

Anthropology Graduate Course Descriptions 2016-17

First Term Courses – Beginning September 2016

(The first day of the term for graduate and undergraduate courses is **Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016**)

Required First Term Courses

Anthropology 9100A – Archaeology Theory (Jean-François Millaire) – Fridays, 9:30-12:30

- Required for bioarchaeology and archaeology students, including applied archaeology (where appropriate to the research project, 9200A 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 archaeology and bioarchaeology, and what the implications are of different approaches, we will also be considering how sociocultural anthropologists 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 9200A (below).

Anthropology 9200A – Sociocultural Anthropology Theory (Andrew Walsh) – Fridays, 9:30-12:30

- 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).

Optional First Term Courses

Anthropology 9001A – Professional Development (Lisa Hodgetts) – Thursdays, 9:30-12:30

Anthropologists develop a suite of valuable transferrable skills that can be effectively applied in a wide range of job settings. This course aims to help students identify and strengthen their marketable skills and learn to present themselves effectively to prospective employers both within and outside of academia. These skills include time management, oral communication, grant writing, teaching, leadership, research, project management, editing, knowledge mobilization, interpersonal skills, and an appreciation of ethical and civic responsibility. The course emphasizes peer and participatory learning and includes a series of collaborative and individual exercises that will not only serve to enrich students' skills, but also provide them with concrete experiences to add to their CVs. In 2014 these exercises will include developing the content and design of a new "Careers" page for the department website, and designing and implementing an anthropology-based public outreach activity, among others.

- *This course is open to students in all fields of anthropology*

Anthropology 9103A – Regional Topics in Archaeology: Peopling of the Americas (Chris Ellis) – Thursdays, 1:30-4:30

The primary concern in this seminar course will be to review the evidence for when, how and from where aboriginal people first came to the Americas and what sorts of cultural equipment these earliest occupants (often called Paleo-Indians by archaeologists) brought with them.

Cross-listed with Anthropology 4494F.

Anthropology 9225A – Special Topics in Sociocultural Anthropology: Qualitative Method Must Be Defended (Regna Darnell) – Mondays, 2:30-5:30

Over the last half century, Positivism has dominated the social sciences. This seminar challenges the hegemony of quantitative method as the only mode of doing rigorous science. Qualitative social scientists have tended to pursue their own work and ignore the devaluation of their work relative to the so-called STEM disciplines, with immense negative consequences for academic funding and public acknowledgement of multiple kinds of expertise. We will reclaim the stature of qualitative method as scientific, redefining such concepts as validity, reliability, and community in ways that allow for meaning, intentionality, reflexivity, and generalizability. The social sciences are entangled with larger societal forces influencing humanities and so-called hard sciences with an overall movement from evolution to relativity to chaos/complexity. Each of these paradigms has reoriented anthropological theory and practice as well as public culture. The seminar proposes that we are on the cusp of a scientific revolution which will incorporate positivism within a larger paradigm of complexity (cf. Newton vis-a-vis Einstein). Anthropological methods of ethnography - including participant-observation and community-based collaborative fieldwork - may well be pre-adapted to the emergent ways of thinking.

Each student will explore a topic of personal interest within this framework of identifying and expanding non-linear, dialogic, qualitative perspectives (linguistic/cultural relativity; high energy physics as thought-experiment; geopolitics; the anthropocene; animal-human relations; bioethics; epigenetics; cross-cultural semantics/translation; archaeology as symbolic culture; convergent evidence across disciplines and sub-disciplines; gender performativity; fractal patterns and generalizations of scale; storytelling as method; oral tradition and memory; fiction and social construction; history as an evolving perspective or standpoint; media and "truth;" selected literary texts and genres (e.g. science fiction, film); forms of ethnographic writing; etc. Readings will include: Gregory Bateson, James Gleick, Donna Haraway, Isabelle Stengers, Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guatarri, Michel Foucault, Walter Benjamin, and Mikhail Bakhtin.

