

Anthropology

Social Sciences Division

Anthropology is an unusually broad discipline that embraces biological, historical and cross-cultural study. Anthropology courses at Kenyon reflect these three distinct but interrelated areas.

Biological anthropology studies the complex connections between our biological and cultural existence, investigating how humans have evolved in the past and how we are continuing to evolve in the present. More advanced courses focus on such topics as human skeletal anatomy, human paleontology, the anthropology of food and human adaptation to changing environmental conditions.

Courses in archaeology allow students to learn about prehistoric peoples of the New World (Aztecs, Maya, Inkas, Moundbuilders and Puebloans) as well as the Old World (Egypt, Mesopotamia and European megalith builders). Methods of investigation and analysis also are covered.

In cultural anthropology courses, students can study native North Americans and the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America, as well as such topics as media, race, ethnomedicine, sexuality and gender, ethnomusicology, politics and development.

All anthropology courses deal with diversity, helping us to appreciate the varied ways of being human in the past and present and what links all of us despite those differences.

Requirements:

THE CURRICULUM

The Anthropology program consists of:

Foundation Courses

An introductory course in each of the three anthropological sub-disciplines is required:

ANTH 111 Introduction to Biological Anthropology

ANTH 112 Introduction to Archaeology

ANTH 113 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

These courses should be taken as early in the major as practicable and may be taken in any sequence. Upper-level courses in anthropology normally have one of the foundation courses as a prerequisite.

Upper-Level Courses

A minimum of six upper-level courses, three (3) units is required, including at least one course in each of the three anthropological sub-disciplines (biological anthropology, archaeology, and cultural anthropology). Majors also are encouraged to pay attention to when courses are offered and attempt to fulfill requirements for the upper-level course in each sub-discipline, earlier rather than later, to avoid scheduling conflicts.

Capstone Course

All departmental majors must enroll in ANTH 465 History of Anthropological Thought during the fall semester of their senior year.

Note: All departmental courses are one semester in length - half (.5) unit

FOR FIRST-YEAR AND NEW STUDENTS

A first course in anthropology should be any of the three one-semester introductory courses listed below. Each course combines lecture and discussion.

ANTH 111: Introduction to Biological Anthropology

This course is required for upper-level work in biological anthropology courses

ANTH 112: Introduction to Archaeology

This course is required for upper-level work in archaeology

ANTH 113: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

This course is required for upper-level work in cultural anthropology

Having completed an introductory course, students may either enroll in any upper-level course in that area of the anthropology program or enroll in another introductory course to gain a broader understanding of anthropology.

SENIOR EXERCISE

The Senior Exercise in anthropology consists of a core of common readings, three seminar meetings at which the seniors and all faculty members in anthropology discuss these readings, and an examination in which students write a take-home exam in response to one question from a list provided by the faculty. The topic of the seminar generally requires an integration of three sub-disciplines, and readings are frequently from new books that faculty members are exploring for the first time. The goals of this exercise are to place faculty and students together in the roles of expert and colleague, to critique and analyze readings together orally, and to have each student produce a synthetic essay out of this common experience.

Seminar meetings take place during the early months of the fall semester. After the three meetings, the faculty members construct between two and four essay questions, and students select one for the exam. Students have approximately one month to complete the essay and are encouraged to discuss their ideas with faculty members and to utilize additional sources based on either library research or readings from other classes. The essay due date is just before the Thanksgiving break. Faculty members evaluate the papers and students are notified in writing about their performance in December. Each student's paper is read by a member of the faculty, who also provide written and/or oral comments. Some students may be asked to rewrite the paper at this point. If a paper is being considered for distinction or a rewrite, we will elicit a second faculty member to evaluate the work.

Faculty members judge student performance not merely on the quality of the essay (clarity, insight and technical proficiency) but also on participation in the whole process of the exercise itself, especially the timely submission of the essay, as well as thoughtful and active participation in the discussions. Any extensions for completing the Senior Exercise must be approved by the dean for academic advising and support, following the same procedures in place for obtaining an Incomplete for any course.

HONORS

The Honors Program in anthropology provides students with the opportunity to conduct significant independent research on a topic of their choice. Typically, a student will propose a research focus in consultation with a member of the faculty who agrees to serve as the project advisor.

Late in the student's junior year or early in the senior year, she or he submits a brief description of the honors project to the department. This synopsis outlines the central question being addressed, what methods will be used in conducting the study, and how the thesis will be organized. All anthropology faculty not on leave at the time of the proposal's submission review the document and decide whether it will be approved or declined based on the proposal's intellectual merit and feasibility as well as the student's past classroom performance, demonstrated motivation in pursuit of excellence, and organizational skills.

