

ANTHROPOLOGY

haverford.edu/anthropology

Anthropology is the holistic and comparative study of human beings from a variety of perspectives—historical, linguistic, biological, social, and cultural—in pursuit of a deeper understanding of humankind and the promotion of informed social policy. Anthropologists:

- conduct “participant-observation” ethnographic research with diverse social groups in different parts of the world, examining how people imagine and structure their lives and aspirations.
- study social life and organization, modes of subsistence, exchange practices, the family, politics and power, ritual and religion, gender, and all forms of expressive culture.
- study social, economic, cultural, and political systems: how these systems are inhabited, contested, changed and reproduced over time.
- pay particular attention to the relationships between local contexts and broader global social, geographic and historical regimes and ideas.
- aim to address through ethnographic and documentary research the most pressing issues of our times, especially with reference to the effects of globalization, the challenges of social and ethnic diversity, and the pursuit of social justice in the domains of health, the environment, and human rights.

At Haverford we teach socio-cultural anthropology, which has three central traits:

- It is comparative: we compare social and cultural phenomena in one place to those in another and in relation to general theories about humans and human societies. This comparative method allows us to tease out what is unique and distinctive about the subject we are studying and what more generally tends to be true.
- It is holistic. We study practices and institutions as they are embedded in context.
- It involves participant-observation fieldwork. Social and cultural anthropologists live in the communities they are studying for extended periods of time, to build a perspective that integrates an insider’s and an outsider’s points of view.

Anthropologists have long studied both Western and non-Western civilizations, including people and social institutions re-imagining modernity in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, paying particular attention to the value and diversity of the full human cultural record as well as to the contemporary predicaments of marginalized peoples. Ethnographers work on small-scale communities as well as processes of globalization. More recently scholars in anthropology have begun to focus their work also on powerful metropolitan and cosmopolitan social actors, both in the United States and globally. As ethnographers study the work of business people, planners, state officials, doctors, artists, and professionals in transnational institutions such as Wall Street and the World Bank, the discipline has made key contributions in critical debates about globalization, financial reform, public health, education, environment, and urbanization. Our curriculum is fully engaged with these areas of research and study.

LEARNING GOALS

The anthropology major teaches students the methods of social and cultural research and analysis and introduces them to the history of anthropology. Students are encouraged to think critically and self-reflectively about several areas of intellectual inquiry, including:

- The discipline of anthropology:
 - To understand the unique contribution of anthropology to the study of the social, and the ways in which it addresses the most pressing issues of our times.
 - To learn how to situate strange and familiar social practices and cultural categories in shifting and contingent historical, economic, and political formations and structures.
 - To recognize the impact of the position of the scholar in the production of knowledge.
 - To know the key figures in anthropology and their specific theoretical, methodological, and empirical contributions to the history and development of the discipline.
 - To understand key contemporary debates in the field and how older categories of

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- race, culture, nation, and language have shaped recent theoretical innovations.
- To be familiar with the subfields of the discipline (e.g., political and legal anthropology, medical anthropology, the anthropology of religion, environmental anthropology, visual anthropology, etc.) and their contributions to interdisciplinary knowledge production.
- The craft and theory of anthropological research:
 - To have first-hand experience of data-collection methods, including ethnographic field research, interviewing, and archival research.
 - To understand the ethical obligations of an ethnographic researcher and to be able to engage others with respect and compassion.
 - To be versed in the ethnographic record of more than one society; to develop a capacity to think comparatively across cultures; to problematize and analyze familiar practice and “common sense” in a new light.
 - To understand the relationship between theory and empirical data, i.e.:
 - how specific anthropologists have used theory to interpret and explain social and cultural formations, and
 - how particular ethnographic situations and circumstances have allowed or required specific anthropologists to revise, critique, and improve theoretical models.
 - To understand ethnography as a methodology and a genre of writing.
- The basic skills of anthropological writing and communicating anthropological knowledge:
 - To be able to write a critical essay, a fieldnote, an academic book review, and a review of the literature for a topic of anthropological interest.
 - To understand the difference between a scholarly argument that proves a particular point (interpretive, explanatory), and an argument that advocates an attitude or action.
 - To be able to construct a sound argument supported by evidence and to be able to engage in scholarly debate.
 - To understand the diverse media and forums through which anthropological knowledge is communicated to the public.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Students are required to take a total of 11 courses in the major, including 6 required courses within the department. Individual programs require the advisor’s approval.

