied through artifacts, architecture, murals, inscribed monuments, hieroglyphs, and codices. We will begin the semester by examining the transition from hunting and gathering to early agriculture and the origins of village life across the region. The focus will then turn to the development of social complexity and the emergence of elites examining their use of ritual and religion in creating and maintaining social inequality. After discussing the rise of the state and the various structures associated with state level society (e.g., political organization, subsistence strategies, different levels of social hierarchies), we will turn to culture collapse and assess some of the latest theories on why/how these great societies declined. The readings and assignments in this course are designed to introduce you to building an argument and conducting scientific analysis in archaeology, understanding diverse cultures, critical thinking, as well as collaborating with one another to evaluate different approaches to Mesoamerican archaeology. This course counts toward the World Civilization requirement, the Native American Culture and Hispanic Cultures & Diasporas culture options, and the Social Sciences or Arts distribution requirement.
This is a survey course designed to introduce you to some principles of linguistic anthropology. We use language daily: whether in conversations, in reading and writing, or in the ways in which we construct our identities and narrate ourselves to others. In this course, we explore language anthropologically, which is to say, we ask how language and communication work in sociocultural contexts, and how we “do things with words.” To this end, we explore how language is interwoven with thought, action, culture, and power. We will develop an understanding of the role language plays in mediating socially significant practices at different scales, such as the formation of personhood, identity, and subjectivity; the articulation of power and hierarchy; the operation of social institutions (professional disciplines, political collectivities, nation-states etc); and the circulation of media objects. Our more general aim is to develop an anthropological approach to analyzing how language mediates sociopolitical processes. The course also introduces you to some basic methods of analysis used in linguistic anthropology. This course counts toward the Cultural and Social Justice Anthropology minors and the Social Sciences distribution requirement.

This course considers intersections between sex (and other forms of intimacy) and money (and other forms of exchange) by reading ethnographies about sex workers and those who seek to regulate, profit from, or “help” them. We will ask how neoliberalism has shaped ways of earning a living throughout the world, and how it has informed and changed gender roles and intimate relationships. Other topics include ethical concerns with studying sex workers; their relationships with family members, pimps, and clients; moral panics about “white slavery” and “sex trafficking;” the whore stigma; sex tourism; criminalization and legalization; transactional sex; and the eroticization of perceived racial difference. This course counts toward the Cultural and Social Justice Anthropology minors and the Social Sciences distribution requirement.
This course looks at both the agricultural production of fiber, and the anthropological study of fashion. Building on the ways that eating has become subject to much scholarly discussion and popular agitation, this class asks what it means to consider wearing as an agricultural act. Tentative topics include: the history of plantation capitalism and the cotton plant; plastics, polyesters, and the translation of military technology into consumer wearables; animal slaughter, leather, and patina; sexuality, capitalism, and phenomenon of trends; the anthropology of design; the politics of heritage and recycling; sweatshop labor and fast fashion; the anthropology of subcultures and the performance of identity; the remaking of masculinities and femininities; the idea of the avant-garde; uniforms and uniformity; and the global circulation of staples such as denim. Course materials consist of critical theory, ethnographies from around the world, and media from the worlds of both “high” and “low” fashion. If possible, we will also try to include discussions with people who work in the worlds of fashion. Please note that despite this course being taught in a single weekly time slot, it counts as a mid-level class – not an upper-level seminar for the purposes of the Anthropology major. This course counts toward the Cultural and Social Justice Anthropology minors and the Social Sciences distribution requirement.
How does displacement shape lives, politics, and expression? How do people experience mobility and confinement, and how are these experiences different depending on gender, sexuality, cultural background, and poverty levels? How are refugees and prisoners rendered political or depoliticized subjects by nation-states and humanitarian systems, and how do they resist these categorizations? We read recent ethnographies of the Middle East dealing with themes of refugees, imprisonment, and cycles of war. Complementing this work, we read recent scholarship on mobility as an embodied practice and as resistance to capitalism and empire. We complement ethnographies with documentaries and fiction film. While most work will be focused on the Middle East and North Africa, we will address diasporic and refugee communities in North America as well. This course counts toward the Anthropology area/critical geographies requirement, the Cultural and Social Justice Anthropology minors, and the Social Sciences distribution requirement.
This advanced anthropology seminar explores how thinking with, making use of, and living alongside plants textures distinct sensory, affective, and symbolic lifeworlds. It focuses on the ways in which plants have furnished both material and intellectual resources for a wide variety of human activities and pursuits — from food to medicine, from highly visible and hotly debated illegal substances to the overlooked and unremarkable armatures of our daily lives. More than simply a material resource, plants are widely used to model and make sense of the world, as well as to organize relations of power: for example, as aids for visualizing knowledge; as metaphors that recast certain bodies and subjects as disposable, undesirable, or open to exploitation; or as intellectual objects and ecological actors that facilitate boundary making. Topics explored in the course include the following: anthropological approaches to the circulation of plants; the historical legacies of colonial cultivation, extraction, and power; the place of plants in different lived environments and symbolic ecologies; plants, capitalism, and commodity chains; indigenous knowledge, tourism, and biopiracy; commercialization, criminalization and legality, in particular in relation to legal medicines and illegal drugs; and multi-species approaches to living with and among botanical beings. This course counts toward the anthropology upper-level seminar requirement, the Cultural and Medical Anthropology minors, and the Social Sciences distribution requirement.
This upper-division seminar examines race and racism primarily from the perspectives of anthropologists who interrogate how race and racism shapes people's everyday lives. We will focus especially upon intersections between the ways that race becomes socially meaningful and 1) gender and sexuality 2) violence 3) linguistic forms and 4) social space. We will look at how gender and racial ideologies become relevant to larger political, economic, and social projects and examine how they become differentially manifest in particular local contexts in places such as the United States, Brazil, Papua New Guinea, Kenya, and Thailand. Topics addressed will include: anthropology’s relationship to racism, the meanings attached to whiteness in different contexts throughout the world, and the eroticization of perceived racial difference. We will also examine interdisciplinary work, including that of artists who interrogate some of these questions through their visual and performance practices. This course counts toward the Anthropology upper-level seminar requirement, the Cultural and Social Justice Anthropology minors, and the Social Sciences distribution requirement.

