

ANTHROPOLOGY COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2018-19

FALL TERM 2018

Required Courses

Anthropology 9010A: Graduate Research Seminar - Audit

Required for all first and second-year full-time MA and PhD students. (Students must enroll for a total of four terms of the Research Seminar during their programs.)

Anthropology 9100A: Archaeology Theory - Jean-François Millaire

Required for bioarchaeology and archaeology students, including applied archaeology (where appropriate to the research project, 9200A may be substituted)

This course introduces students to the significance and uses of theory in anthropological thinking and practice today. Instead of attempting a comprehensive overview of the history and/or current state of anthropological theory, we will focus on selected readings related to several broad themes of common interest (phenomenology, agency, and entanglements with things and others) in an attempt to illustrate theory's place in anthropological thinking and practice. As the course progresses, students will be encouraged to look beyond assigned readings and begin amassing eclectic reading lists of their own. These reading lists will ultimately inform students' final papers.

Anthropology 9200A – Sociocultural Anthropology Theory - Adriana Premat

Required for sociocultural and linguistic anthropology students (where appropriate to the research project, 9100A may be substituted)

This core graduate seminar is built around four central topics in anthropology: culture; individual and society; time, memory and the politics of the past; and space and place. It is designed not as a survey of theoretical positions on these topics, but rather as an exercise in critical reading and critical thinking about how these sets of concepts have been, and can be, used. In other words, the objective is to train you to think theoretically, rather than to teach you theories. In addition to thinking through some ways that these four themes have been used in sociocultural anthropology, and what the implications are of different approaches, we will also be considering how archaeologists use these concepts, and whether (or to what degree) we are all talking about the same thing when we engage them. This course crosses over several times in the term with Anthropology 9100A (above).

Elective Courses

9104A: Special Topics in Bioarchaeology: Advanced Analytical Techniques in Archaeology and Bioarchaeology - Andrew Nelson

The objective of this course is to explore how advanced analytical techniques are applied in archaeology and bioarchaeology. As such, the focus is not on any specific analytical technique per se. Rather, the course focuses on: the theoretical context and paradigm within which techniques are applied and results interpreted, how such analysis must be done within the interdisciplinary context – including defining interdisciplinarity and exploring the factors that encourage and/or discourage interdisciplinary research and exploring the nature of collaboration, including issues of intellectual property.

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9108A/4408F: Advanced Research in Paleopathology and Paleodiet - Andrea Waters-Rist

This course will explore disease and diet in past human populations with particular focus on the interaction of health and nutrition. A range of topics within paleopathology, the study of ancient disease, and paleodiet, the study of ancient diet, will be investigated to learn what can and cannot be discerned about human health through the analyses of skeletal and dental remains from archaeological contexts. Major techniques for reconstructing disease and diet from archaeological human remains are covered. The skeletal and dental markers of disease, injury, and diet are a source of evidence about the broader context in which people lived, for example providing information about changing environments, changing exposure to pathogens, population size and density, conflict between groups, the varied effects of the domestication of plants and animals, and activity patterns such as the gendered division of labour. Cutting-edge research in biological anthropology is utilizing the interaction of health and nutrition to address broad hypotheses about human adaptation and evolution.

9214A: Memory, History and Reconstructions of Identity - Randa Farah

The course examines the reproduction of the past, whether professional historical productions or popular memory, as entwined to present givens and interests. It similarly assumes that identity constructions inevitably invoke the past. The course includes readings on how memory is reproduced in the context of migration/diaspora, the political aspect of memory, and the struggle for and against power. *Eligible for credit towards the MER Collaborative graduate program.*

9216A/3237A: Advance Research in Language: Field Techniques in Linguistics - Tania Granadillo

In this course students will elicit and record linguistic data from a native speaker of a designated language and then study its phonological and lexical-grammatical systems. Selected aspects of the language will be analyzed in terms of current problems in linguistic theory.

9225A/4493F Beckett: Special Topics in Sociocultural Anthropology: Reading and Writing Ethnography – Greg Beckett

In this course, we will explore ethnography as a mode of knowledge and representation, as a theory and practice, and, above all, as a genre of writing. We will begin by considering some classic debates about ethnographic writing and then turn to in-depth analyses of several contemporary ethnographies.

