The Anthropology Department specializes in socio-cultural anthropology: the study of social and cultural forms of human life using ethnographic, historical, and comparative methods. Faculty in our department are engaged in research that addresses topics considered traditional such as the study of ethnicity, language, religion, family and kinship, or medical pluralism, and also new and emergent issues such as those relating to childhood, technological imaginaries, biomedicine, ecology, state, violence, and popular economies. In all cases, the acute awareness of shifting contexts in which institutions are embedded and the impact of global, regional, and national politics on social life is built into the methodology and the theory engaged by faculty and students. Faculty in our department have research expertise in the Americas, New South Asia, the Middle East, and sub-Saharan Africa. Our research is oriented toward the investigation of a number of cross-cutting themes of trans-regional concern rather than a comprehensive coverage of global cultural areas.

The department’s distinctive orientation to anthropology can be characterized in terms of its orientation to non-European anthropological and philosophical traditions, alongside the dominant anthropologies which have been seen as definitive of the discipline in the past. In terms of specific topics, faculty in our department are engaged in research on violence, social suffering and theories of everyday life; the material and moral force of the state; money and value; environments; kinship; anthropology of religion and secularism; anthropology of medicine; media and visual anthropology; health and well-being; and anthropology of language.

The department offers a B.A. program and a Ph.D. program. The B.A. prepares students either to continue to various employment opportunities or degree in anthropology (and related fields) or to develop anthropological skills and imagination as complementary to pre-professional training, such as medicine, engineering, and international relations. Undergraduate course work offers an introduction to the basic methodologies and theories of contemporary anthropology through discussion and directed research on these and other topical issues. Student advising helps interested students to develop concentrations, through sequences of complementary courses tailored to their own interests, including electives outside the department. In addition, majors have the option to pursue an honors program.

Undergraduate majors in anthropology are required to do ten courses, six electives, at least four of which must be taken at 300-level or higher, and one of which can be a cross-listed course taught outside the department. After consultation with faculty, majors can take an independent study course that will count toward the major. All anthropology majors must also meet a foreign language requirement (intermediate level). Native speakers of another language, or those fluent in a language not taught at the university, can devise a plan to meet this requirement in consultation with the department. Students wishing to write an honors thesis are also required to do two additional courses in which they work on their dissertation topics. Minors are required to take five courses, two required courses and three electives, at least two electives must be 300 level or higher.

The core curriculum for majors develops a step-wise sequence from the freshman seminar to the senior honors option. We offer an elective 100-level Freshman Seminar that introduces anthropological approaches to a broad range of contemporary issues. Here, we hope to develop curiosity in anthropology as a way of knowing the world, and to encourage critical reflection by students on their own life experiences. Our 100-level introductory course, Invitation to Anthropology, is geared toward freshmen and sophomores. The objective of this course is twofold: to offer anthropological knowledge and analytic skills to a broad range of students, and to prepare potential majors for further training in social theory and fieldwork methods. Following from this introductory course, our 200-level Ethnographies course furthers student understanding of essential themes through close attention to classic and contemporary ethnographic works in the discipline. The 300-level Methods course is an additional requirement for majors, deepening students’ capacity to link theory and method, preparing students to carry out field research, and guiding students in the writing up and presentation of original research. Building on these foundations, the 400-level Logic of Anthropological Inquiry course, also required of majors, is a thematic capstone course that demands an extended engagement with classic debates and encourages integrative thinking across the range of anthropology courses taken. Majors in anthropology may decide to pursue an honors thesis based on an extended research project. They should discuss their interest in writing a thesis with their faculty advisor in their sophomore year and before the summer of their junior year. Drawing from their previous course preparation and working closely with a faculty advisor, such students spend one semester conducting field research, one semester conducting secondary literature review, and the final semester writing their honors thesis.

Outside of the core curriculum, both majors and minors may take a wide variety of courses. Thematic courses are highly varied and reflect faculty interests, usually including (in any one year) courses in religion and philosophy; medical, legal, economic and linguistic anthropology; and study of diverse areas of the world. Courses on the state, law, and money offer a critical and comparative approach for students aiming toward political, economic, and legal careers. Courses in medical anthropology serve pre-med and public health students. Philosophical and theoretical courses are attractive to humanities students. We see teaching and research as integrally linked, and invite undergraduate students to envisage research as they take introductory and advanced courses in anthropology.

The training of graduate students focuses on providing students with a vocabulary and grammar to engage in anthropological reasoning in socio-cultural anthropology and with skills in research methods. The department emphasizes training in anthropological theory in relation to new developments in other disciplines within the social sciences; understanding of regions in terms of cross-cutting questions rather than geographical questions alone; and the capability to place a problem within a broad history of anthropology that is engaged through multiple national and regional traditions.

Our faculty brings into the classroom an extraordinary range of personal and professional experiences. We are proud to have one of the most diverse faculties in the discipline worldwide, both in terms of gender and ethnic or national origins. Their collective fieldwork experience spans the world, including the Americas, Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa, and South Asia.

Facilities

In addition to the regular departmental colloquium where invited speakers from Hopkins and other campuses around the world present their ongoing research, the department holds one or two special symposia every year, including one organized by graduate students. The department also invites a distinguished scholar each year to present
the Sidney W. Mintz Lecture. The purpose of the Mintz lectures is to integrate scholarly and social concerns, focusing on questions of political and economic inequality, racism, gender, and ethnic differences from an interdisciplinary perspective. Previous lectures have subsequently been published in Current Anthropology.

The Baltimore-Washington area is unusually rich in library, archival, and museum resources relating to anthropology. In addition to the excellent collection in the Milton S. Eisenhower Library, the William H. Welch Medical Library, and other libraries at Johns Hopkins, major anthropological holdings are available at the Smithsonian Institution, the Library of Congress, and the other specialized libraries and museums in nearby Washington, D.C. Students can use the Smithsonian Institution's ethnological and library collection through a cooperative arrangement.

Financial Aid

Undergraduate majors and non-majors are eligible to apply for a Provost's Undergraduate Research Award to support special research and write-up projects in their senior year.

Graduate fellowships and teaching assistantships are available, and most students admitted receive support. Stipends are currently offered at $29,000 per year plus fellowships that cover tuition and health insurance. Some additional funds are usually available on a competitive basis for summer field research (including travel grants from the Institute for Global Studies, the Program for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality, and the Program for Latin American Studies), and for special language-learning needs. Write-up students may apply for a Dean's Teaching Fellowship.

Programs

• Anthropology, Bachelor of Arts (http://e-catalog.jhu.edu/arts-sciences/full-time-residential-programs/degree-programs/anthropology/anthropology-bachelor-arts/)
• Anthropology, Minor (http://e-catalog.jhu.edu/arts-sciences/full-time-residential-programs/degree-programs/anthropology/anthropology-minor/)
• Anthropology, PhD (http://e-catalog.jhu.edu/arts-sciences/full-time-residential-programs/degree-programs/anthropology/anthropology-phd/)

For current course information and registration go to https://sis.jhu.edu/classes/

Courses

AS.070.109. Introduction to Environmental Anthropology. 3 Credits.
What is an "environment," socially speaking? How have pipelines, animals, conservation, and capitalism shaped the way we talk about "nature" and "society" in the present day? This course examines the mutual transformation of humans and their environments through ethnography, environmental history, cultural and political ecology, human geography, and social theory.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.070.113. Freshman Seminar. 2 Credits.
Various Topics
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.070.125. Technology and Politics in Native North America. 3 Credits.
How have biodiversity protection measures, cultural heritage NGOs, genomic science, and transnational media altered the lives of Indigenous groups in North America in the twenty-first century? What does ‘recognition’ mean for these people, and how does it actually work in practice? This course will explore the emergence of new spaces and technologies of Indigenous politics and their new roles in shaping everyday experiences, from Inuit communities in Arctic Canada to urban centers in the United States.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.070.126. Photography in Anthropology. 3 Credits.
We will examine historical uses of photographs, critiques of them and more recent creative uptakes of photography in anthropology. We will learn from the use of photographs by anthropologists in the Hopkins department. We will also undertake independent projects. Students will learn to critically engage and mobilize images through the history of its use in anthropology.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.070.132. Invitation to Anthropology. 3 Credits.
Click. The screen that brings you last night’s Instagrams and celebrity gossip also flashes glimpses of melting icecaps and burning rubble. These are complex times for human beings, both exciting and unsettling. This course introduces anthropology as a way of reflecting on the challenges of contemporary life around the globe, focusing on themes such as migration, warfare, ecology, inequality, and addiction.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.070.135. Freshman Seminar: Human Nature Under Capitalism. 3 Credits.
Think about the wide range of lives people lead today. Financial traders, stay-at-home parents, tech entrepreneurs, slum dwellers, corporate office drones, migrant workers, indebted college students. Our identities, aspirations, and anxieties are reflections of a capitalist system that has always relied on claims to what it means to be human. In this course we treat capitalism not as an abstraction for political debate but as a social force shaping the human lives and the planet. Departing from a conception of human nature not as fixed and universal but as formed by the totality of social relations, we explore how capital shapes human needs, desires, and relations to each other and the world.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
AS.070.140. Anthropology of Food. 3 Credits.
This introductory course investigates what we eat and, as a consequence, who we are. By taking a cross-cultural perspective, students will examine the politics of food production, the values associated with food preparation, and the material and social dynamics of food consumption. Through readings, films, field trips, demonstrations, and tastings, the course offers an interdisciplinary and dynamic pedagogical approach to analyzing cooking and eating—activities central to daily life and social forms more broadly. Local- and global-level issues will be addressed as students explore histories, economics, social issues, and identity formation related to food.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.070.143. Anthropology of Markets. 3 Credits.
Capitalism is built on social and cultural processes. In this course, we explore the culture of capitalism across diverse settings — a fish market in Tokyo, an investment bank in Wall Street, and the organ donation economy in China, among many others. We ask what motivates the makers of markets today, as well as their critics.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.070.145. Freshman Seminar: The Idea of America. 3 Credits.
This course takes an anthropological look at the idea of America and everyday American life. Relying on ethnographic studies, selected works of popular writing, as well as films and fiction, we will explore themes such as settlement and displacement, aspiration and advancement, racial and cultural difference.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