This course is founded on the idea that the lives of science are entangled with the places in which science lives. The place in this case is South Asia, where scientific paradigms, ideas, and practices “grew up” rather than simply “arriving” with colonialism, and where science can stand at once for identities posed against “the west” and for imperialism in diverse forms. This course will take an anthropological perspective on the lives of science in South Asia, asking how technologies, infrastructures, knowledges, and practices infuse contemporary life. We will ask how contemporary life in South Asia bears histories of colonial and anti-colonial science, how nationalism makes use of scientific goals and imaginaries, and how contemporary identities, politics, and everyday experiences are shot through with scientific techniques, goals, and orientations. We will pay particular attention to the stakes of scientific claims (and refutations) as they pertain to gender, sexuality, and caste, and we will center feminist, queer, and Dalit perspectives and theorizing in our discussions. Topics will include rationalist movements, Ayurvedic science, Hindu nationalist mobilizations of science, pharmaceuticals and new patent regimes, reproductive technologies, colonial medicine and sciences of sexuality, psychiatry under conditions of occupation, and scientific futurism. This course counts toward the Anthropology upper-level seminar and critical geographies requirements, the Cultural and Medical Anthropology minors, and the Social Sciences distribution requirement.
This class is an advanced seminar in the anthropology of attention. What is attention? Is it only one thing? What external factors does it depend on, and how does it contribute to broader social and cultural formations? To investigate these questions, we will be reading broadly across disciplinary literatures on attention, ranging from philosophy to psychology to media studies to anthropology. We will support this reading with a series of attentional experiments, in and out of class. Topics include paying attention in and to environments, the senses, ethnographic theory, the attention economy, distraction, focus, situational awareness, machine perception, attention deficit disorder, and information overload. This course counts toward the Anthropology upper-level seminar requirement, the Cultural Anthropology minor, and the Social Sciences distribution requirement.
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.

Students who matriculated at Tufts before September 2018 may choose to complete the Anthropology major using our old requirements:

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.

*see course list and descriptions for designations