After the project is approved, the student builds an honors committee consisting of the advisor and one other faculty member who need not be an anthropologist. The student's senior year is spent conducting the research and writing the honors thesis, although both processes may well have begun in previous years.

The thesis is read by the two members of the honors committee as well as a third person who is an expert in the field addressed by the thesis but who is not a part of the Kenyon faculty. An oral thesis defense, involving the student and the three readers, takes place near the end of the spring semester. The readers then determine whether to award no honors, Honors, High Honors or

Highest Honors to the thesis based on the written document and the student's defense of his/her work.

Requirements: GPA 3.33 overall; 3.5 in the major.

Classes: All students pursuing honors take ANTH 497-498 during the fall and spring semesters of their senior year.

Due date: Honors theses are due in the anthropology department office on April 1 or the closest Monday after that date. The thesis defense is scheduled for a time after April 1 that is convenient for the student and the readers.

More information about the honors program evaluation process is available from the [Department of Anthropology](#).

THE ANTHROPOLOGY MINOR

All minors require a minimum of two (2) units of coursework. No more than half of the courses may be taken at the foundation level (i.e., ANTH 111, 112, 113). Courses will typically be taken from at least two department faculty members. The courses selected for the minor will have a clear and cohesive focus (e.g., a sub-discipline within anthropology or a substantive theme to be examined within the discipline). The specific cluster of courses to be included within the minor will be selected by the student in consultation with a member of the department's faculty, who will serve as advisor. The final selection of courses will be approved by the department chair. The declaration of a minor does not guarantee students a place in any particular courses.

Please note: Beginning with the class of 2018, courses from off-campus study experiences will not count toward the anthropology minor.

TRANSFER CREDIT POLICY

Subject to departmental approval, we will accept transfer credit for introductory anthropology courses (cultural, biological or archaeological, not 4-field introductory anthropology courses) taken at approved institutions. If approval is granted, the student will still have to complete five (5) units of anthropology at Kenyon.

The department will accept up to one (1) unit of credit from approved off-campus study courses to count toward the major. These fill the role of upper-level elective classes. Classes taken in high school (unless they are university transfer credits) will not count in place of any requirement for the major or minor.

CROSS-LISTED COURSES

The following course is cross-listed in the anthropology department and can satisfy the social science requirement as well as count towards coursework in the major or minor.

MUSC 206 Seminar in Ethnomusicology.

Courses

ANTH 111 INTRODUCTION TO BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Credit: 0.5

Biological anthropology is the study of the biological diversity of our species and the evolutionary history that has led us to our present condition. The course will include: (1) the examination of the genetics underlying evolution and the mechanisms by which change occurs; (2) variation and adaptation among living humans; (3) living primate populations as keys to understanding our evolutionary past; and (4) human evolution. This course is designed to expose students to the breadth of biological anthropology and to prepare them for upper-level classes in anthropology and related disciplines.

Instructor: Staff

ANTH 112 INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGY

Credit: 0.5

Today people increasingly live in highly industrialized and urban civilizations. But how long have humans had "civilization"? What is "civilization" and how can it be recognized? This course will address these questions, first, by looking at the basic elements of archaeology and its place in anthropology. Some of the topics we will cover include the history of archaeology, fundamental aspects of fieldwork and analysis, and the prehistoric record from the first humans to the origins of civilization.

We will begin the chronological sequence with the Old Stone Age, or Paleolithic, a long period during which basic human cultural practices and beliefs became established. Our next topic is the development of agriculture and settled life around the globe, innovations that permitted the growth of complex social organizations that culminated in civilization and the state. In the latter part of the course, we will study the first, or "pristine," civilizations, focusing on Mesopotamia, ancient Egypt, and the Indus Valley. The course concludes with a survey of development in North, Central, and South America, including the Maya, Aztec, and Inka.

Instructor: Staff

ANTH 113 INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Credit: 0.5

This course introduces students to the discipline that studies and compares other cultures. Students learn about the main concepts used in anthropology and how anthropologists conduct research, while also discovering how people live in other times and places. Students will learn about theories that provide frameworks for understanding and comparing cultures.

Ethnographies--descriptions of life in particular places--give students factual materials with

which to apply and critique such theories. Through this introduction to the study of culture in general, and an exposure to specific cultures, students inevitably come to reexamine some of the premises of their own culture.