Writing Intensive

AS.070.154. Maps and Mapping. 3 Credits.
This course explores maps as cultural documents and ethnographic sites. Students will learn how cultural understandings of space, time, and the visible world shape cartographic conventions. Through mapping exercises we will explore how ethnographer can use maps to theorize the nature of political, cultural, and economic life.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.070.204. An introduction to Islamic Intellectual History. 3 Credits.
This course will study the vibrant world of the Seljuks, an Islamic empire that flourished between 1037 and 1157 AD, from Khorasan across Baghdad to Hijaz and Anatolia. As an exploration in intellectual history, we will attempt to understand the social world of the Seljuk Turks through political, religious, and literary texts. We will first read a political treatise, Siyasatnama (The Book of Government), written by Nizam al-Mulk (1018-1092), the formidable minister of the Seljuk Empire, who oversaw the reign of three successive sultans during the second half of the eleventh century and created a strong bureaucratic state for the Seljuks. During his administration, he commissioned the development of madrasas, colleges dedicated to the teaching of Islamic law, theology, literature, and history. The most famous of these madrasas was the Baghdad Nizamiyya where Al-Ghazali (1058-1111) taught from 1190 and 1194. We will read Al-Ghazali's Deliverance from Error in order to explore the state of religious learning at the peak of the Islamic Golden Age. Having discussed the political and religious foundations of Islamic orthodoxy in the eleventh century, next we turn to the rise of heterodox movements that challenged the authority of the Seljuk state. We will briefly examine the history of the Ismaili branch of Shia Islam, focusing on the politico-religious ideas of its most potent representative, Hasan-i Sabbah (1050s-1124). Finally, we will end our class with the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam (1048-1131), the prominent poet and polymath of the eleventh century.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

Writing Intensive

AS.070.205. Post-Soviet Russia: An Anthropological Perspective. 3 Credits.
This course is designed to introduce students to anthropology’s contribution to ongoing conversations about Russia’s political and economic system, social life, as well as Russia’s place in the world since the fall of the Soviet Union. Students will be encouraged to think beyond easy distinctions between socialism and post-socialism, Putin’s Russia and the West, often starkly and unreflectively established by commentators and in the media. Topics will include post-socialist transition, memory, violence and war, gender and sexuality.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

Writing Intensive

AS.070.207. Resilience and its Critics: Change in Environment and Society. 3 Credits.
Resilience – the idea that environmental systems and social forms can be designed to “bounce back” from disasters and other disruptive changes – has influenced a rapidly growing range of sustainability policies, urban planning strategies, and academic disciplines. In some areas, though, the term signifies neoliberal reform and a shrinking state. This course will trace debates over the many practical and theoretical meanings of resilience, from its origins in military planning and security to its ambivalent connotations for climate change science and disaster preparedness.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.070.209. Urban Citizenship in Latin America. 3 Credits.
Latin American cities are among the largest in the world, but also among the most unequal. Significant proportions of the urban populations reside informally on the fringes of metropolitan areas without access to services or amenities, secure tenure, or adequate sanitary conditions. This course will study several ethnographies to examine the intricacies of the notion of ‘urban citizenship’ and how the ‘right to the city’ has been imagined, demanded and struggled for in Latin American cities. Cases will include Sao Paulo in Brazil, El Alto in Bolivia, or Bogota in Colombia.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.070.210. Trauma: institutions, violence, and everyday life. 3 Credits.
How are catastrophe and forms of everyday violence responded to in the clinic, law, in publicity, and in the domestic? In this course, we ask how trauma discourse has transformed institutional responses to violence. We will engage such issues as humanitarian intervention, rape and the law, the use of trigger warnings on college campuses, the clinical description of trauma and its treatment. Through ethnography, fiction, and film, we explore how the subjective experience of violence moves beyond and pushes the limits of institutional discourses on trauma.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

Writing Intensive

AS.070.212. Minorities in South Asia. 3 Credits.
This course will introduce first-year students to the anthropology of modern South Asia from the lens of its varied minorities. We will interrogate ideas of nation, community, tradition, and belonging across the region to understand contemporary dilemmas of diversity, heterogeneity, and cultural citizenship.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