- ANTH 103A or B, Introduction to Anthropology, preferably in the first or second year.
- ANTH 303A or B, History and Theory of Anthropology, before the senior year.
- One course focused on an ethnographic or geographic area or a cohesive non-geographically specific field.
- One other 200-level course in this department.
- One other 300-level course in this department.
- Four additional courses approved by your major advisor.
- A two-credit, intensive Senior Thesis Seminar, during the fall and spring semesters of the senior year (ANTH 450/451).

All major programs require the approval of the major advisor. Students may count no more than one biological anthropology or archaeology course for the Haverford major. Students must take the remaining courses in the Haverford Anthropology Department, in an anthropology department within the Tri-Co or at Penn. Taking courses to count toward the major outside of Haverford’s Anthropology Department, outside of the discipline, or while studying abroad requires approval of the student’s advisor. Typically no more than two courses from outside of Tri-Co anthropology that relate to the student’s specific interests are counted towards the major though this can be discussed with the advisor in special cases.

MINOR REQUIREMENTS

The minor in anthropology consists of six courses, including:

- ANTH 103A or B, Introduction to Anthropology
- ANTH 303A or B History and Theory of Anthropology
- An ethnographic area course
- three other courses at the 200 or 300 level, including one course at the 300 level.

Minors must take a minimum of three courses in the Haverford department. All minor programs require approval of the minor advisor.

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SENIOR PROJECT

The anthropology thesis is a year-long, two-credit independent research project designed and implemented by each senior anthropology major. Each student selects a research topic, defines a specific research question, describes how that question relates to a broader field of ethnographic and anthropological writing on the topic, conducts independent, original research with primary source materials that can be ethnographic, archival, and/or material, and develops and writes up an original argument, supported by evidence, about the primary source materials. This argument is informed by the relevant theory and by ethnographic and anthropological scholarship. Thus, a successful anthropology thesis will provide substantial evidence that students are able to conduct independent research and synthesize theoretical arguments with ethnographic materials, as well as displaying strong skills in presenting their research, and entering into intellectual dialogue with peers and faculty.

The senior thesis consists of two courses, ANTH 450 and ANTH 451. Anthropology 450 is a seminar course taught during the fall semester, typically by one faculty member who receives one teaching credit. For ANTH 450, students define their research question, write and rewrite a research prospectus, do ethnographic exercises, study professional ethics, familiarize themselves with IRBs, and conclude with a literature review of their topic. ANTH 451 is supervised research and writing. A faculty member receives one credit for supervising four to six senior theses. During ANTH 451, each student does guided research on their topic, drafts and writes a thesis, and does a public presentation of their thesis research, and takes an oral comprehensive exam.

Senior Project Learning Goals

- Define an anthropological research question.
- Situate their research question in a broader field of anthropological and scholarly inquiry.
- Conduct research with primary source materials (archival, ethnographic, and/or material).
- Develop an original argument about their primary source materials that is informed by relevant theory and anthropological literature.

Senior Project Assessment

For ANTH 450, students are assessed on a

preliminary research proposal, a research prospectus, a literature review draft, a research presentation, and a literature review, as well as short in-class methodological exercises. For ANTH 451, students are assessed on their final thesis, public presentation, and oral exam. Two faculty members read and comment on each thesis. All faculty attend and evaluate the public presentations and the oral exams. The faculty collectively assign each student's final grade for the course, as well as each of the three components (thesis, public presentation, and oral exam). The thesis also plays an important role in whether or not a student receives honors or highest honors in Anthropology.

