

ANTHROPOLOGY COURSES AT WASHINGTON COLLEGE

Special Topics- New Offerings!

Museum Studies

The course explores important issues surrounding cultural heritage in terms of both material objects and the narratives drawn from and developed for them. The course will examine (1) the history of museums and the structuring of knowledge, (2) the politics of display in terms of what is displayed and who writes the narrative, (3) the contesting of knowledge, the visitor's experience, and collaborative approaches, and (4) the practical considerations of collections acquisition and management, fundraising, and governance. Throughout the course, students will collaborate with local museums and historical societies to develop online, virtual exhibitions.

Inside-Out: Race, Gender, and Citizenship

This is an Inside-Out Prison Exchange course, which means that half of the students will be from Washington College and half will be women incarcerated at the Baylor Women's Correctional Institution (BWCI) in New Castle, Delaware. Most of our class meetings will take place at BWCI where both groups of students will learn together as peers, so WAC students who enroll should be prepared to travel to BWCI each Monday afternoon. In this course, we consider many definitions and experiences of "citizenship." We explore the ways that citizenship has been imagined and constructed across time and space, in borderlands, colonial encounters, and in our contemporary globalizing world. We also explore and the interplay between citizenship and various dimensions of identity. We will foreground race/ethnicity and gender, but we will also necessarily consider class, sexuality, ability, nationality, etc. We will consider the rights, responsibilities, and relationships of individuals and groups vis-à-vis the state, and we will ask who, and in which socio-historical contexts, is included or excluded from these rights and obligations. We will look at various mechanisms that states employ to control citizenship, and how those coincide with the idea of the nation, labor needs, and other material and ideological concerns. We will also consider meanings of citizenship outside of a formal state context. We will use a variety of texts to explore these topics, including poetry, essays, speeches, autobiographical accounts, historical documents, and interdisciplinary scholarly works. The class will culminate with student projects that inside and outside students will work on together.

Prisons, Punishment, and Social Control

In this course, we will examine both overt and covert forms of surveillance, control, and confinement in historical and contemporary contexts. Less repressive forms of control—such as how we organize our built and natural environments, the state sanctioning of professional (e.g., social work, medical, psychiatric) regimes of knowledge, and the “soft cages” of surveillance—are often invisible to us. Yet they powerfully shape and define belonging, punishment, and exclusion along the lines of race, class, gender, and ability. We will also attend to more repressive and coercive forms of state power, such as torture, imprisonment, and state killing. We will ask how and why states create “zones of exception,” which are at once legal and extra-legal, in which various criminalized populations are disappeared in the name of security, correction, and/or retribution. Finally, we will consider forms of resistance, abolition movements, and the genealogies of hope as a political project.

Applied Anthropology

Applied anthropologists use anthropological theories and methods to meet the needs of communities and organizations and to solve real world problems. Applied anthropologists work in a variety of fields, such as international development, environmental issues, conservation of cultures, public health, housing and civil rights, defending the rights of marginalized peoples, and more. This course examines how applied anthropologists engage in participatory, community-based, and activist anthropology. Students will have the opportunity to talk with anthropologists who do applied work. Additionally, students will work together to apply anthropological methods and theory to real-world problems that will enhance their learning and make contributions to the community.

Medical Anthropology

This course will introduce students to the rapidly growing field of medical anthropology. We will explore the diverse ways that people understand health, illness, the body, and healing, and how those are mediated through cultural beliefs and practices around the world. We will also consider a variety of interrelated global processes, such as globalization, international development, environmental issues, migrations, and global public health projects. Such political, economic, and environmental contexts profoundly shape people's experiences of health and well-being in locally-specific ways. This course will also introduce students to anthropological methods, theories, and ethnographic writing, which complement more mainstream approaches to public health.

Climate and Society

This course examines the impact of climate change on human societies. We will explore the social, economic, political and ethical aspects of climate change with a concentration on both domestic and international processes. Our focus includes multiple scales from individual beliefs and behaviors to global rhetoric and governance. We will examine inequality and vulnerability using case studies from super-storms Katrina and Maria. We will study community resilience using examples from the Choctaw tribe in Louisiana, the Inupiac tribe in Alaska, and Smith and Tangier islands in the Chesapeake Bay. Throughout we will ask whether climate change, often described as a "slow-onset disaster," is a uniquely challenging problem and we will research both technical and social solutions.