Writing Intensive
AS.070.213. Data and Society. 3 Credits.
This course explores the context, experience, and consequences of data proliferation in the contemporary moment. Both experts and laypeople generate and study data at unprecedented rates to make decisions, communicate with each other, and process their environments. How do data advance or constrain our social, political, and economic relationships at large? How is knowledge transformed when it is mediated by large volumes of data? What are the consequences of trusting sociopolitical decisions to data-processing algorithms? What happens when everyday users generate data about themselves and volunteer their data to for-profit entities? The course consists of different modules zeroing in on topics ranging from the economy, to public health, climate change, media, and the law. Each module consists of lectures and seminar-type discussions, as well as interactions with invited speakers. Students will be expected to actively participate in all discussions and develop one independent project. The course content and activities tie into the 2019-2021 Sawyer Seminar on “Precision and Uncertainty in a World of Data” led by the Departments of Anthropology and the History of Medicine.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.214. Politics and Poetics of Mobility in Africa. 3 Credits.
This course considers a broad survey of contemporary themes in African mobility, displacement, and re-settlement. Drawing on historical, anthropological, and literary texts and film, the course uses mobility as a window into a range of topics that are of scholarly interest in contemporary African studies: from urbanization and labor, to violence, political subjectivity and the changing nature of the state, formal and informal economy, gender and domesticity, and religious movements.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.211. Freshman Seminar: Urban Citizenship. 3 Credits.
In our present ‘urban age,’ the city appears as the privileged framework to claim citizenship rights. This demand, however, clashes with issues of urban renewal and development, security and circulation, as well as conditions of stark inequality that relegate vast sectors of the urban population around the globe to informality and precarious residence, without access to adequate healthcare, sanitary services and amenities, or secure housing tenure. This course examines the intricacies of the notion of ‘urban citizenship’ and how the ‘right to the city’ is imagined and demanded in struggles for belonging and inclusion in cities throughout the world.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.226. Chemical Pollution and Social Life. 3 Credits.
The present is marked by a ubiquitous exposure to different sorts of toxic chemicals: from disasters that affect entire communities to the built environments in which we live and work, from the traces of pesticides in our food to the worldwide disrupting effects of oil production. Drawing from social theory, ethnography, environmental history, policy documents, newspaper articles, commercial ads, and documentaries, this course will introduce anthropology as a way of thinking through the interactions between processes of chemical pollution and social worlds.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.070.228. Photography and Writing: Crafting an Anthropological Text. 3 Credits.
This course explores resonances between photography and anthropological writing. Students will be introduced to basic techniques in photographic composition. How do photography and anthropology share techniques of rendering people, places, and things? Other topics include the role of sensation, reflection, and creativity in depicting a scene, as well as care and ethics. Students will develop an individual project that folds photographic sensibilities into the writing process.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.230. From Jihad to Revolution: The Political Struggles of Women in the Middle East. 3 Credits.
The course explores the role of women as political prisoners, combatants and activists in the modern history of the Middle East using a multidisciplinary approach. It explores the history of women’s engagement in political struggles in the Middle East over the long durée starting with anti-colonial movements in the 20th century up until the recent uprisings known as the “Arab Spring”. The course is geared towards the examination of the ways in which politics, in a broad sense, is gendered in the Middle East by examining how the social and political construction of women as political subjects influence the nature and practice of political life, as well as the ways in which sexual difference has served as a basis for social and political organization.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.070.233. Africa as Laboratory. 3 Credits.
Africa, as anthropologists have noted, has long been a “laboratory of the future.” By tracing the intersections of technology and politics, this class considers the various experiments in oppression and liberation that have unfolded within it. Following a broad historical arc, we begin with colonial medicine, racial science, and urban planning; move to national infrastructures and postcolonial resource extractions; and finally consider contemporary African engagements with consumer technology.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.235. Anthropology of Christianity. 3 Credits.
This course introduces students to the study of Christianity from the Anthropological perspective. Among the themes discussed are: Christian conversion, theology, practice, and knowledge in a range of national contexts. The course considers broad trends in global Christianity, including the retreat of traditional Catholicism and the surge of charismatic forms of Christianity, such as Pentecostalism and Charismatic Catholicism.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.237. Conflict and Environment. 3 Credits.
How do conflicts in and over environments shape our understandings of identity and belonging? Violence, resource loss, and resettlement may shape landscapes through physical infrastructures or sites of extraction, but they also live on in memory, art, and other social practices. From the fencing of the American west to attempts to save Andean glaciers through the legal recognition of “earth beings,” this course examines the many ways environments and conflict co-shape one another.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
AS.070.241. African Cities. 3 Credits.
Over the past two decades, African cities have absorbed rapid population increase without accompanying economic growth. Students will review the major challenges of this mode of urbanization and explore the vibrant ways residents have sought to meet them. Following anthropology’s commitment to lived experience, we will track these issues through the twists and turns of everyday life, and consider what they may say about urbanity more broadly in the 21st century. Topics include livelihood, the built environment, conflict and membership, and popular culture.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.249. Latin American Cities: Public Spaces and Private Lives. 3 Credits.
This course will explore the relationship between public space and forms of political expression as well as the cultural implications of various senses of privacy and domesticity in contemporary Latin American cities. Drawing on recent anthropological and historical texts, we will study the formation of urban public space in the region, as well as its use and representation by different social, political and ethnic groups.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.251. Aliens, iPads, and Neurotribes: An Introduction to the Anthropology of Autism. 3 Credits.
This course is an overview of the emerging anthropology of autism. It surveys the history of the autism diagnosis – from its original formulation at Johns Hopkins in 1943 to its rapid expansion into a ‘spectrum’ condition in the late 1990s – and the ways in which social scientists of different disciplines have tried to analyze the role of social and cultural factors in its evolution. The course also looks at a range of ethnographic studies that have asked what it means be autistic in today’s world.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.253. Introduction to Medical Anthropology. 3 Credits.
Is illness bound within an individual body, or is it entangled with our relations? What are the ethics and politics of the doctor/patient relation? How are medical technologies changing the way we experience illness and healing? How have global institutions responded to the problems posed by disease and development? Drawing on ethnography, film, and literature, this course introduces students to how anthropologists have explored and researched problems related to health and illness.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.267. Culture, Religion and Politics in Iran. 3 Credits.
This is an introductory course for those interested in gaining basic knowledge about contemporary Iran. The focus will be on culture and religion and the ways they in which they become interwoven into different kinds of political stakes.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.268. Police in Ethnographic Perspective. 3 Credits.
This course examines policing throughout history and across the world. Course readings will provide an empirical account of the many diverse forms of police and the issues associated with them.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.273. Ethnographies. 3 Credits.
What does it mean to translate the field onto the page? This course explores the craft of ethnography and its relationship to anthropological knowledge. Reading a series of classic and contemporary works, and engaging in our own writing experiments, we attend to the knotty problem of rendering lived experience, attending to narrative, voice, structure, and the relationship between description and analysis.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.292. Landscape and Power. 3 Credits.
How does the production and public interpretation of maps, photographs, and other visual media shape struggles over resources, political power, and public health? Surveying approaches from political ecology and environmental history, this course will expose students to a range of ethnographic strategies for analyzing media amidst environmental conflicts.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.295. Conflict and Security in a Global World. 3 Credits.
Students will be introduced to problems of global governance in the context of transnational conflicts, changing nature of war, new epidemics and pandemics, and the threats of planetary extinction. What are the ways security is imagined and what kinds of political passions are mobilized for security of people versus security of states.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.296. Introduction to Migration Studies. 3 Credits.
How can we understand the city from positions of marginality and risk? What challenges does urban living pose to its most vulnerable residents? We will examine these questions, and methodological and conceptual issues they raise, with anthropological research from five cities: Johannesburg, São Paulo, Ibadan, New York, Kuala Lumpur. We will explore each city from the perspective of particular residents and the specific struggles they face, including crime and security, economic uncertainty, and sexual discrimination.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.297. Medicine, Sports, and Culture. 1 Credit.
This course examines how medicine is practiced in different cultures around the world. In particular, we draw on theories and concepts from medical anthropology to study how these differences reveal alternative perspectives on the body, its health and its capabilities. To sharpen our inquiries into cultural differences surrounding bodily health, we look comparatively at the anthropology of sports and bodily performance. In looking at how concepts including illness, wellness, and injury differ across cultures, we consider, for example, how the bodily experience of pain not only varies according to societal beliefs and behaviors, but also changes as one pursues the limits of athletic performance. In addition to introducing how cultural anthropology engages with medicine and sports performance, this course enriches scientific interest in medicine by teaching students techniques of critical reasoning that powerfully investigate both how medicine is practiced and the cultural phenomenon of bodily health. Prior study in anthropology is not required. We anticipate talks from two current medical residents who were undergraduate majors in anthropology, a high-level athlete, and a field trip to speak with physicians at the Maryland Medical Center.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences
AS.070.298. The Family at War: Crisis & Ambivalence in the Study of Kinship. 3 Credits.
This course will introduce students to one of the foundational concerns of anthropology and bring to the fore critiques that bear upon what it means to relate to one another. Students will be introduced to theories of kinship and the myriad challenges to fixed notions of the family. Specifically, course readings will consider interventions in anthropological studies of kinship, such as in studies of new reproductive technologies and queer kinship. In addition, course readings will consider the notion of the family in colonial and "post"-colonial contexts, as well as in "post"-conflict societies. A primary concern of the course will also be to encourage students to think critically about the ways in which knowledge is produced, institutionalized, and disseminated.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.299. From Palestine to the Pipeline: Land, Property, and Indigenous Politics. 3 Credits.
What are the ideas, histories, and forces that set the conditions of possibility and foreclosure of indigenous politics today? We will explore this question through then lens of property through readings from anthropology, political theory, history, and geography. As is well known, control over land (and its resources) has historically constituted the core of the struggle between settler and native. Within settler colonies, however, land is governed and regulated as property by the settler state. As such, the imagining, making, regulating, and exchanging of property all have important implications for indigenous territory and sovereignty. Focusing on North America, Australia, and Israel/Palestine, this course considers the following questions: how did ideas about rights and ownership develop in settler colonies in relation to the native inhabitants? How did these ideas shape market relations, regulations, and property law? And how does indigenous land struggle navigate the constraints and possibilities of property in the struggle for territory?
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.300. The Global Artwork. 3 Credits.
This course is about art practice in a postcolonial context, where the techniques and pictorial concepts formed by a European history of art are confronted by other traditions of representation, beset by different kinds of political struggles, and posed against the background of religious traditions other than that of Christianity. What problems of history, difference and the self arise in this context, and what forms of art practice emerge to address these problems? In what ways do these forms of art practice draw upon religious traditions, and how do we think about the displacement of religious traditions in modern art? In this course, we will explore these questions by examining the modern art of the Middle East, South Asia, and China, in conjunction with readings from anthropology, art history, comparative literature, philosophy and religious studies.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.302. Crisis and Futurity: New Ethnographies of Africa. 3 Credits.
'Africa Rising' or 'The Hopeless Continent?' Within the span of a decade, The Economist magazine famously declared each to be true. In this class we turn to the genre of ethnography, with its focus on lived experience and critical nuance, to make sense of this seeming contradiction. We explore the themes of crisis and futurity through new works by Mbembe, De Boeck, Obarrio, and others.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.314. Activism and Assembly, Local and Global Connections. 3 Credits.
This course offers an anthropological perspective on political mobilization and struggles for social change and citizenship rights in several regions of the world. It charts collective action among the urban poor, indigenous peoples, queer rights activists, feminists, environmentalists and grassroots groups in various cultural and political contexts, to examine methodologies, representations, and local and global networks.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.070.317. Methods. 3 Credits.
This course aims to teach basic fieldwork skills: Choosing and entering a community; establishing contacts; learning to listen and to ask questions and locating archival material that might be relevant. It is a hands-on course that increases student familiarity with various neighborhoods such as the Arts District in Baltimore. Recommended Course Background: two or more prior courses in anthropology (not cross-listed courses).
Course is a requirement for anthropology major.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.318. The Atlantic World. 3 Credits.
This seminar explores the formation of the South Atlantic through a reading of historical and ethnographic texts. We examine the making of history and culture as contentious fields of struggle.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.329. An Introduction to Reality. 3 Credits.
Reality is a key concept we often think with more than we think about. And yet reality is not a self-evident thing. This seminar explores a central paradox in the concept of reality: as a totality—an 'everything'—nonetheless produced and maintained from a partial and situated practice of making. The course begins with historical examinations of reality-making and -undoing then proceeds to approaches from anthropological theory and ethnography. It looks critically at the role of scientific knowledge, technological development, and capitalist and socialist ideological regimes in making realities in their own image. The course puts forth the case that anthropology is uniquely situated to understand how systems of knowledge come into being and stabilize a social order while investigating the inherent contestability and fragility of those systems.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.333. Theologies of Political Life. 3 Credits.
This course explores the relationship between modern political forms and theological traditions. Looking at developments both in the West and the postcolonial world, we will examine the multiple ways in which theological traditions have continued to inform how political life is conceived and pursued. In particular, we will focus on the relation between liberalism and the Christian tradition; the turn to messianism in critical theory; the transformation of the shar?i into a legal form; and its imbrication in anti-colonial politics.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive
AS.070.334. Contemporary Anthropology. 1 Credit.  
Students are invited to attend, for credit, the departmental research colloquium in anthropology. The colloquium meets most (but not all) Tuesday afternoons during the semester. Students are expected to attend and listen, encouraged to ask questions when they wish, and to write one brief reflection on contemporary trends in the field, based on what they have observed during these sessions. Prerequisite: Students must have completed one Anthropology course previously.  
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences  
Writing Intensive