WINTER TERM 2018-19

Required Courses

Anthropology 9010B: Graduate Research Seminar - Audit

Required for all first and second-year full-time MA and PhD students. (Students must enroll for a total of four terms of the Research Seminar during their programs.)

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Anthropology 9101B – Research Methods in Archaeology/Bioarchaeology – Jean-François Millaire *Required for bioarchaeology and archaeology students, including applied archaeology (where appropriate to the research project, 9201B may be substituted)*

There are several aims to this course. The proximate aim is to work with you to develop your thesis research proposal. The ultimate aim is to examine how methodology is applied to address issues that flow from theory and to appreciate that there are common themes among the various methodological approaches that are utilized in archaeology and bioarchaeology. Among the issues that we will be addressing through readings, presentations and discussions are: the nature of anthropological research – and specifically anthropological archaeology and bioarchaeology; the nature of research questions and the design of research programs to address those questions; how is our research situated in relation to the existing literature; ethics; and the nitty gritty of data collection and analysis.

Anthropology 9201B – Research Methods in Sociocultural Anthropology – Adriana Premat *Required for sociocultural and linguistic anthropology students (where appropriate to the research project, 9101B may be substituted)*

This course offers an introduction to a range of issues related to the practice of anthropological and ethnographic research. Among the topics we will be addressing through readings, presentations and discussions are: the nature and ethics of anthropological work, research design, and the advantages and limitations of different approaches to data collection and analysis. The course will also consider the logic, aims, and methods of comparative analysis.

Anthropology 9110B – Principles of Applied Archaeology - Peter Timmins *Required for all Applied Archaeology students*

This course will examine the principles and concerns that are integral to the practice of applied archaeology in North America, and the role of applied archaeology in heritage management in general. The course will review legislation and professional practices that govern applied archaeologists, and in particular the form of archaeology carried out by consultant archaeologists hired by third parties to undertake archaeological investigations in advance of land development or resource extraction (commonly called Cultural Resource Management - CRM). Over the last 4 decades CRM archaeology has grown to dominate the practice of archaeology in North America to the point that it now constitutes the majority of all archaeology conducted on an annual basis, and provides employment for the majority of professionals in the field. Increasingly CRM archaeology has also begun to define the critical issues facing archaeology more generally.

Elective Courses

9111B/3311G: Advanced Bioarchaeology - Andrew Nelson

This course provides an introduction to current theoretical and methodological issues in bioarchaeology. Use of ancient human, animal, and plant tissues to reconstruct relationships among biology, culture and environment in international contexts is emphasized. Topics include: diet, demography, disease, identity, mobility, landscape, childhood, gender, ideology, political economy, violence, work, urbanism, and globalization.

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9105B/3313B: Special Topics in Archaeology: Advanced Artifact Analysis - Peter Timmins

This course provides students with a hands-on introduction to the identification, analysis and interpretation of a range of archaeological artifacts including lithics, ceramics and organics. Students will work with archaeological collections that are available for analysis.

9215B: Discourse and Society - Karen Pennesi

Discourse analysis provides empirical grounding for explanations and interpretations of culture, society and social behaviour. Attention to discourse (language in use) reveals the diversity of perspectives within cultural and social groups, reminding us to be critical of generalizations we make, while deepening our understanding of issues. In this course, we will explore how discourse is shaped by many things including the world as we know it, the structures of language itself, social relations, prior discourses, the limitations and possibilities of the medium, and various speaker purposes. Examples of discourse features include: pragmatic expressions (including discourse markers), slang, stance, style, framing, register, genre, and reported speech.

9900B/4494G: Special Topics in Anthropology - Lindsay Bell

This course is an introduction to visual anthropology and to visual studies more broadly. The course tracks the parallels and divergences in debates about representation as they occur in art and anthropology. The course is experiential and will ask you to experiment with visual thinking strategies of various kinds. No artistic or technological expertise is required. Instead, curiosity and a collaborative spirit are essential.