Instructor: Staff

ANTH 150 SCIENCE AND PSEUDOSCIENCE: ANTHROPOLOGICAL CONFRONTATIONS WITH FANTASTICAL EXPLANATIONS

Credit: 0.5

ANTH 206D SEMINAR IN ETHNOMUSICOLOGY

Credit: 0.5

ANTH 252 ANTHROPOLOGY OF RELIGION

Credit: 0.5

The focus of this course will be on religious change. We will begin, however, by trying to understand how religion functions in social and cultural life as if these settings were stable. We will then take a theoretical pause to consider religion as a system, some ecological implications of religion, and an evolutionary outline of religions' developments through time. Then, turning back toward ethnography, we will try to apprehend the process of religious change in specific settings. Here the focus will be religious movements, conversion, and communities that are religiously divided. Why do people convert to new religions, or else attempt to change their own religious community from within? What does "conversion" mean for individuals and for communities, and what does it have to do with other kinds of changes--economic, social, or political? Prerequisite: ANTH 113.

Instructor: Schortman

ANTH 253 ANTHROPOLOGY OF MASS MEDIA

Credit: 0.5

Instructor: Pack

ANTH 310D MUSIC, HUMAN RIGHTS AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Credit: 0.5

Instructor: Mendonca

ANTH 320 ANTHROPOLOGY OF FOOD

Credit: 0.5

Instructor: Murphy

ANTH 323 BIOARCHAEOLOGY OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Credit: 0.5

Instructor: Staff

ANTH 324 HUMAN ECOLOGY: BIOCULTURAL ADAPTATIONS

Credit: 0.5

Although biological anthropology relies heavily on an evolutionary perspective, it is also concerned with understanding the interactions between human biology and culture. This biocultural perspective seeks to appreciate how humans adapt to their environment through a combination of biological, cultural, and physiological adjustments. We will explore how humans adapt to a wide variety of environmental factors, including high altitudes, climates, nutrition, and disease. The emphasis will be on understanding our biological and cultural responses to stress and the contexts in which these can be adaptive or maladaptive. Prerequisites: ANTH 111, 112, or 113. Enrollment limited.

ANTH 325 HUMAN SKELETAL ANALYSIS

Credit: 0.5

This course focuses on the application of human skeletal and morphological data to various interpretive problems (descriptive, comparative, and analytic) in physical and forensic anthropology. Topics include basic human skeletal and dental anatomy; determination of age, sex, and stature; developmental and pathological anomalies; anthropometric methods and techniques; various comparative statistical methods; and problems of excavation, restoration, and preservation. The course also includes an examination of representative research studies that utilize the above data and methods. Prerequisite: ANTH 110 or permission of instructor. Enrollment limited.

Instructor: Murphy

ANTH 327 NARRATIVE LIVES

Credit: 0.5

Within anthropology, the life history has long been recognized as an important vehicle for learning about how culture is experienced and created by individuals. This seminar seeks to develop a better understanding of the research method known as life history and its attendant beliefs and limitations in diverse social and cultural contexts. Additional emphasis will address how categories of difference such as race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, age, religion, and geographic location are experienced and their relevance to personal identity. Equally important, this is a "learning by doing" course, as it will attempt to bridge theories of self-narrative with cultural anthropological research methods. Students will experience first-hand the theoretical, methodological, and ethical issues involved in collecting life histories. By undertaking individual projects, each student will learn to organize and conduct life history interviews, record them, to transcribe them, edit them, and present them in written form. In the process, the goal is to explore the multiple stages involved in transforming a narrative life into an inscribed text. Prerequisite: ANTH 113 or permission of instructor.

Instructor: Pack

ANTH 330 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODS

Credit: 0.5

This class is a survey of some of the major analytical techniques and theoretical approaches archaeologists employ in their effort to reconstruct past societies. We will consider briefly the

historical development of archaeology then explore the key concepts that define the discipline. The student will gain an appreciation of: (1) the procedures involved in conducting field research, (2) the nature of the material record, (3) the process of archaeological reasoning, (4) the study of various materials, (5) the role of cultural resource management in modern archaeology, and (6) the nature of culture change. The class will consist of lectures and discussion.

Instructor: Staff

ANTH 333 PREHISTORY OF EUROPE AND WESTERN ASIA

Credit: 0.5

This semester the course will center on the topic of the Neolithic. After reviewing current theoretical views on the beginnings of domestication and sedentism, we will look at the actual evidence from plants, animals, and ecology to assess which theory or theories (if any) best explains this major transition in cultural evolution. Next we will examine early social complexity in Western Asia, focusing on new material from Anatolia. In the third section we will look at the biological and cultural transformations the Neolithic wrought in Europe. Finally, we will look at Neolithic monuments from several perspectives: engineering, social organization, landscape, and ritual. The course will combine lectures, demonstrations, discussions, audio-visual materials, and student presentations. Prerequisite: ANTH 112.

