

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS – Fall 2021

ANTH 102- Rise of Civilization

Section 1 – TTH 9:30 – 10:45am - Presentation and discussions on key human material developments since our earliest evolutionary ancestors until the emergence of early civilizations in the Near East, Mediterranean, East Asia, Mesoamerica, and South America. Lab sections will review archaeological methods used to recover and analyze ancient artifacts, technological innovations, and social organization

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Kerry Sagebiel

ANTH 120 – Anthropology and Human Diversity

Section 1 TTH 11:00 – 12:15pm DU 204 - Human diversity is a social fact. But it is a social fact that takes on many forms in many different societies. It also is affected by our biology, evolution, history, adaptation, social structures, language, and cultural knowledge. We will explore several examples of human diversity within our global society and discover what we can learn about ourselves and how to better understand our own society. Concepts from anthropology will guide our reading of several short studies that examine expressions of human adaptation and diversity. Lecture/discussion with short online exams provides a format to learn about how biological, social, political, economic, and environmental constraints structure human diversity. Students will gain critical thinking skills that will enhance career development in science, humanities, business, education, public service, and health sciences and health care.

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Kristen Borre

ANTH 210 - Exploring Archaeology

Section Online 100% - 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 11:00 – 11:50am DU 176 This course introduces students to the fundamental concepts, questions, and research methods of Cultural Anthropology. Cultural anthropologists study the social lives of human societies in historical and cross-cultural perspective. As we examine subjects like law, language, religion, politics, economics, and kinship in societies around the world, we will explore both universally shared aspects of social life, and cultural particularities (differences) across the globe. Students will be challenged to examine and articulate their own cultural values, behaviors, and attitudes in light of the cross-cultural anthropological record. We will also learn about practical applications of anthropology to contemporary problems such as social inequality, racism, and environmental degradation, and consider anthropology's relevance for professional careers.

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Emily McKee

ANTH 230 Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology

Section 1 – MW 3:30 – 4:45pm DU 228 An introduction to the study of human language within the holistic perspective of anthropology. Language is seen as a cultural tool and linguistic data are considered as embedded in their socio-cultural context. Fundamental concepts and tools necessary for formal linguistic analyses are introduced. Linguistic problems are solved in which the newly acquired knowledge is put to use. A research project that includes fieldwork in one's socio-cultural context is required.

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Giovanni Bennardo

ANTH 240 - Becoming Human: Discovering Human Origins

Section 1/H MW 2:00 – 3:15pm DU 340 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 261X Language, Mind and Thought

Section 1 – Online 100% MW 2:00 – 3:15pm

This course introduces theories of the mind from the integrated perspectives of multiple disciplines, including linguistics, computer science, psychology, philosophy, and anthropology. You will learn about the structure and processes of the human brain; will examine diverse theories and models of cognition, culture, and language; and will be given multiple examples of how these models have been applied in such fields as medicine and artificial intelligence. You will acquire a fundamental understanding of the big questions in the field, specific examples of its successes, and a critical approach to the challenges and problems science continues to face in the effort to understand the workings of our minds.

Instructors: Professor Betty Birner, Professor Giovanni Bennardo

ANTH 302/790-1 Asian American Cultures

Section 1 TTH 3:30 – 4:45pm DU 176 This course is an introduction to the study of Asian American cultures. It begins with a review of the history of migration from Asian countries to the United States. The focus then shifts to ethnographic accounts to contemporary communities. Emphasis will be given to the lives of Southeast Asian refugees and immigrants who came to the U.S. in the last forty years. The course will include discussion of the alarming rise in hate crimes and assaults on Asian Americans in the last year. The graduate section includes additional readings on theories of culture change.

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Judy Ledgerwood

ANTH 328/790-2 Anthropology of Religion

Section 1 TH 6:00 – 8:40pm DU 206 Throughout history, religion has expressed the deepest questions humans can ask, and it has taken a central place in the lives of virtually all civilizations and cultures. Religion persists and is on the rise, even as scientific and presumably non-religious perspectives have become prominent. This course provides a basic understanding of anthropological approaches towards the study of religion in everyday life from a cross-cultural perspective. We examine how religion intersects with other aspects of social life, such as politics, economics, the environment, race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, popular culture, and more. A key aim of the course is to demonstrate that religion continues to be an important factor shaping the nature of contemporary life for individuals and communities the world over.

