Courses in Anthropology

A Ant 108
Cultural Anthropology (3)
This course offered fully online. 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.
(1393) Little, Walter
Four Week 3: July 19 - August 13

A Ant 175
Anthropology and Folklore (3)
This course offered fully online. 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.
(1798) Mylin, Christa
Four Week 2: June 21 - July 16

A Ant 197
Special Topics in Anthropology - Structure of African American English (3)
This course offered fully online. This course provides an introduction to the study of linguistics through the specific lens of African American English (AAE). With an estimated 30 million speakers, AAE is a major dialect of English that is most frequently associated with African American people living in urban centers -- although not all African American people speak AAE, nor are all AAE speakers African American. As is the case for all human languages, AAE is rule-governed and complex; however, it continues to be plagued by social stigma in many arenas. This course focuses on AAE's distinctive features in the areas of sound and sentence structure, as well as topics in linguistic anthropology, e.g. the impact of language ideology on AAE speaking communities. This course provides students with a basic understanding of the field of linguistics, specific structural knowledge about one variety of English, and an opportunity for reflection on mainstream attitudes towards a low prestige dialect, in light of linguistic evidence. There are no prerequisites for this course.
(2578) Clemens, Lauren
Four Week 2: June 21 - July 16

A Ant 201
Critical Thinking and Skepticism in Anthropology (3)
This course offered fully online. 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.
(1799) Rafferty, Sean
6 Week 3: July 6 - August 13

A Ant 211
Human Population Biology (3)
This course offered fully online. 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 220 (= A Lin 220)
Introduction to Linguistics (3)
This course offered fully online. Introduction to the study of language, including examination of the characteristics and structural principles of natural language. After exploring the basic characteristics of sound, word formation and sentence structure, these principles are applied to such topics as: language variation, language change, psycholinguistics, pragmatics, and animal communication. Only one of A ANT 220, A LIN 220, & A ENG 217 may be taken for credit.

A Ant 240
Native Peoples of North America (3)
This course offered fully online. The nature and distribution of North American Indian cultures from the pre-Columbian period to the present. Prerequisite(s): A ANT 100 or 108.

A Ant 325 (= A Lin 325)
Sociolinguistics (3)
This course offered fully online. Introduction to the study of language as a social phenomenon. Includes basic sociolinguistic concepts, interactional sociolinguistics, social dialects, black English, diglossia, bilingualism and bilingual education. Only one of A ANT 325 & A LIN 325 may be taken for credit. Prerequisite(s): A LIN 220 or permission of instructor.

A Ant 340
Topics In Ethnology: Anthropology of Social Media (3)
This course offered fully online. Over the last few decades, a good deal of social science research has imagined “traditional” forms of community and sociality in decline, a trend that social media appears to have reversed, as these new communicative technologies have contributed to a rather dramatic reimagining of community and communicative practices. As a core tenet of anthropology is to view the individual as part of a wider set of social relationships, the discipline is uniquely positioned to explore the relevance and impact of social media on our everyday lives. Drawing on key concepts and recent scholarship in anthropology, sociolinguistics, and communications, this course will critically evaluate the impact of social media on social relationships, language practices, and identity by asking questions such as: What are the consequences of social networking across cultures? How are lives being changed by online engagement? What impact does social media have on social relationships and networks? Do sites such as Facebook and Twitter (or Orkut and Sina Weibo) approximate some kind of community? While grounded in ethnographic and linguistic theory, this course will also be rooted in practice, actively engaging ethnographic methods through sites such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Tumblr.

A Ant 364
Introduction to Cultural Medical Anthropology (3)
This course offered fully online. 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.
A Ant 416
Topics in Human Biology: Misguided Medicine (3)
This course offered fully online. An in-depth look at outlandish and dangerous medical treatments in the United States. Using podcasts, documentaries, and scientific articles, we will explore how a lack of anatomical knowledge and the spread of misinformation can lead to ridiculous and sometimes deadly treatments of pathologies and diseases.
(2418) Fabian, Mercedes
4 Week 1: May 24 – June 18

A Ant 476 (= A Doc 476)
Anthropology through Documentary Film (3)
This course offered fully online. 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.
(2579) Masson, Marilyn
4 Week 2: June 21 - July 16