

# NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

## DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

### COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Spring 2020

#### **ANTH 103 – The Great Apes, Our Closest Relatives**

##### **Section 1 MWF 10:00 – 10:50am SB 170AC**

This course will offer an in-depth look at the Great Apes (chimpanzees, bonobos, gorillas and orangutans) from the perspective of biological anthropology. We will briefly review the anatomy, evolution and taxonomy of the Great Apes, and more extensively cover their social organization, feeding ecology, evidence of culture and tool use, language skills, and conservation status. In addition, we will consider how apes should be treated both in captivity and the wild.

**INSTRUCTOR: Professor Leila Porter**

#### **ANTH 104 ONLINE Pop Culture: Making the Familiar Strange**

Everyday life is boring...mundane. Not so when you explore everyday experiences through the anthropological lens. Popular culture frames anthropology as the social science that studies strange people from lands afar. In truth, anthropology provides an empowering toolset for learning about and understanding our own relationships and behaviors as we examine those of others. This introduction to anthropology addresses contemporary ideas and issues in our society and challenges students to explore why things appear a certain way, when, in fact, they are not, depending on one's position in society. We will seek explanations of simple things such as why jokes are funny and to some complex problems such as why are an increasing number of people are going hungry when there actually is an abundance of food in the world. Readings, interactive classes, and short writing assignments are required.

**INSTRUCTOR: Professor Kristen Borre**

#### **ANTH 105 – Archaeology Myths and Mysteries**

**Section 1 TTH 11:00 – 12:15pm SB 170B** Archaeological myths and mysteries are prevalent in movies, books, television shows, and online. Some are based in reality and some are fiction. How can you tell the difference? This course will explore some of the most famous and infamous archaeological myths and mysteries (for example, Atlantis, Stonehenge, the role of extraterrestrials in building pyramids, etc.). The science of archaeology will be used to examine and evaluate the truth of these enduring myths and mysteries.

**INSTRUCTOR: Professor Kerry Sagebiel**

## **ANTH 210 - Exploring Archaeology**

**Section 1 TTH 2:00 – 3:15pm SB 170B** This course introduces students to the field of archaeology—the study of past human culture and behavior through artifacts, architecture, and landscapes. Archaeology helps us to appreciate and preserve our shared human heritage. It informs us about the past, helps us understand where we come from, and shows us how people lived, overcame challenges, and developed the societies we have today. This course will highlight the scientific methods that archaeologists use to reconstruct the ancient as well as recent past and will include case studies from around the globe.

**INSTRUCTOR: Professor Dana Bardolph**

## **ANTH 220 - General Cultural Anthropology**

**Section 1 MWF 10:00 – 10:50am SB 170B** The goals of General Cultural Anthropology are to involve students in the study of being human. We range the world in exploring how people build their societies, embed themselves in cultures, and bring meaning to their lives. We appreciate that all humans must be understood if we are to understand ourselves. The course introduces the points of view and ways of knowing anthropology, a field with roots in the social sciences and the humanities. We explore the concept of culture and consider the special procedures that anthropologists have used to understand varying human populations.

**INSTRUCTOR: Professor Kristen Borre**

## **ANTH 240 - Becoming Human: Discovering Human Origins**

**Section 1 TTH 9:30 – 10:45am SB 170AC** This course is an introduction to physical/biological anthropology. The first part of this class is devoted to evolutionary theory and human genetics. The second part discusses modern human variation and the biology and behavior of primates, our closest living relatives. The last part of this class discusses the fossil record of human and primate ancestors, beginning with early primates but with an emphasis on the morphological and behavioral adaptations in hominids over the past 5 million years.

**INSTRUCTOR: Professor Mitchell Irwin**

## **ANTH 301 – American Culture**

**Online with 4 face to face meetings Jan 15, Feb 12, Mar 18, May 4 5:00 – 7:40pm SB 186**

Has our culture become a disaster? What does it mean to “know how to live?” We will address how American worldview and popular culture shapes our health, work, consumption, and social behaviors. Is there a common set of values and beliefs that create a unique American Culture even though we have multi-cultural roots? We will examine what it means to be multicultural nation using food as a medium. Anthropological concepts and theories will guide our exploration of American beliefs and behaviors; of what equality means when Americans talk about and express ethnicity, class, gender, and race. Readings, videos, short assignments/discussions, quizzes and a research paper are required.

**INSTRUCTOR: Professor Kristen Borre**

## ANTH 313 Archaeology Through Fiction

**Section 1 TTH 12:30 – 1:45pm SB 186** Archaeology provides background for countless novels. Some of these are written by archaeologists (Elizabeth Peters, Sarah Wisseman) or physical anthropologists (Diane Gifford Gonzales, Kathy Reichs). Others are not penned by archaeologists but by writers whose knowledge of archaeological practice is often impressive (Erin Hart, Tony Hillerman). This course uses works of fiction as a way to enter the world of archaeology. Students will read popular fiction with an archaeological context and will then read related archaeological literature. Students will analyze case studies, evaluating the accuracy of the archaeological data used by the author.