Anthropology 9900A– Special Topics in Anthropology: History of Anthropological Thought (Kim Clark) - Thursdays, 8:30-11:30

We are standing on the shoulders of giants – some of anthropology’s most brilliant minds have grappled with how to understand social organization. In this course we will explore the history of some important anthropological theories about social organization, analyzing how anthropological concepts and categories have been constructed and reconstructed over time. We will do so by examining the work and lives of some foundational figures in sociocultural anthropology from the late-19th and 20th centuries. We will read examples of their original (primary) work, in order to understand how particular kinds of anthropological questions or perspectives emerged out of the intersection of specific life circumstances and interests, intellectual networks and formation of schools of thought, and particular ethnographic circumstances in specific political and historical contexts. The intention is not to try to cover all major figures – many are left out! – but rather to turn an anthropological eye on anthropology itself, exploring both a series of anthropological concepts and the social processes through which anthropological perspectives are actively produced. This course will be of special interest to students who do not have a strong background in the history of anthropological thought, or simply want to enjoy reading/re-reading and discussing some foundational works.

Cross-listed with Anthropology 3301E (first term only).

Second Term Courses – Beginning January 2017

(The first day of the term for graduate and undergraduate courses is **Thursday, Jan 6, 2017**)

Required Second Term Courses

Anthropology 9101B – Research Methods in Archaeology/Bioarchaeology (Ian Colquhoun) – Fridays, 9:30-12:30

- 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 (Dan Jorgensen) – Fridays, 9:30-12:30

- 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) – Wednesdays, 1:30-4:30

- 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.

Cross-listed with Anthropology 4495G.

Optional Second Term Courses

Anthropology 9104B – Special Topics in Bioarchaeology: Topic: Bioarchaeology (Andrew Nelson) – Tuesdays, 9:30-12:30

This course is 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.

Cross-listed with Anthropology 3311G.

Anthropology 9105B – Special Topics in Archaeology: Topic: Artifact Analysis and Collections Management (Neal Ferris) – Thursdays, 2:30-5:30

This course will explore the approaches used in archaeology in identifying and analysing artifact object collections (this course will not be exploring materials such as floral or faunal remains). This course will provide graduate students with advanced level discussion on the identification, analysis and interpretation of major types of cultural materials commonly recovered from archaeological sites in Ontario. Emphasis will be placed on developing practical skills and knowledge related to conducting analyses and reporting results of archaeological investigations. The course will provide an overview of a broad range of cultural materials including: lithics, ceramics, metals, glass, and organic artifacts. As well, students will be introduced to matters of managing archaeological collections long term, including issues of conservation, access and maintaining collection integrity and contextual data. In addition, students will be introduced to logics, or lack of it, with respect to: classification, typology, measurement, and digital analyses. By the end of the course students will be able to work with, manage and report on archaeological collections, and identify limitations in conventional typological and classification schemes, direct in the lab material analyses, and plan for specialist analyses on classes of artifacts from these collections. The course has a significant "hands-on" component with collections.

Cross-listed with Anthropology 3396B.

Anthropology 9213B – Displacement and Disaporas (Randa Farah) – Thursdays, 11:30-2:30

In this course, we will discuss and problematize the uncritical use of the “diasporic” condition as by default anti-essentialist, as politically radical, or as detachment. The course emphasizes the diverse trajectories, cultures, histories and political aspirations of diasporic populations (some with modern political projects), and underscores the significance of politics, power structures and socio-economic differentials in variously shaping diasporic subjects (migrants, refugees,

exiles, etc.) in the twenty-first century. The crossing of geo-political boundaries involves gendered cultural encounters. Yet such boundary crossings do not necessarily mean we also journey physically, ideologically or politically towards global citizenship, or do they?

- *This course can be taken for credit towards the MER Collaborative program.*

Anthropology 9216B – Advanced Research in Language and Society: Topic: Language and Identity (Karen Pennesi) – Mondays, 12:30-3:30

The course will examine the sociocultural construction of identity through linguistic practices and linguistic features. We will explore how individuals and groups are marked as certain kinds of people by the way they speak in a given context and how speakers use language in different ways to accomplish particular kinds of interactional goals. We may also look at how media and political discourses construct identities and relations among social groups.