REQUIREMENTS FOR HONORS

The faculty in the Department of Anthropology decides honors based upon overall excellence in the major:

- Outstanding work in the senior thesis (final written work and oral presentation).
- Strong cumulative performance in all anthropological coursework (typically a grade point average of 3.7 or higher).
- A record of consistent intellectual commitment and participation in the department.

Faculty awards high honors upon occasion, for exceptional contributions in all three areas.

FACULTY

Jacob Culbertson

Visiting Assistant Professor

Juli Grigsby

Assistant Professor

Patricia Kelly

Visiting Assistant Professor

Joshua Moses

Assistant Professor

Zolani Ngwane

Chair and Associate Professor

Zainab Saleh

Assistant Professor

Affiliated Faculty at Bryn Mawr:

Gary McDonogh

Helen Hermann Chair

Professor of Growth and Structure of Cities

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Faculty of the Bryn Mawr Department of Anthropology:

See brynmawr.edu/anthropology

COURSES

ANTH H103 INTRODUCTION TO ANTHROPOLOGY

Zolani Ngwane, Patricia Kelly

Social Science (SO)

An introduction to the basic ideas and methods of social anthropology. Examines major theoretical and ethnographic concerns of the discipline from its origins to the present, such as family and kinship, production and reproduction, history and evolution, symbolism and representation, with particular attention to such issues as race and racism, gender and sexuality, class, and ethnicity. Prerequisite(s): Not open to students who have completed BMC ANTH 102 (Offered Fall 2017 and Spring 2018)

ANTH H112 THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF ARCHITECTURE

Jacob Culbertson

Social Science (SO)

A survey of anthropological approaches to architecture, with a particular interest in how architecture expresses senses of place. Readings will cover indigenous and vernacular architecture, the modernist movement, ecological design, and forms of housing. (Offered Fall 2017)

ANTH H155 THEMES IN THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF RELIGION

Zolani Ngwane

Social Science (SO)

What is it that rituals actually do? Are they enactments (affirmations) of collective ideals or are they arguments about these? Are they media for political action or are they expressions of teleological phenomena? The course is a comparative study of ritual and its place in religious practice and political argumentation. Concrete case studies will include an initiation ritual in South Africa, the Communion Sacrament in Christianity, a Holocaust commemorative site in Auschwitz, and the cult of spirit-possession in Niger. Crosslisted: Anthropology, Religion (Offered Spring 2018)

ANTH H212 FEMINIST ETHNOGRAPHY

Juli Grigsby

Social Science (SO)

This course delves into the historical development and utility of feminist anthropology. Feminist

Ethnography is both methodology and method that seeks to explore how gender, race, sexuality, and subjectivity operate in a variety of contexts. We will explore articulations and critiques of feminist ethnographic methods that engage researcher positionality and the politics of research. This course is one part analytic and another part how-to. Participants will read classic and contemporary ethnographies while learning to craft auto-ethnographic research. Prerequisite(s): One anthropology course or instructor consent. (Offered Spring 2018)

ANTH H214 RACE, CRIME, & SEXUALITY

Juli Grigsby

Social Science (SO)

What is a crime and who is a criminal? How are social understandings of punishment and control informed by hegemonic racial and sexualized ideologies? How do the answers to these questions change the ways we imagine and respond to news? To violence? And impact subjectivities? This seminar will examine the complex intersections between race, gender, sexuality, and crime within U.S. cultural, political and social contexts. To do this, we will explore historical and contemporary interdisciplinary studies that provide arguments about the connections between race, gender, sexuality, poverty and the criminal justice system. Topics include: mass incarceration, policing, violence, and media representations of crime.

Prerequisite(s): One anthropology course or instructor consent. (Offered Spring 2018)

ANTH H217 METHODS IN DESIGN ANTHROPOLOGY

Jacob Culbertson

Social Science (SO)

An introduction to research methods in Design Anthropology. Readings are drawn from Anthropology, Design, and Science and Technology Studies (STS), and the course will introduce fundamental concepts and methods in STS. Each student will conduct ethnographic research into a design practice of their choice.