**INSTRUCTOR: Professor Kerry Sagebiel**

## ANTH 331 Language and Culture

**Section 1 TTH 11:00 – 12:15pm SB 173** Studies in language and culture center on the dual question of what, if any, effect one's language has on one's cognition or perception (linguistic relativity), and the effectiveness of extending linguistic models to the analysis of culture. First, we look at how contemporary linguistic theories and methodologies (conversation analysis and constructivism) are used for the investigation of cultural systems. We read about cross-cultural conversational styles and one enlightening Polynesian ethnography. Second, we discuss the historical roots of linguistic relativity and then analyze in detail the state of the current debate. Third, the role of language ideology in generating linguistic change and political marginality are dealt with by an in-depth reading of an Indonesian ethnographic work. PRQ: ANTH 230 or consent of instructor.

**INSTRUCTOR: Professor Giovanni Bennardo**

## ANTH 410/510 ENVS 450-2 Environmental Archaeology

**Section 1 MWF 1:00 – 1:50pm SB 186** Introduction to methods and theories relevant to analysis and interpretation of past human-environment interactions, by examination of historical and current theoretical literature. Emphases on outlining the kind of environmental data that survives in the archeological record (geological, botanical, faunal, chemical), recovery and analytical methods, and inferences made from these data to understand human-environment dynamics. Topical themes include the use of archeological sites as paleoenvironmental archives, plant and animal domestication, human impacts on ancient environments, and cultural collapse/resilience.

**INSTRUCTOR: Professor Eréndira Quintana Morales**

## ANTH 432/532 ENVS 432X Nature and the Environment across Cultures

**Section 1 TTH 2:00 – 3:15pm SB 173** The different ways in which people conceptualize nature and the environment across cultures (including American) are investigated. The focus is on out-of-awareness cultural models, intermediary mental organizations of meaning that stand between universal concepts and culturally bound realizations. Critical evaluation of a number of projects that attempt to use local and/or indigenous knowledge in managing the relationship between people, nature, and the environment is included.

**INSTRUCTOR: Professor Giovanni Bennardo**

## ANTH 443/543 ENVS 450-3 Human Adaptation and Variation

**Section 1 MW 2:00 – 3:15 PM SB 178** Adaptation, sustainability, resilience, survival: these are terms we frequently encounter in the popular press, news media, science writing, and community discussions whether we are talking about human beings, animals, plants, or even the earth itself and the universe beyond. Interdisciplinary research from human biology, evolution, ecology and environmental studies informs class work to address contemporary problems of human adaptation and variation. Lectures and discussion address the climate crisis, global food security and food production systems, structural inequalities, and adaptive strategies for improving resilience of life on earth. Students will be able to concentrate on a human adaptation problem of their choice producing a research or policy paper.

**INSTRUCTOR: Professor Kristen Borre**

## ANTH 449/549 Primates and Food

**Section 1 TTH 11:00 – 12:15pm SB 178** This course provides a broad overview of primate nutritional ecology, examining both sides of an evolutionary process: how primate adaptations improve success in acquiring nutrients, and how plant adaptations discourage or encourage herbivory. The first unit examines the chemical properties of food, focusing on macronutrients (protein, fat, carbohydrates), micronutrients (vitamins and minerals), and plant secondary metabolites (compounds designed to discourage herbivory). The second unit explores primates' anatomical and physiological adaptations to their food, such as gut size and function, as well as behavioral adaptations such as ranging and grouping patterns. Finally, we critically examine primate nutritional ecology methodologies, and consider whether these methods and theory are useful in understanding human dietary choices and adaptations.

**INSTRUCTOR: Professor Mitchell Irwin**

## ANTH 451/551 History and Theory of Anthropology

**Section 1 W 6:00 – 8:40pm SB 173** This course presents a basic overview of theory in cultural anthropology from the latter half of the 19th century to the late 20th century. We will discuss major theoretical developments and notable figures, with attention to their assumptions, methodologies, contributions, limitations and social contexts, as well as some current issues in anthropology. The syllabus will emphasize the original writings of anthropologists and significant works in/on the development of anthropological theory. PRQ: ANTH 220.

**INSTRUCTOR: Professor Matthew Trew**

## ANTH 460/560 Methods in Ethnography

**Section 1 MW 2:00 – 3:15pm SB 173**

This course examines a range of research methods used in ethnography such as participant observation, interviewing techniques, visual research, writing field notes and others, and the transformation of these data into written ethnographic documents. This course also focuses on comprehensive methodology and ethnographic analysis strategies. Ethical, pragmatic, and applied dimensions will be explored. Assignments will include analysis of ethnographies for their methodological approaches, contemporary issues in ethnography, the hand-on application of methods through student projects, and a research proposal. PRQ: ANTH 220 or consent of instructor.