ANTH 338 THEORY AND METHOD IN ARCHAEOLOGY: HOUSEHOLD ANTHROPOLOGY

Credit: 0.5

This year's theory and method course will focus on the study of households and how they relate to larger political and social organizations in both the past and the present. The course will begin with a survey of topics in household organization (household composition, activities, and residential patterns). We'll then move on to examine how households are recognized in the archaeological and ethnographic record and the ways in which analysis at the household level can provide insight into larger political, economic, and social structures. We'll finish the course with an analysis of households in the El Paraiso Valley, northwestern Honduras. This course is required for participants in the Kenyon Honduras program and those students interested in working with raw data acquired through archaeological and ethnographic fieldwork. Students who have not participated in the Kenyon Honduras program will be furnished with a data set for analysis. Prerequisites: permission of the instructor and ANTH 112.

Instructor: Staff

ANTH 342 PEOPLES AND CULTURES OF NATIVE NORTH AMERICA

Credit: 0.5

Instructor: Pack

ANTH 343 CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN NATIVE NORTH AMERICA

Credit: 0.5

Instructor: Pack

ANTH 345 ETHNICITY IN CENTRAL AMERICA

Credit: 0.5

Central America is the home of some easily recognizable ethnic groups, such as the Mayas and Kunas, but are there other, less well-known peoples? After considering what ethnicity might or might not be, we will learn about a number of groups: Mayas, Garifunas, suppressed Native American groups in El Salvador and Nicaragua, Black Creoles, and immigrants from the Levant who are known as Arabes. Studying these groups will help us understand the milieu in which we live, as well as the hidden ethnic tensions sometimes cloaked by national assertions of mestizo identity. Instructor: Staff

ANTH 349 THE MAYA: ANCIENT AND MODERN

Credit: 0.5

Who are the Maya? Why are they often described as "mysterious"? Did they really disappear? In this course we will examine Maya history, culture, language, and tradition, proving that this dynamic group is very much alive, well, and living in what are now the countries of Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, and Honduras. We will begin with a survey of Maya history prior to the sixteenth century arrival of the Spanish, tracing the rise and fall of individual Maya kingdoms, the flourishing of art, architecture, writing, calendrics, and belief systems, and the cycle of everyday life. We will then turn to questions of continuity and change, examining the tumultuous periods of Spanish contact and colonization and the ongoing intersection of Maya tradition and the modern world. Topics covered include social and political organization, religion, art and architecture, writing and calendrical systems, tourism, preservation, and development. This course is of interest to students of Latin American culture and history, art history, and religion. Prerequisite: ANTH 112 or 113.

Instructor: Staff

ANTH 350 HUMAN SEXUALITY AND CULTURE

Credit: 0.5

In popular thought, sex is about "the birds and the bees" and "doing what comes naturally." Yet anthropology teaches us that for human beings the natural is the cultural. Based on that premise, this course looks for cultural patterns in sexual belief and behavior. We begin with an examination of the evolution of sexuality. Is sexuality or sexual behavior expressed the same way by all peoples? Why do humans avoid incest? To what extent are gender roles biologically determined? Are sexually transmitted diseases primarily biological or social problems? How do sexual norms reflect sociocultural adaptations? These are just some of the questions we will confront in this course as we examine the functional and structural significance of sexual behaviors in the sociocultural milieu. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor.

Instructor: Suggs

ANTH 355 THE ANDES (SOUTH AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY AND ETHNICITY)

Credit: 0.5

Instructor: Schortman

ANTH 357 ANTHROPOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT

Credit: 0.5
Instructor: Suggs

ANTH 358 MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY IN BIOCULTURAL PERSPECTIVE

Credit: 0.5
Instructor: Staff

ANTH 421 NEANDERTHALS

Credit: 0.5
Instructor: Hardy

ANTH 460 RACE AND ETHNICITY IN AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGY

Credit: 0.5

This course examines several issues. First, we will look at how the concepts of "race" and "ethnicity" have been defined within anthropology, particularly American anthropology. Does "race" exist? Why (or why not) are "race" and "ethnicity" the same? In exploring these questions, we will examine both bioanthropological and socio-cultural approaches to these terms. Next, we will look at a variety of groups within the United States that are known as races or ethnic groups: Native Americans; Hispanics/Latinos; Americans of Asian descent; and those of us whose ancestors came, in colonial times or later, from Africa. Lest we forget that even white folks have "race" and "ethnicity," we will look at a new trend in cultural anthropology, whiteness studies. Here we will discuss how various immigrant groups have "become white," and consider current ideas about the meaning of "whiteness." The course will use readings, films, and television as materials for study and discussion; students will be responsible for presentations on various groups, as well as for choosing some of the audio-visual materials. Prerequisites: ANTH 113 and junior or senior standing. Enrollment limited.