AS.070.336. Ethnographic Perspectives on Brazil. 3 Credits.  
This seminar offers an examination of Brazilian culture and politics through close readings of classic and contemporary ethnography. The course will track how anthropologists have approached the complexities and contradictions of Brazilian society. And, conversely, we will investigate how studies in Brazil have prompted challenges to and generated innovations in anthropological thought.  
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences  
Writing Intensive

AS.070.340. The Elementary Forms of American Religious Life. 3 Credits.  
In the United States, the nation that in its infancy so famously erected a "wall between Church and State," religion remains a persistent, and insistently public concern today, occupying our literary imagination, filling dockets and riding the national airwaves. Far from dropping out of a rapidly secularizing public sphere, specific forms of religious life have become deeply embedded in America, while the nation has also impressed its own particular institutional character upon religious expression. This course takes an ethnological lens to the particularity of American forms of religious life, asking what claims they make on the liberal subject, and through what enduring institutional forms and channels.  
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences  
Writing Intensive

AS.070.343. On Seeing: Between Religion and Art. 3 Credits.  
This course reflects on what it is to see, by examining how different religious traditions have conceived of seeing, and then considering how seeing is organized by modern forms of art practice. Our inquiry will range across a variety of cases—from devotional practices in Christianity and Hinduism; to concepts of vision in the Islamic tradition; to the critique of images during the Protestant Reformation and the legacy of that critique in modernism; and to the development of new ideas about religion are shaped not only by historical and scriptural culture and political speeches. Beginning with this proposition that our dissemination through radio, TV, and the Internet, as well as in consumer culture and political speeches. Beginning with this proposition that our ideas about religion are shaped not only by historical and scriptural legacies, but as well as by material practices and other sundry conditions of mediation, of which our present times supply many, we will reexamine questions of revelation, belief, spirituality, ethereality, and ritual practice are constituted by these irreducible ways, thus complicating the neat separation of religion and secularism, or, for that matter, religion and culture.  
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences  
Writing Intensive

AS.070.359. Korean War. 3 Credits.  
This course takes the Korean War as a site to both explore: 1) contemporary historical and political transformations in East Asia and globally and 2) the ways in which violence, catastrophic loss, and separation are woven into everyday life. It will explore the Korean War through film, fiction, historiography, and draw on comparative materials in anthropology.  
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences  
Writing Intensive

AS.070.363. Religious Freedom and Prisons in America. 3 Credits.  
'Although we often think of religious freedom as a fixed philosophical doctrine of Enlightenment liberalism, it is a concept continually being (re)made from the ground up in increasingly important ways that today affect national politics and the judiciary. Nowadays, religious freedom has cultivated oppositional meanings: it holds together both a freedom from and to supersede government regulation; where actions in the name of religious freedom seek both to separate from government and to radically engage it as a theological force. We begin by taking this tension as a provocation to look locally and draw widely from a variety of ethnographic, historical, philosophical, literary, and other present-day texts and media, which will deepen how we understand the significant scope of what is at play and at stake in contemporary America and its politics. Through our readings and discussions, we will better grasp how religious freedom and its legal interpretations have grown from the bottom up, moving through local policies, social geographies and institutions, such as churches and prisons, as much as through any singular adherence to transcendent philosophical doctrine. While this class is an overarching exploration of how American Christianity has developed, it will pay particular attention to the Alabama and Louisiana prison systems and their distinctive religious histories. And we will focus on how the varied conceptual forms of religious freedom relate to the social geographies, religious discourses, literary texts, and media produced in and through ideas of the American South.'  
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences  
Writing Intensive

AS.070.366. Speculative Anthropology. 3 Credits.  
Anthropology has always been a speculative enterprise, an attempt to think beyond some familiar idea of the human. We will explore this speculative dimension by looking at crossovers between anthropology and contemporary art, science fiction, philosophy, and environmental politics. Working with texts, films, drawings and other media, we will examine the experimental and imaginative nature of anthropology.  
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences  
Writing Intensive

