

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Fall 2020

ANTH 102 – Rise of Civilization

Section 100% Online This introductory course will examine human developments beginning with our earliest evolutionary ancestors through the emergence of early civilizations in Europe, Mesopotamia and the Mediterranean, Egypt and Africa, Asia, Mesoamerica, and the Andes of South America. The course is grounded in anthropological archaeology—the study of past human culture and behavior through artifacts, architecture, and landscapes. The anthropological and scientific methods and theories used by archaeologists to illuminate and explain the past will be highlighted using case studies from across the globe.

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Kerry Sagebiel

ANTH 104 ONLINE Pop Culture: Making the Familiar Strange

Section 100% Online 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 120 – Anthropology and Human Diversity

Section 1 – MW 2:-00 – 3:15pm SB 170 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 1 MW 3:30 – 4:45pm SB 170 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 TTH 11:00 – 12:15pm SB 170B 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 TTH 11:00 – 12:15pm SB 170B

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 MWF 11:00 – 11:50 SB 170 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 313 – Archaeology Through Fiction

100% Online 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 329 Anthropology and Contemporary World Problems

Section 1 MW 3:00 – 3:15pm SB 186 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 MWF 10:00 – 10:50am 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 423/523 ENVS Environmental Anthropology of the Middle East Culture and Political Ecology

Section 1 – TTH 2:00 – 3:15pm SB 186 This course uses anthropological approaches for studying humans in their environments, particularly cultural ecology and political ecology, to examine the Middle East and North Africa. We explore political systems, livelihoods, landscapes, and belief systems that have developed there; important global connections to the region; and think critically about contemporary environmental dilemmas. Grades are based on several short reflection papers, class participation, and midterm and final papers.

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Emily McKee

ANTH 427/527 Economic Anthropology

Section 1 – MWF 11:00 – 11:50am SB 173 How has economic globalization impacted 21st Century issues including the climate crisis, local food production and distribution systems, food security, health, and power relationships within and among nations? This course is an introduction to social structural and cultural analyses of neoliberal economic development on diverse global populations. A seminar format will include a series of introductory presentations on theory followed discussion of selected readings from the research literature, ethnographic reports, and policy documents related to current global conditions. Multiple scales of geographic analysis will be incorporated from the local to the global. In addition to anthropology majors and graduate students, any students interested in the impact of economic development on populations are welcome to join the class. PRQ: ANTH 220 or permission of the instructor

INSTRUCTOR: Kristen Borre

ANTH 433/533 Fundamental of Cognitive Anthropology

Section 1 M 6:00 – 8:40pm SB 173 Examination of relationship between human mind and human culture. Critical analysis of major area of cognitive anthropological research in kinship, ethnobiology, cultural models, distributed cognition, and spatial relationships. Consideration of the interface of contemporary cognitive anthropology and general cognitive science. PRQ: ANTH 230 or consent of department.

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Giovanni Bennardo

ANTH 441/541 Sex & Gender in Primates

Section 1 – TTH 12:30 – 1:45pm SB 178 This course will review theories explaining the evolution of sex differences and associated gender roles in human and non-human primates. Topics will include primate mating systems, sperm competition, mate choice, parental care, aggression and cooperation. Lecture and discussion. PRQ: ANTH 240 or consent of department.

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Leila Porter

ANTH 446/546 The Human Skeleton

Section 1 – TTH 3:30 – 4:45pm SB 178 This course will cover topics related to the human skeletal system including bone biology, skeletal growth and development, the identification of individual bones, and skeletal function. Additionally, students will learn to estimate age and determine sexual affinities of skeletal remains. Discussions concerning paleopathology and forensic anthropology will be included if time permits. This course requires a considerable amount of hands-on time to learn the human skeleton. PRQ: ANTH 240 or consent of instructor.

INSTRUCTOR: Staff

ANTH 453/553 Archaeological Theory

Section 1 W 6:00 – 8:40pm SB 186 All archaeology, regardless of how it is conducted, interpreted, or explained, engages with theory at some level because all research is based on a set of premises, assumptions, and ontologies. Theory shapes the ways we think about the past, including the questions we choose to ask and the data we seek out to answer those questions. The aim of this seminar is to introduce students to the generation, evaluation, and application of theory in archaeology. We will explore the history of archaeological thought as well as some of the current theoretical paradigms guiding archaeological inquiry. By the end of the class, students will possess the knowledge required to help formulate their own ideas regarding social, ecological, and evolutionary theory in archaeology

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Dana Bardolph

ANTH 462/562 Collections Management

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: Professor 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 491/591 Origins Of Cities – Current Topics in Anthropology

Section 1 T 6:00 – 8:40pm SB 173 Contemporary cities structure many aspects of our lives. But what exactly is a city? When and why did the city first appear in human history? What social processes produce a city? This course uses selected examples of cities, both modern and ancient, to explore long-term processes in urbanism. We examine living, resuscitating, and “lost” cities to understand both the material and social aspects of urbanism. Special emphasis will be given to past and present Southeast Asian cities in cross-cultural contexts. Each student is required to make a presentation on a city and participate in a panel discussion, along with written assignments.

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Piphai Heng

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