Instructor: Professor Micah Morton

ANTH 329 Anthropology & Contemporary World Problems

Section 1 - TTH 12:30 – 1:45pm DU 256 Applying a long-term, comparative “anthropological imagination,” tracking from the global to the local, species level to individual lived experience, this course analyzes selected world problems introduced or augmented by contemporary globalization. Topics include humanitarian crises wrought by global climate change and conflict, hunger and food systems, population, inequality, colonialism and underdevelopment, environmental degradation, and challenges to human rights, particularly of indigenous and other marginalized groups. PRQ: ANTH 220 or consent of instructor.

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Mark Schuller

ANTH 341/BIOS 341x Primatology

Section 1 MW 3:30 – 4:45pm SB 178 This class explores the biology of non-human primates, our closest relatives. In addition to surveying the major living groups (lemurs, lorises, galagos, tarsiers, monkeys and apes) we will examine primate anatomy (locomotor, feeding and sensory adaptations), ecology (diet, predation, community structure) and behavior (group living, social structure, vocal communication, culture). Finally, we will trace the evolution of key primate groups in the fossil record. Lectures, hands-on labs and discussions. PRQ: ANTH 240 or consent of instructor.

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Mitchell Irwin

ANTH 404/504 BKST 302 Peoples and Cultures of the Caribbean

Section 1 TTH 2:00 – 3:15pm DU 459 With seven official languages, more than twenty nations, and five centuries of post-Columbian contact history, the Caribbean region is one of the world's most diverse and fascinating. In addition, our destinies are intertwined: the Caribbean developed earlier than what was to become the United States, offering a template of colonialism, slavery, and race relations that shaped the rest of the hemisphere. The whole middle third of the country was given to the U.S. because of the Haitian Revolution, and this state's largest city was founded by a Haitian, for whom our largest classroom building on campus is named. Students will gain a holistic understanding of the region and also examine scholars and outsiders' representations of the region. Specific topics include: slavery and its impacts on racial/ ethnic identities and categories, economies, food production, and trade. Following this we examine the region's rich and diverse expressive culture: religion, language, music, visual arts, and Carnival. We end the course examining contemporary socio-political and economic aspects, including development, tourism, trade, gender, globalization, transnationalism, and migration.

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Mark Schuller

ANTH 418/518 Applied Archaeology

Section 1 TTH 3:30 – 4:45pm DU 206 This course covers the methods, theory, and laws that are critical for cultural resource management (CRM) in the United States. Field methods (survey and excavation) and laboratory techniques (e.g. ceramic, lithic, and faunal analysis) will be covered along with CRM laws, ethics, related theory, research design, proposal writing, report writing, public outreach, artifact and document curation, and other aspects of CRM practice.

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Kerry Sagebiel

ANTH 420 ENVS 420 Waterworlds

Section 1 – MW 2:00 – 3:15pm DU 206 Exploration of water in two senses. First, water as a window into social worlds, using cross-cultural case studies. Though water has the same material properties around the world, people have developed myriad customs, tools, and ideologies for encountering, appreciating, and controlling it. Second, water as a resource under threat, using cross-cultural investigation to think more creatively about solutions to water scarcity, pollution, and unjust distribution. Seminar-style course includes interdisciplinary readings, films, and field trip(s).

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Emily McKee

ANTH 454/554 Uses & Abuses of Evolutionary Theory

Section 1 – TTH 12:30 – 1:45pm DU 228 This course will explore how human behavior and biology have been interpreted within an evolutionary framework. We will discuss the history of evolutionary theory, challenges to evolutionary theory, and the debates concerning the teaching of evolution in public schools. We will also explore notions of biological determinism as exemplified by racism and eugenics movements in the United States. In addition, we will look at how the fields of sociobiology, human behavioral ecology, evolutionary psychology and memetics contribute to our understanding of human behavior. Lecture and discussion. PRQ: ANTH 240 or consent of instructor.

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Leila Porter

ANTH 462/562 Collections Management/ Museum Methods

Section 1 TTH 9:30 – 10:45am CO B55 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 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

Contact April Law (main office) at aphelps@niu.edu for more information.

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

1 Credit Hour - 8 week course (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