**INSTRUCTOR: Professor Mark Schuller**

## ANTH 462/562 Collections Management

### Section 1 TTH 9:30 – 10:45am COB55

This course introduces methods of museum collections management, including processing new acquisitions, registration, storage techniques, preventive conservation, collections research, and policy development. Through hands-on labs, behind-the-scenes fieldtrips, and classroom discussions, students will develop the skills and knowledge to identify and implement appropriate care for diverse collections with an emphasis on anthropology museums. Throughout the course, students will critically reflect on how collections management practices can engage with movements for decolonization, inclusion, and social justice in museums.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Pick Museum Director Christy DeLair

## ANTH 464/564 NNGO 464x – Disasters without Borders

**Section 1 MW 3:30 – 4:45pm SB 173** This course analyses the social construction of disasters with an emphasis on the disaster response and forces that contribute to the vulnerability of a community, nation, or region. The course will also cover social policy, humanitarian aid, media coverage and a range of local, national, or global forces such as inequality, land tenure, social exclusion, and mass urbanization. In addition to direct social policy, disasters are also constructed by media and a range of social forces such as inequality, land tenure, social exclusion, and mass urbanization. This course also addresses the social construction of disaster response, including media coverage, humanitarian aid, and disaster capitalism. *PRQ: ANTH 220 or consent of instructor*

**INSTRUCTOR:** Professor Mark Schuller

## ANTH 491/591 Urban Life in Asian Cities

**Section 1 TTH 3:30 – 4:45pm SB 173** Crowded streets, traffic jams, speeding moto-taxis, ancient temples built alongside towering skyscrapers, the smell of street food on an outdoor grill. What does it mean to be urban in today's Asia? This course examines urban life in Asian cities through an anthropological lens, with special attention paid to Southeast Asia's significant recent urban growth. From the postmodern theming of ultramodern Tokyo to the relocation of Jakarta due to climate change, this course asks: what defines the cities of Asia and what is life like for the people that inhabit them.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Professor Matthew Trew

## ANTH 480/ANTH 680 Internship in Anthropology

Supervised internship in anthropology-related field. Minimum of 120 work hours per semester plus final paper/project. Complete proposals must be submitted for departmental approval a minimum of two weeks before beginning of the semester. May be repeated to a maximum of 6 semester hours. S/U grading. PRQ: Consent of Department Required

Please contact Dr. Mark Schuller at [mschuller@niu.edu](mailto:mschuller@niu.edu) for more information.

## ANTH 498-1/ANTH 690 Independent Study in Anthropology: Library Research in Anthropology

**1 Credit Hour (8 week course) W 8:30am (FO 237)**

This topics class, designed for all majors and graduate students, will be a seven-week exploration of the paper and electronic resources available in sub disciplines of anthropology, emphasizing hands-on practice as well as gaining skill in searching for relevant materials. The extensive holdings of Founders Library relating to archaeology, physical anthropology, linguistics and cultural anthropology will be utilized to equip students with familiarity with possible research tools as well as training them in how to think about doing literature searches so much a part of our field. Evaluation will be done via weekly worksheets and a take-home final. No prerequisites. See April in Stevens Building 190 for enrollment.

**INSTRUCTOR: R. B. Ridinger**

## ANTH 490 - Anthropological Research Training:

**PRQ: Consent of Department Required**

A – Cultural Anthropology	B – Ethnology	C – Archaeology
D – Physical Anthropology	E – Ethnohistory	J – Linguistics

## ANTH 493 Anthropology Field Study:

**PRQ: Consent of Department Required**

A – Cultural Anthropology	B – Ethnology	C – Archaeology
D – Physical Anthropology	E – Ethnohistory	J – Linguistics

ANTH 498 Independent Study in Anthropology PRQ: Consent of Department Required.

ANTH 590 Anthropological Research Training PRQ: Consent of Department Required.

A – Cultural Anthropology	B – Ethnology	C – Archaeology
D – Physical Anthropology	E – Ethnohistory	J – Linguistics

ANTH 593 Anthropology Field Study: PRQ: Consent of Department Required.

A – Cultural Anthropology	B – Ethnology	C – Archaeology
D – Physical Anthropology	E – Ethnohistory	J – Linguistics

ANTH 690: Independent Study PRQ: Consent of Department Required.

A – Cultural Anthropology	B – Ethnology	C – Archaeology
D – Physical Anthropology	E – Ethnohistory	J – Linguistics

## ANTH 665 Museum Practicum

Work experience in an on-campus (NIU) museum, gallery or collection. With permission it may be another institution that contains related cultural or aesthetic objects and artifacts as long as the work is under the supervision of a member of a professional staff. Requires regular experience in day-to-day museum operations and completion of a major project arranged with the intern's museum supervisor/museum studies faculty member. Minimum practicum time is 120 clock hours.

**PRQ: Completion of ART 565 or equivalent and one museum studies core course.**

**INSTRUCTOR: Staff**

**ANTH 693: Museum Internship:**

Work experience at an off-campus museum gallery under the supervision of a member of the professional museum staff. Requires regular experience in day-to-day museum operations and completion of a major project arranged with the intern's museum supervisor and the NIU Museum Studies representative. May be repeated to a maximum of 2 credit hours.

**PRQ: ART 565 or equivalent plus the museum studies core courses.**

**INSTRUCTOR: Staff**

ANTH 699 Master's Thesis

PRQ: Consent of Department Required