AS.070 (ANTHROPOLOGY)

AS.070.124. Freshman Seminar Anthropology. 3 Credits.
Freshman Seminar in Anthropology will cover a wide variety of topics. This course is intended for freshmen only and is meant as a broad survey course. Topics are approved by the department and dean's office, and may change frequently. Each section will be a unique topic. To learn more about each topic, view the section description found in class search.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

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
Writing Intensive

AS.070.132. Invitation to Anthropology. 3 Credits.
The question what it means to be human requires continual investigation. Anthropology offers conceptual tools and an ethical groundwork for understanding humanity in its diverse manifestations. This course familiarizes students with anthropological concepts and methods, and engages in critical analysis of a broad range of subjects including language, exchange, class, race, gender, kinship, sexuality, religion, and capitalism.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

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
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.070.201. Picturizing Climate Change. 3 Credits.
Climate change is represented in many pictures, such as those of tables, graphs, iconic photographs and filmic images. It materializes in many objects and qualities in our everyday lives, such as emissions, heat, solar grids and taxes. Artists attempt to picturize climate through photographs, installations and performance art. In this class we will examine these myriad representations, materializations and artistic efforts to see what ethical, political and aesthetic issues are at stake within them. We will ask to what concerns and desires does climate change give expression?
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.070.221. Cityness: Anthropology and the Urban Experience. 3 Credits.
This course is an introduction to urban anthropology through the study of diverse "urban experiences," to explore how they are shaped by power relations as well as resistance. We will read about crowds and anonymity, finance and poverty, media and public space to understand how they change through the evolution of technology, shifts in capital investment and flows of migration. We will examine the scope and limitations of classical (Western) notions of foundational studies city life. We will also explore how the notion of "cityness" better captures the variety of affects and dynamics of contemporary urban everyday life.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.239. Hinduism and Ethics: The Epics. 3 Credits.
We will read sections of the two major epics Ramayana and Mahabharata to see how issues of morality and ethics are posed in these texts and the disputations around these issues.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive
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 urbanness 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.070.250. Power and Place in the Segregated City. 3 Credits.
Identifying residential segregation as a principle driver of racial inequity, the Fair Housing Act of 1968 sought to end housing discrimination and advance the racial integration American cities. Fifty years after this landmark legislation, however, American cities are in most cases more segregated than ever before. New and urgent demands for racial justice, coalescing in transnational movements like Black Lives Matter, have brought a renewed focus onto the deep and abiding social harms wrought by decades of urban segregation. Drawing on anthropological and sociological scholarship on cities both in and outside the United States, this course will examine the social forces that drive segregation, reify boundaries in urban space, and reproduce persistent power asymmetries.
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.070.256. Locavores, Vegans, Freegans: Lifestyle Activism from an Anthropological Perspective. 3 Credits.
From social media usage to popular public figures such as Greta Thunberg, we are inundated every day by messages on how we should change our daily habits to save the planet or consume certain brands to help particular causes. This course offers an anthropological perspective on such endeavors of lifestyle activism, broadly defined as the changing of one’s lifestyle and consumption habits to enact some form of social and political change. We will ask: How can we distinguish between lifestyle activism and non-activist concerns with lifestyle? What makes pursuing certain daily actions activist? What kind of self-cultivation and moral aspiration play into the transformation of habits? What does it take for daily habits to become a lifestyle movement that could enact larger and meaningful social and political change? Drawing from a variety of social and political contexts, we will explore topics such as voluntary simplicity, bicycling, zero waste, boycotts, and back-to-landers, while maintaining a larger focus on food and food activism.
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.070.273. 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.070.295. 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.070.317. 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.
Prerequisite(s): AS.070.132 OR AS.070.273
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences Writing Intensive

AS.070.324. Latin America in a Fracturing World. 3 Credits.
This course examines the multiple and overlapping crises afflicting Latin America today through an ethnographic lens. Featuring conversations with authors of recent work on the region’s most pressing issues, we will explore the contours of knowledge production itself under conditions of precarity and violence. Discussions will include the retrenchment of borders, migration crises, the state management of life and death, the resurgence of authoritarianism, food insecurity, and resource conflicts.
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.070.330. Sheltering in Places: Architecture and Anthropology in Conversation. 3 Credits.
What is the relation between social life and shelter? How do the kinds of buildings we move through shape our sense of what is important, beautiful, or possible? Why do some buildings feel good and others bad? And how do buildings evolve as people inhabit, repurpose, repair or degrade them over time? The course begins with philosophical reflections on spheres, shells, and containers in relation to childhood and memory. It then explores the long interdisciplinary conversation between architecture and anthropology, focusing on the social and cultural dimensions of built structures. Finally, it considers how architectural practice is responding to contemporary challenges of migration, pandemics, and climate change.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.332. Reverberations Of The Korean War. 3 Credits.
This course will take the reverberations of the Korean War to examine the ways in which catastrophic violence is absorbed into and corrodes social life. Particular attention is paid to the transnational nature of conflict, how boundaries around peace and war are established, and how recent scholarly and artistic work on the Korean War has critically engaged dominant frameworks of memory and trauma. Readings will draw from fiction, ethnography, historiography and will also include film. This course also draws from the public syllabus on Ending the Korean War.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

