Courses in Anthropology

A Ant 100
Culture, Society, and Biology (3)
This course offered online through the Blackboard Learning System. Introduction to the issue of human diversity, the course poses the question of what it means to be human. Through study of biological anthropology, archaeology, linguistics, and ethnology, students will explore the range of diversity within our shared humanity, and seek explanations that might account for it.
(1452) Appelhans, Sarah
4 Week 2: June 22-July 17
Online course in Blackboard

A Ant 104
Archaeology (3)
This course offered online through the Blackboard Learning System. Introduction to the methods used by archaeologists to study ancient sites and artifacts. Topics include archaeological fieldwork, laboratory analysis, dating, interpretation of artifacts, and the reconstruction of past cultural patterns. Examples include studies of ancient and recent societies.
(1456) Gauvin, Gaetan
6 Week 1: May 26-June 19
Online course in Blackboard

A Ant 108
Cultural Anthropology (3)
This course offered online through the Blackboard Learning System. Survey of the theory, methods, and goals of cultural anthropology, emphasizing the nature of culture and the varied forms in which it is expressed among the peoples of the world. A Ant 108Z is the writing intensive version of A Ant 108; only one may be taken for credit.
(1451) Little, Walter
4 Week 2: June 22-July 17
Online course in Blackboard

A Ant 175
Anthropology and Folklore (3)
This course offered online through the Blackboard Learning System. Introduction to the study of folklore as an aspect of culture, symbolically expressing people's identity, beliefs and values. The focus is on oral text traditions - myths, folktales, and legends - topics in folk custom and ritual, folk music and folk art are also included. Includes folklore from Western and non-Western cultures. Only one of A ANT 175 & A REL 175 may be taken for credit.
(1914) Mylin, Christa
4 Week 1: May 26-June 19
Online course in Blackboard

A Ant 197
Special Topics in Anthropology - First Language Acquisition (3)
This course offered online through the Blackboard Learning System. This course offers an introduction to the topic of first language acquisition. By the time children are about six years old, they speak at least one language in much the same way as the adults around them. Anyone who has tried to learn a foreign language as a teenager or an adult knows that this is a striking achievement, especially when considering how poorly children execute many other basic activities. Children typically begin speaking their language(s) before they can reliably use a toilet; they have mastered the major complexities of their language by the time they begin to tie their own shoes. In this course we will focus on the patterns and generalizations found in the behavior of children acquiring English, but we will consider data from children acquiring other languages as well. Questions that we will consider in this course include how children segment a stream of sounds into words, how they ascertain the meanings of words, how they begin to produce words of their own, and how they eventually learn to combine words into increasingly complex sentences.
A Ant 201
Critical Thinking and Skepticism in Anthropology (3)
This course offered online through the Blackboard Learning System. How many people believe most everything they are told, or everything that they read? How can we tell the difference between statements that are based on fact, and those based only on opinion, ideology, error, or falsehood? Why should we care in the first place? This class will help you answer these questions, and hopefully raise many more. We will cover the ways in which your own brain and senses can trick you. We will cover the common mistakes made in reasoning, "logical fallacies" that can lead even the most critical of thinkers to false conclusions. We will cover several of the most common types of false information that people encounter today, such as psychics, astrology, or complementary and alternative medicine, and will explore why these are problematic. Our focus throughout will be on identifying current, real world examples of "uncritical thinking" in popular and news media. Hopefully at the end of the course, we will all be better consumers of knowledge. Only one version of A ANT 201 may be taken for credit.

A Ant 211
Human Population Biology (3)
This course offered online through the Blackboard Learning System. Biological variation in human populations, with emphasis on genetics, adaptability, demography and related aspects of population dynamics. Prerequisite(s): A ANT 110; or A BIO 110; or A BIO 120 recommended.

A Ant 316
Human Anatomy and Physiology I (4)
This course provides an introduction to human anatomy and physiology. These topics refer to the form and function of the human body, and are presented together in an integrated two-semester course sequence. This course focuses on basic concepts in anatomy and physiology, embryology, the peripheral nervous system, respiration, the cardiovascular system, and the musculoskeletal system of the upper limb, thorax and back. The course provides a foundation for students interested in human biology, biological anthropology, medicine, and allied health professions. Prerequisite(s): A Bio 110 or 120 and 122; 111 or 121 and 123; A Chm 120, 121. Permission of instructor. Contact Hubioadvise@albany.edu for eligibility.

A Ant 340
Topics In Ethnology: Street Art, Symbolic Landscapes & Cultural Heritage (3)
This course offered online through the Blackboard Learning System. Survey of the cultures of one of the major regions of the world. May be repeated for credit when topic differs. Prerequisite(s): A Ant 108Z or 108.
A Ant 364
Introduction to Cultural Medical Anthropology (3)
This course offered online through the Blackboard Learning System. Introduction to cultural approaches to medical anthropology. Cross-cultural examination of different views of health, disease, healing and the body, their effect on medical care and maintenance of health of individuals and communities. Also examines the intersection between health, sickness, and social and economic inequalities globally and in the U.S. Prerequisite(s): A ANT 108 or permission of the instructor.
(1706) Somers, Jessica

A Ant 381
Anthropology of Gender (3)
This course offered online through the Blackboard Learning System. The history of and current trends in anthropological theories of gender. Specific issues are raised in the form of questions, including: On what bases is gender identity constructed? What factors affect the relative status of men and women in different cultures? How many genders are there? What constitutes "femininity" and "masculinity" cross-culturally? Theoretical issues in the literature are linked to policy debates throughout the world, such as those over gay families, female genital cutting, abortion, and the use of new reproductive technologies. A ANT 381Z and A WSS 381Z are writing intensive versions of A ANT 381 and A WSS 381. Only one version may be taken for credit.
(2389) Arango-Londono, Alejandro

A Ant 416
Topics in Human Biology: Migration & Human Biology (3)
This course offered online through the Blackboard Learning System. Selected topics in biological anthropology. May be repeated for credit when topic differs. Prerequisite(s): A Ant 110 and 211.
(2390) Holdsworth, Elizabeth

A Ant 476 (= A Doc 476)
Anthropology through Documentary Film (3)
This course offered online through the Blackboard Learning System. Anthropology, the comparative study of human beings, is typically associated in the public eye with the following themes: (so-called) exotic cultures, travel to remote places and cultural immersion (participant observation), a comparative, culturally-relative understanding of human differences, 4) colliding cultural worlds of today, yesterday and tomorrow (cultural contact, culture change, and their consequences), 5) critiques and improvements of ethnoscientific biases in studying the Other, and 6) directing a trained eye to the analysis of western industrialized cultures and their peers. We will explore these themes via the medium of film, under the general rubric of Visual Anthropology, focusing on such topics as historically important films, the politics of representation (in fiction or nonfiction), and the evolution of anthropology as a discipline. In tandem with these themes, we will explore regional cultures and their traditions related to warfare, gender identity, religion, family structure. Case studies featuring films about human rights, culture change, fictional anthropologists, and Native-authored films are also part of the course.
(2214) Masson, Marilyn

Online course in Blackboard