Prerequisite(s): An introductory course in anthropology, sociology, or art history, or instructor consent. (Offered Fall 2017)

ANTH H219 NATIONAL IMAGINARIES OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Zainab Saleh

Social Science (SO)

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The purpose of the course is to provide a historical and anthropological approach to understanding nation formation in the Middle East. Anchored in major debates on nationalism, this course critically examines both nationalistic imagination and state formations. By focusing on questions of imagined communities, the course will analyze nationalistic discourses and the exclusion of the other who is seen to undermine national purity. It will also approach the nation state as a category of practice, by focusing on laws, monuments, museums, flags, etc. In addition, we will examine transformations in national discourses and practices, historiography, and memory throughout the twentieth century. (Offered Fall 2017)

ANTH H223 OLD AGE IN THE MODERN AGE

Terry Snyder

Social Science (SO)

This course provides a survey on the history of aging in the United States from the seventeenth through the twentieth century. The class will examine broad consideration of aging through lenses of historical, community, and care perspectives. It will begin with introductory context of age inventions regarding childhood, adolescence and middle age/mid-life. We will look at shifting theories and attitudes on age. We will examine issues of demographics and poverty among the elderly, as well as health care and social assistance programs. Further investigation on the impact or roles of race, ethnicity and religion will be considered. We will explore the influence of industrialization, retirement, and experience in shaping ideas of age and the lived experience. Finally, we will examine these ideas on aging through a close reading of historical case studies of past and current Philadelphia CCRC's (Continuing Care and Retirement Communities). (Offered occasionally)

ANTH H228 REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE, SOCIAL MOVEMENTS, AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Juli Grigsby

Social Science (SO)

An exploration of ethnographic approaches to women's reproductive justice issues, as well as look at reproduction in the broader structural (socioeconomic and political) contexts in which it is situated. We will focus on specific topics such as abortion, contraception, sterilization, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and how these issues

are connected to other social justice issues such as poverty, environmentalism, and welfare reform. Prerequisite(s): ANTH 103 (Typically offered every year)

ANTH H229 CHICANA ETHNOGRAPHY

Juli Grigsby

Social Science (SO)

The insurgent projects of Ethnic Studies and Chicana/o Studies during the 1960s/1970s questioned the ethnographic authority of anthropologists and sociologists in the United States and abroad. Beginning with a brief historical overview of Mexican American women in the U.S. we will consider the emergence of Chicana feminism and examine the genesis of the term, "Chicana" as it was developed and used during El Movimiento in the early 1970's. Then move into contemporary ethnographic explorations of identity including race, regional difference, and community organizing. Course participants will gain the ability to recognize the interplay of social processes on the development of identity, especially within U.S. cultural institutions. We will focus on what makes Chicana ethnography unique to other forms of ethnographic writings? What methodological and technological tools are used by Chicana ethnographers? What are the politics in conducting ethnographic research?

Prerequisite(s): Introduction to Anthropology or instructor consent. (Offered Fall 2017)

ANTH H231 THINKING DIFFERENTLY: POLITICS AND PRACTICES OF NEURODIVERSITY

Adam Rosenblatt

Social Science (SO)

Neurodiversity is a growing area of disability/social justice activism. This course explores evolving understandings of autism, depression, and other forms of neurodivergence in the U.S. and the world, triumphs and challenges of advocacy efforts, and design for inclusion. Crosslisted: PJHR, Anthropology, Health Studies; Prerequisite(s): A 100-level course in PJHR, Health Studies, anthropology, or instructor consent. (Offered Spring 2018)

ANTH H245 ETHNOGRAPHY OF AFRICA

Zolani Ngwane

Social Science (SO)

This course is a historical overview of some classic and contemporary ethnographic studies of Africa. The course focuses on the contribution of

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social anthropology to our understanding of the history and socio-cultural identities and practices of the people of Africa. (Offered Spring 2018)