Faculty-led Experiences

Cultures and Environments of the Southwest

The *Southwest Summer Seminar* offers an unparalleled cultural experience taking you from the ancient settlements of Chaco Canyon and Mesa Verde to the living American Indian Reservations of the Navajo and Hopi. Along the way, you will raft the whitewaters of the San Juan River to explore nearly inaccessible cliff dwellings and examine ancient rock art. You will take the famous "Narrow Gauge Railroad" through backcountry mountain passes at 14,000 feet from Durango to Silverton, Colorado, to learn about the history of mining in the West. Led by Navajo archaeologists, you will hike to and explore remote homesteads to learn Navajo creation stories and see remnants of their historic past. Guided by Hopi anthropologists, you will visit the oldest, continuously occupied village in the US and learn about dryland farming and associated cultural traditions. You will experience the religion, foodways and lifeways of the Navajo and Hopi as we make our way to Santa Fe to learn about the history of northern New Mexico and its

American Indian peoples. Ultimately, you will learn how ancient and modern peoples in the Four Corners region have been influenced by but also have impacted their environment – the high desert. Environmental issues of water and agricultural productivity, trade, and land ownership will be explored. Current issues of water rights, mining and relocation of American Indians onto less than optimal lands will also be explored.

Ethnomusicology of Cuba – co-taught by ANT and MUS faculty

Offered during the Winter Break, this course introduces students to anthropological, ethnomusicological, and ethnochoreological ethnographic fieldwork methods, including participant-observation, ethnographic interviews, and audio/video documentation techniques. Students will be exposed to both Afro-Cuban religious and Cuban popular expressive forms. They will learn about the interrelatedness of music, dance, visual arts, ritual, and religious beliefs, as well as with Cuban views on Cuban culture, gender, and race. Students will attend/observe both formal and informal music performances, and take music and dance lessons where they will have an opportunity to engage musicians on a one-on-one basis. In addition to music-oriented activities, students will learn about Cuba's cultural and economic history by exploring Havana's rich museums, monuments, and plazas. In particular, we plan to be in Havana on January 1st, when Havana comes alive with cultural activities to celebrate the January 1st, 1959 fall of the Fulgencio Batista dictatorship and the success of the Cuban Revolution.

Anthropology Course Catalog

ANT 105. Intro to Anthropology

This course will focus on anthropological perspectives of the human condition and provide students with an introduction to the fundamental concepts, methods, and theories of the discipline of cultural anthropology. Readings by professional anthropologists will present students with a variety of viewpoints and an awareness of some of the controversial issues in the field. This course is centered on four research projects that will provide honors students with the opportunity to learn some of the elementary skills of qualitative research, a ritual analysis, analysis of a workplace, analysis of a family, and an oral history of an immigrant. For each of these projects, students will interview informants, do participant observation, and interpret their data within a theoretical framework of cultural anthropology.

ANT 107. Intro to Environmental Archaeology

Exploration of the variety of past human societies and cultures through archaeology, with an emphasis upon the interplay between environment and culture. The course covers a wide time span, from the biological evolution of hominids and the origins of culture to the development of complex civilizations and the more recent historical past.

ANT 109. Intro to Geographic Information Systems

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) can be found throughout our modern society. Programs such as MapQuest and Google Earth have brought this technology into the lives of many citizens of our world. More advanced software systems such as ArcGIS are being used in academia, business, and government to manage large datasets of spatially-linked information and provide

the users with powerful analytic tools. The course lectures will review the fundamental theories of GIS and will also focus on the various organizational and ethical issues that impact the implementation and sustainability of GIS in our society. The lab portion of the course will teach the student how to operate the ArcGIS ArcView Desktop software product. Objectives for both the course lecture and lab section have been listed below. Introduction to GIS will be taught as a blended course, which means that online content will be used to supplement the course. The online content will not replace the traditional lecture and lab components of the course, but is instead meant to enhance the content, and allow for materials to be available outside of class time. Content will be reviewed prior to attending class, which will provide time for discussion, clarification, and problem solving during class time. All course materials along with lab assignments, quizzes, and exams will be managed in our innovative Moodle virtual learning environment. There will be little paper handed out or turned in during this class. You will receive a special user name and password to access Moodle.

ANT 137/237. Cultures and Environments of the Chesapeake

An examination of prehistoric and historic societies in the Chesapeake Region. Archaeological, historical, and environmental evidence is used to understand cultural development and the relationships between people and their environment. Topics include the arrival of humans in the region, Native American groups, colonial settlement in the Tidewater, and the 19th Century.

ANT 208. Archaeological Method

An examination of the methods of archaeology and theoretical perspectives. Course topics include research design, site surveys, remote sensing technology, excavation techniques, dating methods, the analysis of material culture, and theory building. Students will be involved in 148 Anthropology exploration and research using the wide variety of resources available in the region, including local excavations, local and regional archives, and museum collections. Prerequisite: Anthropology 107.