Instructor: Staff

ANTH 464 METHODS IN CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Credit: 0.5

This course will provide hands-on experience with some research methods that cultural anthropologists use. Participant observation, interviews, and note-taking are standard methods, and we will consider how to organize and access qualitative data through electronic data-base management. There will be some attention to quantitative methods as well, including statistical inference based on methods such as unobtrusive observation or survey questionnaires. The difficulties of designing a good questionnaire and of becoming a perceptive interviewer or observer are best learned through practice. Students will be required to carry out a research project, from literature search and project design, to writing and possibly publishing the results. Only by actually attempting primary research ourselves do we realize just how difficult it is to make statements about human ideas and behaviors that stand up to scientific scrutiny. It is only through such research, however, that we can contribute to knowledge. Prerequisite: ANTH 113 and/or permission of the instructors.

Instructor: Staff

ANTH 465 HISTORY OF ANTHROPOLOGICAL THOUGHT

Credit: 0.5

Instructor: Staff

ANTH 466 MARX, HISTORY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

Credit: 0.5 Instructor: Suggs

ANTH 471 ETHNOMEDICINE: AFRICA

Credit: 0.5

Popular culture tells us that Western biomedical science is the only true and beneficial medical approach in the world. It suggests that traditional medical systems are based only on superstitious nonsense. While anthropological studies of medical systems show them to be different from biomedicine in a number of ways, traditional systems are not solely superstitious; neither are they completely without efficacy. This course surveys some of the many human systematic responses to illness and disease, focusing on African ethnographies. It examines beliefs with regard to etiology (causation), taxonomy (classification), and nosology (diagnosis). The course seeks to demonstrate how culture patterns illness behavior and points to the internal rationality in human responses to disease. Ultimately, it shows that all medical systems (including biomedicine) are first cultural systems, ones that universally medicalize sociomoral problems and sociomoralize medical ones. Prerequisite: ANTH 113 and permission of the instructor. Enrollment limited.

Instructor: Suggs

ANTH 474 DRINKING CULTURE: THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF ALCOHOL USE

Credit: 0.5

In this advanced research seminar, students will develop and undertake ethnographic projects focusing on the meaning of normative alcohol use among Kenyon students. Projects undertaken in the past have focused on a wide range of issues (e.g., the intersection of gender and alcohol consumption, social networks constructed in acts of drinking, drunken comportment as a culturally learned construct, the ways that alcohol is used to express adulthood, and the role of alcohol in the bonding of athletic teams.) We seek to understand what students on our campus "get" from drinking besides "drunk," and to situate that understanding in a larger historical, social, and cultural framework. Prerequisite: ANTH 113 and permission of the instructor.

Instructor: Suggs

ANTH 478 METHOD AND THEORY IN ARCHAEOLOGY: ARCHAEOLOGY OF IDENTITY

Credit: 0.5

Questions of identity, ethnicity, and social boundaries are fundamental to anthropological archaeology, yet they are among the most difficult to address using archaeological data. In this course we will use new theoretical and methodological approaches to examine how groups define

themselves, how group identities are formed, and how we can recognize them in the archaeological record. This class will begin with a consideration of the terms "identity," "ethnicity," and "ethnic group," after which we will examine case studies of particular groups, looking at questions of identity formation and maintenance and their archaeological correlates. While most of the case-studies will be drawn from the Precolumbian Americas (North, Central, and South), we will also examine identity formation in the Old World. This course should be of particular interest to majors in anthropology (especially those with a concentration in archaeology), sociology, and international studies (Latin American concentration). Prerequisite: ANTH 112.

Instructor: Staff

ANTH 493 INDIVIDUAL STUDY

Credit: 0.25-0.5

This course is for students who wish to do advanced work beyond regular courses or to study topics not included in course offerings. Prerequisites: permission of instructor and department chair.

ANTH 497 SENIOR HONORS

Credit: 0.5

This course is for students pursuing departmental honors. Prerequisites: permission of instructor and department chair.

ANTH 498 SENIOR HONORS

Credit: 0.5

This course is for students pursuing departmental honors. Prerequisites: permission of instructor and department chair.