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

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 investigate how studies in Brazil have prompted challenges to and generated innovations in anthropological thought.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.342. Common Ground: Shared Resources, Social Economies. 3 Credits.
This course explores the idea and practice of the commons through various sites and objects (money, work, natural resources, urban land, knowledge and culture, etc.). We will examine the promise and limitations of local, grassroots social and economic forms of organization that propose alternatives to the market economy. Focusing on workers, consumers and housing cooperatives; community currencies; urban gardens; self-help associations; fair trade organizations and knowledge networks; we will enquire how these social economies propose autonomous forms of living together, and sharing resources, property and labor.
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.070.373. 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.070.375. 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.070.389. 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.070.402. Sustainable Design Studio. 3 Credits.
Environmental justice issues require sustainable design solutions founded on social scientific practice, technical expertise, and solidarity with community partners. Building on theoretical and methodological knowledge gained in the Fall 2020 Sustainable Design course (AS.070.433/633), the Sustainable Design Studio will bring together students, members of Baltimore social justice organizations, and practitioners from a variety of disciplines to work in collaboration to research and design solutions to complex social-ecological problems faced by partner organizations. This studio class provides students with practical, project-based design experience through community collaboration. Instructor permission required.
Area: Quantitative and Mathematical Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences

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 open-ended and not entirely predictable engagements with the world.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences Writing Intensive

AS.070.413. Reading Marx. 3 Credits.
This course 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.070.424. 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.070.435. New War/ Civil Conflicts/ Policing. 3 Credits.
This is an advanced course in which we will interrogate the boundaries between war, civil conflict and techniques of policing. Students should be prepared to work through texts of an interdisciplinary character.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

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

AS.070.472. Rumors, Conspiracy Theories And Disinformation. 3 Credits.
Our present is said to be rife with more rumors, conspiracy theories and disinformation than ever before. Is this moment so different from previous, historical moments of crisis? Haven't these modes of expression always been present, albeit at the margins of the political order? What does it say about knowledge to have multiple “regimes of truth” (Foucault)? How does a new media landscape based in algorithmic modularity, and particularly social media, change the set up from an old analogue media economy? This course, co-taught by an, a literary theorist, and a media theorist, aims to provide a diversity of theoretical and methodological perspectives to help us examine the current state of reality.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

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

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 &gt; Online Forms.

AS.070.504. Independent Study. 1 - 3 Credits.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration &gt; Online Forms.

AS.070.508. Directed Readings. 1 - 3 Credits.
Prerequisite(s): You must request Independent Academic Work using the Independent Academic Work form found in Student Self-Service: Registration &gt; 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 &gt; 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 &gt; 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 &gt; Online Forms.

AS.070.602. Sustainable Design Studio.
Environmental justice issues require sustainable design solutions founded on social scientific practice, technical expertise, and solidarity with community partners. Building on theoretical and methodological knowledge gained in the Fall 2020 Sustainable Design course (AS.070.433/633), the Sustainable Design Studio will bring together students, members of Baltimore social justice organizations, and practitioners from a variety of disciplines to work in collaboration to research and design solutions to complex social-ecological problems faced by partner organizations. This studio class provides students with practical, project-based design experience through community collaboration. Instructor permission required.
Area: Quantitative and Mathematical Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences

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

AS.070.616. Proseminar.
This course will consist of close reading of anthropological and philosophical texts to trace some 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.070.624. 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.070.629. Play, Performance, And Personhood.
To approach social life as performative marked a pivotal moment in anthropology and related disciplines, and even as an implicit framework it continues to undergird more recent theoretical orientations. Revisiting foundational works in ethnography and critical theory and tracing their resonances in contemporary turns and experiments, this seminar explores play and performance as both subject and method.
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.070.635. New War/ Civil Conflicts/ Policing.
This is an advanced course in which we will interrogate the boundaries between war, civil conflict and techniques of policing. Students should be prepared to work through texts of an interdisciplinary character.
Writing Intensive

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
Writing Intensive

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.070.664. Rumors, Conspiracy Theories And Disinformation.
Our present is said to be rife with more rumors, conspiracy theories and disinformation than ever before. Is this moment so different from previous, historical moments of crisis? Haven't these modes of expression always been present, albeit at the margins of the political order? What does it say about knowledge to have multiple "regimes of truth" (Foucault)? How does a new media landscape based in algorithmic modularity, and particularly social media, change the set up from an old analogue media economy? This course, co-taught by an, a literary theorist, and a media theorist, aims to provide a diversity of theoretical and methodological perspectives to help us examine the current state of reality.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences

AS.070.672. Rumors, Conspiracy Theories And Disinformation.
In this course we will engage classical texts from the anthropological archives and explore debates and contemporary salience.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive

AS.070.674. Semiotics and its Discontents.
The relationship between speakers, communities, and forms of language-in-use (ritual, everyday life, oral literature) can only partly be captured by conceptions of language as a sign system. In this course, we will review structuralist approaches most closely identified with semiotics and move on to explore the concept of "presence" and its explanatory potential for anthropological attempts in understanding language.
Area: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Writing Intensive
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.070.687. 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.070.691. 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.070.698. 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.070.871. Directed Reading and Research.

AS.070.872. Directed Readings and Research.

AS.070.874. Directed Readings and Research.

AS.070.886. Dir Readings & Research.

AS.070.892. Directed Readings and Research.