ANTH H250A READING MEXICO, READING ETHNOGRAPHY

Patricia Kelly

Social Science (SO)

This course examines the ethnography of contemporary Mexico, focusing upon themes such as gender, ethnic, and class inequality; social movements and protest; nationalism and popular culture; and urbanization and migration. Class will begin by exploring various approaches to reading, writing, and analyzing ethnographic texts; through deep reading of select ethnographies, we will examine the relationships between power, culture, and identity in Mexico while assessing current trends in anthropological fieldwork and ethnographic writing. (Offered Fall 2017)

ANTH H250B MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Staff

Humanities (HU)

Are our bodies, ourselves lively artifacts? How do social, cultural and political forces shape health, illness and survival as well as understandings and experiences of “the body”? This introductory course in medical anthropology approaches these questions by examining ethnographic studies and cross-comparative analyses. Topics include diverse concepts of disease etiology and healing practice; theories of embodiment and somatization; ethnomedicine, medical pluralism, and (bio)medicalization; structural violence, inequalities, and social suffering; political and moral economies of global health and medical humanitarianism; HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases; and effects of new medical technologies on how “we” live and die. (Offered occasionally)

ANTH H253 ANTHROPOLOGY OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Zainab Saleh

Social Science (SO)

This course surveys anthropological approaches to the Middle East and North Africa, with a focus on themes of representation. In addition, we will explore questions of gender, religion, nation-state, colonialism, tribes, subject formation, and sexuality. We will examine a range of critical methodologies applying them to a variety of ethnographic sources that anthropologists have

been using in their studies, namely archives, fieldwork, poetry, memorials, science and technology. Prerequisite(s): one 100-level course in anthropology, political science, sociology, or history (Offered Spring 2018)

ANTH H258 CULTURE & IDENTITY

Jacob Culbertson

Social Science (SO)

This course will explore the topic of Culture and Identity through a specific interest in the politics of indigeneity. We will pursue two lines of inquiry: 1) how the politics of indigeneity reveal, extend, and undermine the logics of liberal multiculturalism, in diverse ways stemming from diverse histories; and 2) how the politics of indigeneity may unsettle Anthropology as a discipline and demand “decolonizing methodologies.” (Offered Spring 2018)

ANTH H259 ETHNOGRAPHY OF ISLAM

Zainab Saleh

Social Science (SO)

Comparative ethnographies of Muslim societies. Islam as a field of anthropological inquiry and theorizing. Ethnographic representation and the construction of ethnographic authority. Islam in the western imagination. (Offered occasionally)

ANTH H264 MATERIALITY AND SPECTACLE IN NINETEENTH CENTURY UNITED STATES

Terry Snyder

Social Science (SO)

Spectacles reflect, influence, and change cultural experiences, meaning, and understanding. This course will consider the materiality of spectacular nineteenth century US events through critical examination of historical accounts, primary research, and close readings of objects. Crosslisted: Anthropology, History (Offered Fall 2017)

ANTH H281 NATURE/ CULTURE: AN INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Joshua Moses

Social Science (SO)

This course will introduce students to the emerging field of environmental anthropology that focuses on the interrelationship between human cultures and natural environments. Environmental anthropology studies the various ways in which our biological survival and our social structures are influenced by environmental

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factors around us, while at the same time analyzing how our actions shape these environmental factors in turn. The course will engage with some of the key themes of the major sub-disciplines of environmental anthropology, viz. ecological anthropology, ethnoecology, political ecology, environmental justice, and sustainability studies. Topics covered will include human adaptation, traditional environmental knowledge, food justice, race/ class and access to safe environment, etc. Prerequisite(s): ANTH 103 or ENVS 101 or instructor consent. (Offered Fall 2017)

ANTH H302 OIL, CULTURE, POWER

Zainab Saleh

Social Science (SO)