AS.070.372. Religion and Media. 3 Credits.  
This course examines the ways in which conventional and non-conventional media recreate or transform religious experience in modern life. Increasingly, religion is experienced not only in sacred spaces and as ritual prescriptions, but also through the information that is disseminated through radio, TV, and the Internet, as well as in consumer culture and political speeches. Beginning with this proposition that our ideas about religion are shaped not only by historical and scriptural legacies, but as well as by material practices and other sundry conditions of mediation, of which our present times supply many, we will reexamine how questions of revelation, belief, spirituality, ethereality, and ritual practice are constituted by these irreducible ways, thus complicating the neat separation of religion and secularism, or, for that matter, religion and culture.  
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
AS.070.373. Housing Matters. 3 Credits.
This course will collectively craft an anthropological critique of housing, both as a social concern and as an object of public policy and urban planning. As a key component of the structure and functioning of cities, housing is instrumental to urban governance, segregation, and citizenship, as well as to cultures of consumption and class formation, identities, solidarities and the imagination of alternative social orders. We will study several ethnographies to examine how the material and social effects of housing shape the politics of difference, rights, markets and property relations, consumption and activism in the US urban context.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.374. What Does it Mean to be Religious?. 3 Credits.
What do we mean when we say that something or someone is “religious?” We unpack this question in a comparative approach, and pay special attention to the ways in which this term has been applied to the study of Islamic cultures and Muslim experience. Through an exploration of the categories of experience, creativity and the individual, we offer a more capacious way of imagining what it means to be religious.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.375. Technology, Trust, and Expertise. 3 Credits.
How does an idea or an observation become a “fact”? How does one study ‘science’ anthropologically? This course will introduce students to the field of science and technology studies (STS) by asking how different societies have defined the relationship between experimentation, knowledge, and power. Through ethnographic portraits of laboratories, clinics, toxic landscapes, and virtual simulations, we will explore how scientists and other experts have understood their relationships with other citizens, the state, and the physical environment.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.376. Social Ecology. 3 Credits.
This course will explore social and cultural dimensions of contemporary ecological problems, thinking between ecological anthropology, environmental philosophy, and activist literature and media. It will be taught as a community-based learning course in partnership with the Center for Social Concern and a Baltimore environmental organization. Coursework will be organized on a collaborative studio basis and a project-based approach. Recommended Course Background: One prior course in either Anthropology or Environmental Studies.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.070.379. Social Ecology Studio. 3 Credits.
This course will grapple with the social and cultural dimensions of contemporary ecological problems through a local, project-based approach. Coursework will be organized on a studio basis in partnership with a local environmental organization, Friends of Stony Run. Continuing a collaborative project initiated in the fall of 2019, we will work together to develop interpretive materials for the Stony Run stream and urban watershed adjoining our campus.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.070.380. Slumworld: Life in informal Settlements. 3 Credits.
One quarter of the planet’s urban population lives today in slums, shantytowns, favelas, chawls, colonias and other forms of rudimentary settlements (according to UN Habitat). Despite their prevalence throughout the world, these places are still depicted as spaces of informality and abjection, rather than as sites of emergence of innovative - even if disadvantaged-, makeshift ways of producing the city. This course will combine ethnographic and geographical literature, as well as works of fiction and film to explore the lives of squatters and slum-dwellers in many regions of the world and examine in what way their practices, forms of dwelling, sociality, conflict and cooperation are constitutive of the urban experience.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.388. Anthropology of the Biosciences. 3 Credits.
What is life? How do scientists shape and define this crucial concept, and for what uses? This course uses historical and anthropological accounts of the biological sciences to ask how the study of life is changing interactions with the world around and within us. In it, we will examine studies of synthetic biology, genetic engineering, genomics, biotechnology, biodiversity conservation, bioprospecting, medical biology, and artificial life. Guiding themes explore fundamental questions about biopower, biocapital, planetary change, bodies, and the nature of “life.” The course takes a global approach to the study of biology, including studies of bioscience and technology from the global South.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.389. Precarity in South Korea through TV and Film:Aesthetics and everyday life. 3 Credits.
This seminar explores how precarity in South Korea gains expression in the medium of TV and film. In particular, this seminar will focus on how the moving image brings the viewer into the texture of everyday life. We will focus on the TV show Misaeng and include films such as Parasite and Burning. TV and film will be paired with readings on the transformations of intimate life in contemporary South Korea and comparative work on precarity.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.405. Urban Ecologies. 3 Credits.
Description: This course will explore the city from the vantage point of nature/culture relations and political imagination. It will engage a range of topics including the built environment, urban infrastructure, (de)industrialization and the ways in which urban space shapes and is shaped by power relations, racial dynamics, housing markets, domesticity and the body. As part of the coursework, students will carry out small guided research projects in Baltimore City.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive
AS.070.407. Design Anthropology. 3 Credits.
From casinos to canoes, algorithms to animal traps, our worlds are bursting with intentional objects. The word design has come to evoke the prestige of such objects, and their power to shape our collective habits and sensations. This course explores the anthropology of designed artifacts and their complex social trajectories. Beginning with philosophical investigations into the relationship between materials, form, and craft, we will proceed through ethnographic case studies of design as expert discourse and ordinary practice. Ultimately we will consider the affinities between the ethnography and design as opened-and not entirely predictable engagements with the world.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.413. Reading Marx. 3 Credits.
This seminar offers a close reading of selected works of Karl Marx, along with supplemental secondary literature. We will explore how the central pillars of Marx's thought— including dialectical materialism, critical political economy, and utopian socialist thought— shape his critical method in interrogating the logic of capital.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.419. Logic of Anthropological Inquiry. 3 Credits.
Anthropology is an endeavor to think with the empirical richness of the world at hand, a field science with both literary and philosophical pretensions. This course grapples with the nature of anthropological inquiry, reading classic works in the discipline as well as contemporary efforts to reimagine its foundations. Required for anthropology majors.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.423. Anthropology of Poetry and Prayer. 3 Credits.
What kind of activity is prayer? Are we talking to God(s), to our ancestors, to ourselves? What are the differences between choosing our own words and repeating the words of an established prayer? The course will explore these and similar questions with particular attention to the language of prayers across a number of religious traditions.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.070.424. Normal and Pathological. 3 Credits.
This seminar explores the shifting lines of the normal and the pathological and the constitution of disease in the complex of medicine, public health, and the social. Readings include the works of Canguilhem and Foucault, historical monographs and ethnographies. Students will have the opportunity to develop substantial research or review papers throughout the course of the seminar.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.425. Anthropology of Epidemics. 3 Credits.
In this course we will examine how forms of governance, politics, expert knowledge, and citizen actions are implicated in the emergence and management of epidemics.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.426. Kinship: Old and New. 3 Credits.
We will track the transformations in kinship theory in relation to wider changes in legal theory, biomedicine, and the relation between state and family. In particular we will ask how the concepts of sovereignty, gift, exchange, human and non-human milieus affect notions of relations. Co-listed with AS.070.639
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.433. Sustainable Design. 3 Credits.
Sustainable design involves the development of socially engaging and ecologically sensitive interventions and alternatives, a task both social and technical in nature. Through interdisciplinary readings and collaborative workshops in social science, environmental engineering, and planning and design, this seminar focuses on both theoretical and practical dimensions of this challenge. The first of a two-course sequence, to be followed by a studio practicum in the spring semester.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.070.436. Vulnerability. 3 Credits.
Many in the contemporary world live in states of acute vulnerability. In this course, we will look closely at situations like forced displacement, experience of poverty and injury, environmental devastation, and the politics of social protest. Thinking with ethnography, feminist philosophy, fiction, and film, we will explore whether vulnerability may be taken as a condition to live with rather than one to overcome at any cost.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.465. Concepts: How to Read Hindu and Islamic Texts. 3 Credits.
What is the nature of anthropological concepts and what relations do they bear to concepts internal to a society? We invite students to think with key ideas from Hindu and Islamic traditions, asking if anthropological concepts are best seen as abstractions from the particular or as intertwined with ongoing lines of inquiry, say into the nature of the real and continual efforts to test it? Topics in ritual theory, grammar, aesthetics, translation, revelation, luminosity, figuration and the mythological among those to be considered.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.473. Readings of Foucault. 3 Credits.
We will do a close reading of selected texts of Foucault to track the concepts of power, subjectivity, government, and care of the self.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.070.485. About Time. 3 Credits.
This course will explore time from an anthropological perspective. What is time? An object, a dimension, a sensation? Can we “have” time? What is the relation between power and the control of time? Through readings and discussions of classical and current anthropological theories and ethnographies, we will analyze the meaning, experience and textures of time in different cultural settings. Case studies will explore the US, the West and the Global South, with special emphasis on conceptions of the future: expectations, anticipations, preemption, emergence, possibility. We will study imaginations of temporality and futurity in relation to fields such as politics, custom, finance, security, labor, climate change and so on, looking into the role that emotions play in relation to time.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.070.493. Precarity. 3 Credits.
How do we understand and engage precariousness and vulnerability in the contemporary world? This seminar explores the notion of precarity in anthropology and social theory. We will explore this notion genealogically asking such questions as: what are the forms of politics arising in relation to new transformations of labor? What are the regional debates in which the notion of precarity has arisen? We will then explore how anthropology has responded to ongoing destruction of whole forms of life, through war, settler colonialism, displacement, and poverty.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive
AS.070.495. Householding on a Warming Earth. 3 Credits.
The household appears as commonsensical to us. It is where people, most often those of a family, reside together, sharing its resources, labor and collective fate. However, anthropologists have been arguing against this commonsense since it emerged in the 1950s. Yet the household is back again in climate change policy discussions as being most vulnerable to the problems associated with climate change, such as, temperature extremes, food insecurity, exacerbated disease, enhanced competition and violence. How might anthropological debates and controversies relating to households and householding as an activity within the context of war, famine and migration, provide important insights into today’s urgencies?
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.503. Independent Study. 3 Credits.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration & Online Forms.

AS.070.504. Independent Study. 0 - 3 Credits.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration & Online Forms.

AS.070.505. Directed Research-Fall. 3 Credits.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration & Online Forms.

AS.070.506. Directed Research. 0 - 3 Credits.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration & Online Forms.

AS.070.507. Directed Readings. 3 Credits.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration & Online Forms.

AS.070.508. Directed Readings. 0 - 3 Credits.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration & Online Forms.

AS.070.551. Internship-Fall. 1 Credit.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration & Online Forms.

AS.070.552. Internship - Spring. 1 Credit.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration & Online Forms.

AS.070.561. Senior Essay-Fall. 3 Credits.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration & Online Forms.

AS.070.562. Senior Essay - Spring. 3 Credits.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration & Online Forms.

AS.070.594. Internship-Anthropology. 1 Credit.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration & Online Forms.

AS.070.595. Directed Research. 3 Credits.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration & Online Forms.

AS.070.596. Independent Study. 3 Credits.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration & Online Forms.

AS.070.613. Reading Marx.
This seminar offers a close reading of selected works of Karl Marx, along with supplemental secondary literature. We will explore how the central pillars of Marx's thought—including dialectical materialism, critical political economy, and utopian socialist thought—shape his critical method in interrogating the logic of capital.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.616. Proseminar.
This course will consist of close reading of anthropological and philosophical texts to trascose important aspects of the underlying presuppositions of social theory. We will try to see how regions generate both data and theory, and also see how some abiding concerns around the relation between structural formations and formations of subjects are expressed in classical and current anthropological thought.

The seminar will offer a forum for students to reflect on preliminary field research and think further about problems of ethnographic method. We will proceed in the manner of a workshop for ongoing projects. Open to anthropology graduate students only.