ANT 210. Intermediate Geographic Information Systems

This second course in geographic information systems builds upon the theories discussed in Introduction to Geographic Information Systems, and focuses on the more technical aspects of GIS. Laboratory activities teach the student to use more advanced functions of GIS software, and the fundamentals of advanced GIS analysis and display programs. The student will also learn to operate a precision GPS field data collector. Prerequisite: Anthropology 109.

ANT 215. Sex, Gender, and Culture

The study of the biological differences of sex in relationship to the cultural construction of gender. The importance of modes of production and ideology in forming gender concepts for all human societies. Cross-cultural issues of gender identity, roles, relationships, and equality or inequality. Prerequisite: Anthropology 105.

ANT 234. Human Evolution and Biological Anthropology

This course will utilize a holistic approach to explore the evolution of the human species. Students will learn the basics of evolutionary theory, biology, and fossil and archaeological evidence through lectures, discussion, readings, videos and hands-on learning. This course is

divided into three main sections titled: (a) how evolution works, (b) the history of the human lineage, and (c) evolution, technology, and modern humans.

ANT 235. Cultures of Latin America

Prehistory of the Americas and survey of indigenous cultures in Latin America today (Mesoamerica, the Andean countries and the Amazonian countries). Introduction to environmental anthropology and applications to environmental issues. Prerequisite: Anthropology 105 or permission of the instructor. Interested students who have a background in history, political science, Spanish or international studies are encouraged to seek the instructor's permission.

ANT 280. Traditional Ecological Knowledge

This course introduces students to the anthropological study of indigenous peoples and how they respond to the forces of globalization. Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) refers to the knowledge base acquired by indigenous and local peoples over many hundreds of years through direct contact with the environment. It includes nomenclature, classification, beliefs, rituals, technology, environmental management strategies and worldviews—all of which have helped shape environments for millennia. This course explores these different forms of knowledge and poses a series of questions about their importance and use, such as: How is globalization affecting TEK? Who possesses TEK? Who “owns” TEK? Should the owners of TEK be compensated for their knowledge? Does TEK promote sustainability? Can nation-states utilize TEK? What are the impacts on indigenous groups when TEK is “promoted”? How can 149 Anthropology traditional knowledge of the natural world be responsibly and ethically collected, studied and applied in modern medicine and global commerce?

ANT 282. Primitive Technology and Experimental Archaeology

Students in this course are exposed to the field of experimental archaeology and gain an appreciation for the valuable contribution it can make to our understanding of the past. Students will explore various primitive technologies utilized throughout prehistory. These technologies were not only crucial to the survival of our ancestors but also played an important role in the development of culture. A holistic, project-based learning approach will be utilized during the semester, which includes lectures, discussions, reading, hands-on learning, self-reflection, and group work. Prerequisite or Corequisite: Anthropology 107, or permission of instructor.

ANT 296. Archaeological Field School

Introduction to archaeological fieldwork methods and to the theoretical concerns of anthropological archaeology. Includes participation in archaeological survey and excavation as well as lectures, readings, and writing assignments. It typically is a six-week summer program, with a minimum obligation of 20 hours per week. Prerequisites: Anthropology 105, Anthropology 107 or History 201; or permission of instructor. May be repeated once for credit.

ANT 300. Language and Culture

This course will introduce the student to the study of linguistics. Concepts of both historical and descriptive linguistics are included. Some of the areas of study are: linguistic history and methodology, language origin, language and society, language structure, dialects and language families. The course is open to all students.

ANT 305. Ethnographic Method

Introduction to cultural anthropological field methods and the writing of ethnographies. Students practice skills of observation, participation, reflection, mapping, selection of informants, ethnographic interviewing, analysis, proposal writing, and ethnographic writing. Each student researches a cultural scene in the Chesapeake region and writes an ethnography. Prerequisite: Anthropology 105.

ANT 306. Marine Archaeology

Introduction to underwater archaeology. Gives students an overview of the history and methods of the field. In addition to class activities, students will be involved in practical exercises such as mapping and data analysis; field trips, including remote sensing work on the College's workboat and visits to historic vessels; and outside lectures on marine history and archaeology. A basic understanding of archaeological method and theory is useful for the course. Prerequisite: previous archaeological coursework or permission of instructor. 150 Anthropology

ANT 312. Contemporary Issues in Archaeology

In the absence of written records, archaeology plays a critical role in answering questions about how past peoples interacted (trade, warfare) and were organized socially and politically (gender, elites, priests). However, reconstructing past lifeways based on material remains poses unique problems. Through class discussions and independent research, students will explore current technical and ethical issues. Topics include the assessment of gender and children; the utility of remote sensing techniques; collaboration between archaeologists and indigenous groups; the ethics of museum display; and the illicit antiquities trade. Prerequisite: Anthropology 107.