This course will examine the political, social, and cultural history of oil. As the single most important commodity in the world, the story of control over this highly prized resource is a complex and violent one. It will discuss the ways in which oil has defined the fates empires and nation-states, the rise and fall of local political movements, violence, neoliberal governmentality, and knowledge production. Prerequisite(s): One 100-level course in anthropology, political science, sociology, or history, or instructor consent. (Offered occasionally)

ANTH H303 HISTORY AND THEORY OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Zainab Saleh

Social Science (SO)

The development of anthropological thought. Theories of society and the human subject, social organization and social structure, and the culture concept. Structuralism, Marxist anthropology, the crisis of representation in the 1980s and 1990s, postmodernism, the relationship between ethnography and history, and practice theory. Prerequisite(s): One course in anthropology, excluding BMC ANTH B303 (Offered Fall 2017)

ANTH H309 PLACE, PEOPLE, AND COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

Joshua Moses

Social Science (SO)

This transdisciplinary course focuses on anthropology's contributions (and potential contributions) to engaging critical environmental issues in urban settings. Collaborative environmental work with urban communities is inherently interdisciplinary, drawing on

anthropology, urban planning, public health, ecology, and geography. Through a study of Philadelphia's current struggles to redefine itself as a green city, students will gain grounding in anthropological theory and practice and urban ecology. Themes will include the intersections of race, class, and gender; environmental justice; urban farming/gardening; brownfields; grassroots organizing; action research; and ideas of place, home and nature. The course will focus on the ethics and practice of community collaboration and community-based research in environmental work in urban settings. It will require significant time working with a community group in Philadelphia. Crosslisted: Anthropology, Environmental Studies
Prerequisite(s): Students will be selected based on instructor evaluation of written applications. To access the application: pre-register for the course, view your class schedule in the Student Center in Bionic (Main Menu > Self-Service > Student Center > Class Schedule), and click on the URL icon (Offered Spring 2018)

ANTH H311 ANTHROPOLOGY OF VIOLENCE AND THE BODY

Juli Grigsby

Social Science (SO)

An examination on how violence, in its alternate forms, impacts identity formation by inscribing race, gender and sexuality onto the body at multiple social and cultural junctures. One of the primary objectives of the course is to theoretically engage with the relationship between the body, identity, and state, structural and symbolic violence. Prerequisite(s): ANTH 103 or instructor consent. (Typically offered every year)

ANTH H313 SEX WORK, POLITICAL ECONOMY, AND CAPITAL

Juli Grigsby

Social Science (SO)

This course explores the ways sex and labor construct social spaces and unravel its connections to capital and political economy. Sex work, the commodification of desire and bodies can produce inevitable zones of conflict due to differing cultural understandings of sexuality, gender, ethnicity, power, and citizenship. Focusing on experiences of women we will probe these intersecting discourses by reviewing a wide range of texts that ethnographically detail dimensions of sex work. How does the study of sex work situated within specific social and political contexts, perhaps surprisingly, reveal

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important dimensions of gender, mobility, community, and globalization today?
Prerequisite(s): 100 level course in anthropology or Gender and Sexuality Studies, or instructor consent. (Offered Fall 2017)

ANTH H365 ADVANCED READINGS IN VISUAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Jacob Culbertson

Social Science (SO)

In this course students will be introduced to seminal texts in theory and ethnographies of visual anthropology. (Offered Spring 2018)

ANTH H450 SENIOR SEMINAR: RESEARCH AND WRITING

Zolani Ngwane

Social Science (SO)

The fall semester of the two-semester senior thesis seminar. Students do archival and ethnographic research, write a research prospectus, get training on ethics, and write a review of the anthropological literature on their area of inquiry. (Offered Fall 2017)

ANTH H451 SENIOR SEMINAR: SUPERVISED RESEARCH AND WRITING

Staff

Social Science (SO)

The spring semester of the two-semester senior thesis seminar. Students complete research on their thesis and write an ethnography. Most of the semester is individual meetings between thesis writers and advisors. The spring senior thesis seminar includes a public thesis presentation and an oral exam. (Offered Spring 2018)