AS.070.620. Space and Place.
This course explores how concepts of emplacement, location, space, place, and belonging shape—and are shaped by—cultural formations and political imaginations. Readings and class discussions include ethnographies and theoretical texts on planning and struggles over territory, aspirations regarding land and the environment, nature/culture distinctions, housing and the right to the city by authors such as Lefebvre, Massey, Harvey, Foucault, Ingold, Virilio, Bachelard, Tsing, Escobar, and others

What kind of activity is prayer? Are we talking to God(s), to our ancestors, to ourselves? What are the differences between choosing our own words and repeating the words of an established prayer? The course will explore these and similar questions with particular attention to the language of prayers across a number of religious traditions.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.070.624. Normal and Pathological.
This seminar explores the shifting lines of the normal and the pathological and the constitution of disease in the complex of medicine, public health, and the social. Readings include the works of Canguilhem and Foucault, historical monographs and ethnographies. Students will have the opportunity to develop substantial research or review papers throughout the course of the seminar.
Writing Intensive
**AS.070.625. Anthropology of Epidemics.**
In this course we will examine how forms of governance, politics, expert knowledge, and citizen actions are implicated in the emergence and management of epidemics.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

**AS.070.633. Sustainable Design.**
Sustainable design involves the development of socially engaging and ecologically sensitive interventions and alternatives, a task both social and technical in nature. Through interdisciplinary readings and collaborative workshops in social science, environmental engineering, and planning and design, this seminar focuses on both theoretical and practical dimensions of this challenge. The first of a two-course sequence, to be followed by a studio practicum in the spring semester.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

**AS.070.634. The End of Nature?.**
The End of Nature? We have been hearing critiques of the concept of nature as too pristine since at least Donna Haraway’s Cyborg Manifesto and Bruno Latour’s We Have Never Been Modern. The call has been for a mode of ecological thinking without the encumbrance of nature. Through an examination of some of the tracks that nature has left within the anthropological archives and kindred debates within philosophy, this course attempts a revivification of nature for our present.
Readings include Mauss, Rappaport, Levi-Strauss, Bateson, Emerson and Whitehead.

**AS.070.636. Vulnerability.**
Many in the contemporary world live in states of acute vulnerability. In this course, we will look closely at situations like forced displacement, experience of poverty and injury, environmental devastation, and the politics of social protest. Thinking with ethnography, feminist philosophy, fiction, and film, we will explore whether vulnerability may be taken as a condition to live with rather than one to overcome at any cost.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

**AS.070.639. Kinship: Old and New.**
We will track the transformations in kinship theory in relation to wider changes in legal theory, biomedicine, and the relation between state and family. In particular, we will ask how the concepts of sovereignty, gift, exchange, human and non-human milieus affect notions of relations. Open to undergraduate anthropology majors with instructors approval. Co-listed with AS.070.426
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

**AS.070.642. Design Anthropology.**
From casinos to canoes, algorithms to animal traps, our worlds are bursting with intentional objects. The word design has come to evoke the prestige of such objects, and their power to shape our collective habits and sensations. This course explores the anthropology of designed artifacts and their complex social trajectories. Beginning with philosophical investigations into the relationship between materials, form, and craft, we will proceed through ethnographic case studies of design as expert discourse and ordinary practice. Ultimately we will consider the affinities between the ethnography and design as open-ended and not entirely predictable engagements with the world.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

**AS.070.658. Intimacy and Corruption.**
Course takes problem of corruption as an ethnographic site from which we can explore how concepts of visibility, secrecy, intimacy and transgression inform political life. We will examine how ideas of intimacy and propriety are expressed in public scandals of corruption, as well as the forms of anxiety that surround routine practices of bribery, influence-peddling and enticement.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

**AS.070.659. Proposal Writing.**
The seminar will offer a forum for students to discuss research projects, prepare grant proposals and think further about issues of ethnographic methodology and writing. Open to Anthropology graduate students only.
Writing Intensive

**AS.070.665. Concepts: How to Read Hindu and Islamic Texts.**
What is the nature of anthropological concepts and what relations do they bear to concepts internal to a society? We invite students to think with key ideas from Hindu and Islamic traditions, asking if anthropological concepts are best seen as abstractions from the particular or as intertwined with ongoing lines of inquiry, say into the nature of the real and continual efforts to test it? Topics in ritual theory, grammar, aesthetics, translation, revelation, luminosity, figuration and the mythological among those to be considered.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

**AS.070.669. Readings in Science, Technology, and Society.**
In the forty years since laboratories were first treated as ethnographic field sites, the core questions guiding anthropology and science and technology studies (STS) have grown increasingly intertwined. How does knowledge get made, and how does it come to matter? How do the objects of technoscience become embedded in everyday practice and in our senses of self, and how do shared imaginaries influence the kinds of futures technologists strive to produce? This course will explore critical moments in the development of STS through texts that blur the lines between experts and kin in biomedicine, finance, industrial agriculture, drone warfare, transnational surrogacy, and other technoscientific spaces.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

**AS.070.671. Political Anthropology.**
This course explores anthropological debates regarding politics and the political. Through readings drawn from both recent and ‘classic’ ethnographies of the political, we will trace how anthropologist have engaged issues of hierarchy, differentiation, power, suasion, command, collectivity, and voice in their accounts of social and cultural worlds.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

**AS.070.673. Readings of Foucault.**
We will do a close reading of selected texts of Foucault to track the concepts of power, subjectivity, government, and care of the self.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

**AS.070.681. Energopolitics : Cultures of Energy.**
How do different ways of harnessing energy shape life and environment? This course delves into the social, political, even philosophical properties of oil, coal, sunlight sugar, and other sources that fuel human activity. Through these topics, we will consider the cultural meaning of concepts such as charge and expenditure, work and waste.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
AS.070.682. Readings in Anthropology.
This course introduces classical texts from the anthropological archives in relation to contemporary debates in the discipline. In this year's iteration, our readings and discussion will explore the idea of a public and engaged anthropology.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.070.685. About Time.
This course will explore time from an anthropological perspective. What is time? An object, a dimension, a sensation? Can we "have" time? What is the relation between power and the control of time? Through readings and discussions of classical and current anthropological theories and ethnographies, we will analyze the meaning, experience and textures of time in different cultural settings. Case studies will explore the US, the West and the Global South, with special emphasis on conceptions of the future: expectations, anticipations, preemption, emergence, possibility. We will study imaginations of temporality and futurity in relation to fields such as politics, custom, finance, security, labor, climate change and so on, looking into the role that emotions play in relation to time.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

Writing Intensive

AS.070.687. Romanticism and Anthropology.
The word 'romantic' has long carried negative connotations within anthropology meaning the tendency to idealize, exoticize, or seek out the irrational. Instead, through a focus on the themes of magic, art, myth, nature and creativity, we suggest that romantic philosophy has offered and continues to offer much of interest for contemporary anthropology. Drawing on select readings in philosophy and anthropology, we will explore the suppressed romantic legacy of anthropology. This is an undergraduate and graduate combined course. Recommended Course Background: Undergraduates have to have taken at least one anthropology course (any level) to register. Or else they need the permission of the instructor.
Writing Intensive

AS.070.688. Senses of State.
This course examines how anthropologists study the temporal, material and sensory domains through which people make sense of the state as a bureaucratic, governmental and sovereign presence in their lives.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.070.691. The Anthropological Tone in Philosophy.
This course will ask: what constitutes an anthropological tone in philosophy? We will take up classical topics such as rule following, everyday life, skepticism, concept formation, realism, and signification in selected texts of anthropology and philosophy for understanding if these crisscross and overlap.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

Writing Intensive

AS.070.693. Precarity.
How do we understand and engage precariousness and vulnerability in the contemporary world? This seminar explores the notion of precarity in anthropology and social theory. We will explore this notion genealogically asking such questions as: what are the forms of politics arising in relation to new transformations of labor? What are the regional debates in which the notion of precarity has arisen? We will then explore how anthropology has responded to ongoing destruction of whole forms of life, through war, settler colonialism, displacement, and poverty.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

Writing Intensive

AS.070.694. Region in Anthropology.
This course, designed for second-year anthropology students, focuses on the idea of region in contemporary anthropology. We will explore what region means now for anthropology, the relationship between geographic and conceptual delineations, and how to frame a problem in regional terms. Working collaboratively in the manner of a workshop, we seek to make drafts of the regional essay for comprehensive exams.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.070.695. Householding on a Warming Earth.
The household appears as commonsensical to us. It is where people, most often those of a family, reside together, sharing its resources, labor and collective fate. However, anthropologists have been arguing against this commonsense since it emerged in the 1950s. Yet the household is back again in climate change policy discussions as being most vulnerable to the problems associated with climate change, such as temperature extremes, food insecurity, exacerbated disease, enhanced competition and violence. How might anthropological debates and controversies relating to households and householding as an activity within the context of war, famine and migration, provide important insights into today's urgencies?
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