ANT 320. Race and Ethnicity

The dangers of using the concept "race." Focus on the cultural construction of ethnic, racial, and national identities in the contexts of immigration, colonialism, nationalism, and globalization. Symbols of ethnic identity, stereotyping, style, tactics of choice, situational ethnicity. Prerequisite: Anthropology 105.

ANT 354. Visual Anthropology

The goal of visual anthropology is to immerse students in the study and production of ethnographic media and documentary film. We will begin by exploring the varied genres of historical anthropological documentary which range from salvage ethnography to ethnofiction and include more recent attempts to empower cultures by encouraging them to visually capture their own unique social, political and expressive worldviews. We will also examine and critique other cultural forms of visual media ranging from film and photography to petroglyphs and tattoos. Once we have an understanding of the varied approaches to media production, students will engage in the creative process of developing an idea for an ethnographic film, storyboarding, shooting film, and editing complete ethnographic documentaries. Prerequisite: Anthropology 105

ANT 374. North American Indians

Although pre-Columbian North America did not see the rising and falling of states that unified people through a single language or economy, it is extraordinarily rich in histories. The archaeology of North America aims to understand the diversity of histories lived by peoples from the Atlantic to Alaska, from the Plains to the Bayou, from nomadic hunting and gathering groups to large-scale horticulturalists. We will explore the human experience on the continent north of

Mexico from the first footsteps on the continent to the impact of European contact to the relationship between archaeologists and American Indians today. By the end of this course, you will have an understanding of the history of archaeology in North America and the diverse prehistoric Native American cultures. You will have a good handle on the issues faced by and methods utilized in reconstructing past settlement patterns, subsistence strategies, religious practices and social and political organization.

ANT 402. Anthropology of Food

The manner in which we select, prepare, and consume food is based upon culturally transmitted notions of taste, nutrition, social regulations, and religious meaning. The meaning of food is closely aligned with all aspects of our culture and the food choices we make are linked to our identity. This course will use food, and the many ways in which people utilize food for nutritional and cultural purposes, to better understand different societies throughout time and place. Armed with a grounding in anthropological theory and informed through an understanding of the prehistory and history of foodways, students will learn to contextualize modern food systems throughout the world. Then, through hands-on, project-based learning students will build upon what they learned from other cultures through time to explore many of the healthy and sustainable alternatives to the modern western diet. Prerequisite: Anthropology 107

ANT 405. Seminar in Anthropology

Discussion of significant contemporary issues in anthropology. Application of anthropology to ethical issues and careers. Familiarity with professional literature and professional style guides. Research design and location and assessment of source materials. Grant writing and research. Exploration of careers and higher studies in anthropology. Required course for anthropology majors and minors. Should be taken in the spring semester of junior year.

ANT 415. Cultural Ecology

This course focuses on the human-environment relationship and the state of world ecosystems resulting from this interaction across space and time. The course is focused on four paradigms central to the anthropological understanding of the human-environment relation. The first focuses on fundamental human-ecological principles; the second on the ecological dynamics of foraging and domestication; the third on indigenous ecological knowledge and community-based conservation, and the fourth on new approaches in human ecology. Prerequisite: Anthropology 105

ANT 420. Media and Power

By investigating the idea that what we view and express regarding cultural identity and cultural difference is artificial, we can see that popular entertainment, global news broadcasts, monuments and museums, and the internet might be doing more than merely “capturing,” “reporting,” or “exhibiting.” Understanding this, we can uncover something more about how representations are created, how they have been manipulated historically to oppress or devalue certain groups, and how they can be contested. Knowing that images are constructed and not real, we can turn our focus to how people can reclaim their identities and thus their own power through revising or even appropriating the representations that have been made of them. Prerequisite: Anthropology 105

ANT 474. Historic Preservation and Cultural Resource Management

Provides a comprehensive overview of historic preservation and cultural resource management as practiced in the United States. Examines the history of the preservation movement, the role of preservation in American culture, and the legislative framework for historic preservation. Reviews the growing field of cultural resource management, looking at issues in architectural design, contract or “salvage” archaeology, and heritage tourism. Prerequisite: 200-level coursework in archaeology or American history, or permission of instructor.