Writing Intensive

AS.070.698. Defining Region.
This course is open to anthropology graduate students only and is to be run on a workshop model. It is to help those students writing their regional essay for the comprehensive exams to acquire expertise in regional debates and literature relevant to their field research. Our understanding of regions is one of cross-cutting concepts and questions rather than geographical framings alone. After identifying a concept or question, each student will create an annotated bibliography, trace the shape of arguments as they emerge within the readings, create an outline and work toward a draft of the final essay.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.070.801. Dissertation Research.
AS.070.866. Directed Readings and Research.
AS.070.867. Directed Reading and Research.
AS.070.869. Directed Reading and Research.
AS.070.870. Directed Readings and Research.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.070.871. Directed Reading and Research.
AS.070.872. Directed Readings and Research.
AS.070.874. Directed Readings and Research.
AS.070.885. Directed Reading and Research.
AS.070.886. Dir Readings & Research.
AS.070.892. Directed Readings and Research.
Cross Listed Courses

Comparative Thought and Literature
AS.300.320. Lover's Discourse. 3 Credits.
Much of what we know about love and desire we owe to fiction's ability to evoke these experiences. Consider for example that the publication, in Germany, of The Sorrows of Young Werther inspired young men across Europe to dress and behave just like him. We will study in this course a selection of love stories chosen because they break the mold and question their conventions. Taking a critical distance from these tales of seduction, we will examine not only the manifestations and meanings of love, but also the configurations of gender they inspire and reflect. Indeed, just as nowadays film and television represent, as well as mold, our identities as desiring subject, fictions from the eighteenth-century onwards have shaped our current understanding of gendered subjectivities. The readings for this seminar (all available in English) include: Austen, 'Persuasion'; Balzac, 'The Girl with the Golden Eyes' and 'Sarrasine'; Barthes, 'Lover's Discourse'; Goethe, 'The Sorrows of Young Werther'; Mann, 'Death in Venice'; Rousseau, excerpts from 'Julie or The New Heloise', Sulzer, 'A Perfect Waiter', Winterson, 'Written on the Body'.
Area: Humanities

Earth Planetary Sciences
AS.271.405. Energy and Politics. 3 Credits.
In the 21st century, energy supply and consumption are critical subjects for international politics, social development, and the future of the environment. Policies that determine energy supply and consumption come to be in complex institutional, national, and international contexts. This course will equip students with the necessary background to analyze energy policy issues and contribute to them in a meaningful manner. It also involves examination of wide-ranging debates over the switch to renewables, the use of unconventional energy sources, and the environmental consequences of energy choices.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

German Romance Languages Literatures
AS.211.337. Wandering Jews? Jewish Migration in Film and Literature. 3 Credits.
Migration in all its forms has played a major role in shaping Jewish identity throughout history. From the Biblical exodus from Egypt through the beginnings of the diaspora under the Romans to the massive European Jewish immigration to America in the late 19th and early 20th centuries to the founding of the state of Israel, the migrations of Jews have also had a major place in Jewish literature. Going all the way back to the Bible, but focusing on the 20th century, this course will explore the ways in which literature and film represent the experience of migration, whether negative (compelled by expulsion or violence); positive (lured by economic or social opportunity); or somewhere in-between. We will examine poetry, plays, prose and film in Yiddish, German, Hebrew, and English (all in translation) on aspects of Jewish migration including the social and political factors motivating migration from the countryside to the shtetl (town) to the city and from Central and Eastern Europe to the Americas, Palestine, and Israel. Issues under discussion will include: adaptation and assimilation; minority rights; what is the relationship of old and new or major and minor languages and literatures?; what is the place of tradition and heritage in a diasporic context? We will also consider the resonances between contemporary debates on migration and historical examples of these issues as they are reflected in literature and film.
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive

AS.211.641. Women Filmmakers from the Margins.
Filmmaking remains an overwhelmingly male-dominated profession, but women are making significant inroads, and in so doing are leaving their distinctive mark on the medium. In this seminar we will examine the films of a group of women auteurs (those who write and direct their own films) who have endeavored to speak from the margins—be they social, geographical, or sexual—and whose work has challenged mainstream cinematic norms. The filmmakers whose work we will analyze may include Jane Campion, Australia; Aura Guerro, Mexico-USA; Claudia Llosa, Peru; Mira Nair, India-USA; Marialy Rivas, Chile; So Yong Kim, Korea.
Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive

AS.211.748. Media Theory in the Age of Big Data.
This seminar will explore some key themes in contemporary media theory in an age when tech giants have succeeded in infiltrating the daily lives of global citizens to an unprecedented degree in history. We will study the impact of this saturation on socioeconomic inequality as well as the implications of an almost total loss of privacy. Among the strategies of resistance to the capacity for surveillance these companies have developed we will focus in particular on current examples of feminist media art and voices from the global and cultural periphery as well as tendencies in these practices to emphasize a return to interpersonal connections and the embodied here and now. As case studies we may include #metoo, slo-film movements from Southern Bahia in Brazil, and the financing and distribution of art films by mega media companies like Netflix.
Area: Humanities

AS.211.754. Modernist Primitivism.
This course will explore the aesthetics and politics of primitivism in European modernity, focusing on the visual arts and literature in German and Yiddish, but looking at the wider European context, including France and Russia. We will begin with the backgrounds of primitivism in Romanticism, looking especially at its ethnographic and colonial sources. We will then focus on the presence of anthropological and ethnographic discourses within various registers of modernist thought, literature, and visual culture, with special attention to visual and literary primitivism. Our central concerns will include: the attempt to create a modernist aesthetics grounded in ethnography; the primitivist critique of modernity; the place of primitivism in the historical avant-garde; the development of the notion of “culture” in modernity; and the aesthetics of modern ethnic and national identity. &nbsp;Key thinkers, artists, and writers to be considered include Herder; Gauguin, Picasso; Wilhelm Worninger; Carl Einstein; Hannah Höch; and Emil Nolde.
Area: Humanities

AS.215.406. Novelist Intellectuals. 3 Credits.
What does a novelist's op-ed about economics have to do with her literary writing? In what ways does a fiction writer's essay on the environment inform how we read her novels? What happens when we find the political opinions of a writer objectionable? This undergraduate seminar will consider what the Spanish writer Francisco Ayala termed “novelist intellectuals,” that is, literary writers who actively participate in a society's public sphere. Considering writers from Madrid to New York, from London to Buenos Aires, we will ask how one should hold a novelist's fictional and non-fictional writings in the balance and explore ways of reading that allow us to consider the public intellectual side and the aesthetic side of a novelist together.
Area: Humanities
AS.215.412. Populism. 3 Credits.
What do Hugo Chávez, Marine Le Pen, and Donald Trump have in common? According to many from across the political spectrum, they are all populists. But what is populism, exactly, and how can it describe such disparate phenomena as left-wing social movements, xenophobic anti-immigrant policies, and economic redistribution? This advanced seminar will examine the history, culture, and political theory of populism. We will pay special attention to the resurgence of populism after the Great Recession and examine a number of cases from Latin America, Europe, and the United States.

AS.215.417. Literature of the Great Recession. 3 Credits.
The Great Recession—sometimes called the financial crisis or the economic crisis of 2008—brought financial markets to a halt and created significant political turmoil across the North Atlantic. But its impact on culture, and literature especially, has often been ignored. This seminar will travel across Europe, from Dublin to Madrid, from London to Reykjavík in order to examine how literature has registered this most recent economic crisis. We will focus on how crisis is narrated and the ways in which literary works have managed to provide a voice for marginalized social, economic, and political demands.

Area: Humanities

How should one study contemporary literature and culture? Is “the contemporary” a period in and of itself? Does it require a distinct conceptual approach? This graduate seminar will examine various approaches that have emerged since Michel Foucault called his genealogies a “history of the present.” We will pay special attention to contemporary literature and culture’s most distinguishing feature today: crisis. Considering theories of crisis and “the contemporary” together, the course will explore how living in a time of overlapping crises—economic, political, social, cultural, environmental, and others—affects the way we interpret the world.

Area: Humanities

History

AS.100.365. Culture & Society in the High Middle Ages. 3 Credits.
History 100.365 will consist of two lectures a week and one discussion section. Readings focus when possible on primary sources. It will cover the social, economic, political and intellectual development of medieval society, beginning with the rise of feudal society, the development of medieval courtly culture, primarily the creation of epic and romance literature in the various courts of Europe; the creation of universities and the intellectual revival of Europe in the form of scholasticism; the re-emergence of trade and, with it, the rise of a middle class, the political development of royal authority which was tantamount to the creation of the modern national state and finally, the emergence of heresies and new forms of spirituality in the late Middle Ages to combat it, especially with the creation of the Dominican and Franciscan monastic orders.

Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.100.421. Sex, Law and Islam. 3 Credits.
ISIS, “virgins” in paradise, the sexual slavery of Yazidi women…. This course will use anthropological and historical studies to examine the long history of how rules and understandings about sex, sexuality, and gender have mattered in how people think about Islam.

Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

History of Art

AS.010.382. The Politics of Display in South Asia. 3 Credits.
Through an examination of colonial exhibitions, the rise of national, regional, and archaeological museums, and current practices of display and representation in institutions, we will explore how the image of South Asia has been constructed in the colonial, modern, and contemporary eras. We will engage with the politics of representation, spectacle, and the economies of desire as related to colonialism and the rise of modernity. Readings from postcolonial theory, museum studies, anthropology, history, and art history.

Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive

AS.010.410. The Epistemology of Photography. 3 Credits.
This seminar will ask how photography produces ways of knowing: how does photography’s reality-effect shape its dissemination and absorption? Is photography’s emergence during the colonial era coincidental or catalytic? How is memory (re)constituted in a photography-saturated world? What kinds of histories does photography encourage and discourage? Is a photograph an object? We will read across disciplines (literature, anthropology, history, history of art, political science, theory) to investigate the epistemology of photography and the photograph.

Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive

AS.010.607. The Epistemology of Photography. 3 Credits.
This seminar will ask how photography produces ways of knowing: how does photography’s reality-effect shape its dissemination and absorption? Is photography’s emergence during the colonial era coincidental or catalytic? How is memory (re)constituted in a photography-saturated world? What kinds of histories does photography encourage and discourage? Is a photograph an object? We will read across disciplines (literature, anthropology, history, history of art, political science, theory) to investigate the epistemology of photography and the photograph.

Area: Humanities
Writing Intensive

AS.010.634. Rethinking the Renaissance: Alternatives to ‘Early Modernity’.
‘The Renaissance’ as a periodization under attack, and its persistance; the hermeneutics of the Pre-Modern Image since Panofsky; the critique of Eurocentrism; challenges to and recuperations of iconology, assessing the contributions of semiotics, psycholanalysis and queer theory.

Area: Humanities

History of Science, Medicine, and Technology

AS.140.346. History of Chinese Medicine. 3 Credits.
Students will study the most recent anthropological, philosophical, and historical scholarship on medicine in traditional and modern Chinese society. They will approach the topic from several angles including medical pluralism, the range of healers, domestic and literate medicine, gender, emergence of new disciplines, public health and the history of disease. The course relies on secondary sources and primary sources in English translation. Cross-listed with East Asian Studies.

Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive
Islamic Studies
AS.194.305. Cultures of Pilgrimage in Islam. 3 Credits.
The hajj pilgrimage to Mecca is one of the pillars of Islam. But Muslims around the world also take part in many other pilgrimages, from the massive annual Shi'a pilgrimage to Karbala to the smaller ziyarat “visits” to Sufi saint shrines, to travel to centers of Islamic learning, to pilgrimage to isolated natural features like mountains, trees, valleys. What are the theologies that propel the act of travel in Islam? How are cities, architectures, economies shaped by these cultures? And how are these traditions affected by the wars and colonial projects that plague many Muslim-majority countries in the contemporary world? Readings in this course will draw from anthropology, philosophy, Islamic interpretive texts (tafsir), and travelogues.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

Near Eastern Studies
AS.130.126. Gods and Monsters in Ancient Egypt. 3 Credits.
A basic introduction to Egyptian Religion, with a special focus on the nature of the gods and how humans interact with them. We will devote particular time to the Book of the Dead and to the 'magical' aspects of religion designed for protective purposes.
Area: Humanities

AS.130.214. The Origins of Civilization: A Cross-Cultural Perspective. 3 Credits.
One of the most significant transformations in human history was the "urban revolution" in which cities, writing, and social classes formed for the first time. In this course, we compare five areas where this development occurred: China, Mesopotamia, the Indus Valley, Egypt, and Mesoamerica (Mexico/Guatemala/Honduras/Belize). In each region, we review the physical setting, the archaeological and textual evidence, and the theories advanced to explain the rise (and eventual collapse) of these complex societies.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.130.376. Ancient Magic and Ritual. 3 Credits.
This course will introduce students to the vast body of rituals that were practiced and performed in antiquity, with a particular emphasis on rituals from ancient Mesopotamia, Egypt, and the Hebrew Bible. In addition to examining rituals from a comparative perspective, anthropological and sociological studies of ritual will be read and discussed to shed light on the social, cultural, and political significance of ritual in the ancient world and beyond.
Area: Humanities

AS.130.387. The Poetics of Biblical Prose and Verse. 3 Credits.
An exploration of how ancient Israelite techniques of literary textual and inter-textual patterning contributes to cohesion and meaning in biblical prose and verse. Attention will be given to the distinguishing characteristics of Hebrew verse in relation to prose, and to a range of different kinds of prose in Israelite literature. These poetics will be exemplified in close readings of selected texts from the Hebrew Bible in English.
Area: Humanities

Political Science
AS.190.608. Influx and Efflux.
"While many contemporary philosophies of the self, and of human agency, tend to emphasize the activity of expression – the enactment or externalization of an intention, desire, will, or purpose, this course will explore the process through which the outside comes in. Influence: the default condition of intrinsically porous and relational bodies. We will examine different models of the process through which individuals are psychically and physiologically affected by forces, shapes, ideas, affects, and tendencies coming from the 'outside.' Readings include Walt Whitman's experimentation with the democratic potential of 'sympathy,' Alfred North Whitehead's theory of 'affective tone' (which focuses on unconscious and in-sensible modes of influence), Roger Caillois's theory of the 'instinct of abandon' (developed at the time of an emergent fascism in Europe), and contemporary theories (in behavioral psychology and cognitive science) of embodied cognition."

AS.190.609. Law, Critique, Genealogy.
This course will offer a survey of classical and contemporary trends in critical theory through the prism of the law. The readings will trace the development of two modes of critical reflection emerging from Kant's philosophical project, critique and genealogy, exploring the tensions between them through the study of categories such as judgment, case, and jurisdiction. We will examine how these categories themselves reflect the question of "modernity" and the Enlightenment as that question is posed and answered by thinkers from Kant to Foucault and Habermas and beyond. To ground this study, we will focus on critical engagements with human rights, property, and institutional justice around the world. Within an arch of readings that goes from Kant to Butler, the course will include key texts by Hegel, Marx, Benjamin, Horkheimer, Adorno, Marcuse, Habermas, Foucault, and Nancy, as well as texts drawn from critical legal studies and the anthropology of law and justice. There are no prerequisites for this interdisciplinary course. To receive credit, students will be required to attend seminar, prepare for class discussions, and turn in a 20-30 page final research paper, a draft of which will be presented at a workshop at the end of the year.

AS.191.344. Belonging to Nature in the Anthropocene. 3 Credits.
This course explores debates in contemporary environmental political thought concerning humanity’s relationship to nature in the Anthropocene. The Anthropocene refers to the era in which ‘human’ activity becomes a force of ‘nature’—when the impact of human activity on natural processes manifests itself in the stuff of the Earth. For many of us, these planetary transformations are hardly noticeable in day-to-day life, but they are dramatic: we are living through the Earth’s sixth mass extinction. What is our relationship to these transformations? Do we have the power to stop them, or at least to minimize their harmful effects? Course readings and films introduce multiple visions of the human/nature relationship and examine the responses they recommend to these and other questions. The political stakes of these visions are brought to light as we consider: How do visions of the human/nature relationship shape and texture core political concepts like freedom, agency, responsibility, and progress? What do they suggest about the strategies most likely to motivate action amid the uncertainty of the Anthropocene? How do these visions subtly (and not so subtly) relegate some to the realm of ‘nature’ so that others can be classified as ‘human’?
Writing Intensive
Program in Latin American Studies

AS.361.331. Drug wars, violence and illicit lifeworlds in Latin America. 3 Credits.
Drawing on ethnographic and historical sources, this course will introduce anthropology as an invitation for students to re-conceptualize and deepen their understanding of the so-called “War on Drugs” as a cultural, social and political formation in Latin America.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

Program in Museums and Society

AS.389.303. World of Things. 3 Credits.
The course introduces and applies new concepts about materials, and materiality to museum objects. It treats the museum as a site for investigating the relationship between people and things.

AS.389.440. Who Owns Culture?. 3 Credits.
This seminar explores the complicated, often explosive concept of cultural property, including questions surrounding the ownership, preservation, and interpretation of artifacts, monuments, heritage sites, and living traditions. Cross-listed with Anthropology and History of Art.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

Sociology

AS.230.367. Islamic Finance. 3 Credits.
Today, Islamic finance is a global industry comprising nearly $2 trillion in assets, with hubs from Kuala Lumpur to Dubai to London. But half a century ago, nothing called “Islamic finance” existed. So where did Islamic finance come from? Why is it growing so fast? And what does it mean for finance to be Islamic? We discuss the ban on riba in the Quran and hadith, finance in early and medieval Islamic societies, petrodollars and the birth of Islamic banking in the 1970s, the rise of Islamic capital markets since 2000, contemporary shariah-compliant financial structures, and the constitution of piety through financial practice.
Area: Social and Behavioral Sciences

For current faculty and contact information go to http://anthropology.jhu.edu/people/