ANTHROPOLOGY

10 Sachem Street, 203.432.3670
http://anthropology.yale.edu
M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.

Chair
Anne Underhill

Director of Graduate Studies
David Watts

Professors Richard Bribiescas, Richard Burger, Michael Dove (Forestry & Environmental Studies), Kathryn Dudley (American Studies), J. Joseph.Errington, Eduardo Fernandez-Duque, Inderpal Grewal (Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies), Marcia Inhorn (Middle East Studies), William Kelly (Emeritus), Paul Kockelman, Roderick McIntosh, Catherine Panter-Brick, Douglas Rogers, Eric Sargis, James Scott (Political Science), Helen Siu, Kalyanakrishnan Sivaramakrishnan, Anne Underhill, Claudia Valeggia, David Watts

Associate Professors Oswaldo Chinchilla, Aimee Cox (African American Studies), Erik Harms, William Honeychurch

Assistant Professors Louisa Lombard, Lisa Messeri, Jessica Thompson

FIELDS OF STUDY

The department covers three subfields: archaeology; sociocultural and linguistic anthropology; and physical anthropology. Archaeology focuses on ritual complexes and writing, ceramic analysis, warfare, ancient civilizations, origins of agriculture, and museum studies. Sociocultural anthropology provides a range of courses: classics in ethnography and social theory, religion, myth and ritual, kinship and descent, historical anthropology, culture and political economy, agrarian studies, ecology, environment and social change, medical anthropology, emotions, public health, sexual meanings and gender, postcolonial development, ethnicity, identity politics and diaspora, urban anthropology, global mass culture, and alternate modernity. Linguistic anthropology includes language, nationalism and ideology, structuralism and semiotics, and feminist discourse. Physical anthropology focuses on paleoanthropology, evolutionary theory, human functional anatomy, race and human biological diversity, and primate ecology. There is strong geographical coverage in Africa, the Caribbean, East Asia (China and Japan), Latin America and South America, Southeast Asia (Indonesia), South Asia and the Indian Ocean, the Near East, Europe, and the United States.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PH.D. DEGREE

There are no required courses or seminars for archaeology and biological anthropology graduate students. However, graduate students in these subfields are expected to confer closely with their primary adviser and faculty to develop the most enriching and cogent program of courses. In sociocultural anthropology, more than three-fourths of a student's program consists of electives, including course work in other departments. Sociocultural students must take six required courses, with the remainder being electives among Anthropology courses and other departments’ courses. Admission to Ph.D. candidacy requires (1) completion of two years of course work (twelve term courses for students matriculating in fall 2018 and beyond; sixteen term courses for students who matriculated earlier); (2) independent study and research; (3) satisfactory performance on qualifying examinations; and (4) a dissertation research proposal submitted and approved before the end of the third year. For sociocultural anthropology students, the research proposal requirement takes the form of a field paper of approximately eighty pages in length. Qualifying examinations are normally taken at the end of the second year. For archaeology and biological anthropology subfields, they consist of eight hours written (four hours on one of the subfields, four hours on the student's special interest) and two hours oral. The sociocultural anthropology exam consists of five hours written and approximately one hour oral and is based on the six required courses.

Because of the diversity of our students' training program, the department does not have a general foreign language requirement, either for admission or for admission to Ph.D. candidacy. Rather, each student's advisory committee must determine the necessary level and nature of foreign language proficiency (including scholarly languages and languages to be used in field research) to be met by the student, as well as any required competencies in statistics and other quantitative or qualitative methods. Advisory committees will stipulate such requirements in writing to the director of graduate studies (DGS) at the earliest possible stage of the student's program of study for approval by the DGS and the department faculty. Such committee stipulations should specify exactly when and how it will be determined that the student has or has not met the requirements.

COMBINED PH.D. PROGRAMS

The Anthropology department also offers a combined Ph.D. in Anthropology and Forestry & Environmental Studies in conjunction with the School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, and a combined Ph.D. in Anthropology and African American Studies in conjunction with the Department of African American Studies. These combined programs are ideal for students who intend to concentrate in, and to write dissertations on, thematic and theoretical issues centrally concerned with anthropology and one of these other areas of study. Students in the combined-degree programs will be subject to the combined supervision of faculty members in the Anthropology department and in the respective department or school.
For more information on the combined-degree program in Anthropology and Forestry & Environmental Studies, see Forestry & Environmental Studies.

Admission into the combined-degree program in Anthropology and African American Studies is based on mutual agreement between these two departments. Individual students will develop courses of study in consultation with their academic advisers and with the directors of graduate study for both departments. Students in the program must take core courses in Anthropology and in African American Studies, plus related courses in both departments approved by their advisory committees. In addition, they must successfully complete the African American Studies third-year Dissertation Prospectus Workshop (AFAM 895 and AFAM 896). Oral and written qualifying examinations must include two topics in the field of African American Studies and two topics in Anthropology. The examination committee must include at least one faculty member from each department. The dissertation prospectus must be submitted to the directors of graduate study of both departments and approved by the faculty of both. The thesis readers committee must also include at least one faculty member from each department, and the faculties of both departments must approve its composition.

MASTER’S DEGREES

M.Phil. See Degree Requirements under Policies and Regulations.

M.A. Applications for a terminal master’s degree are not accepted. The M.A. degree is awarded only to students not continuing in the Ph.D. program. The student must complete eight graduate-level term courses approved for credit in the Anthropology department and maintain an average grade of High Pass. Students who are eligible for or who have already received the M.Phil. will not be awarded the M.A.

Contact information: Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Anthropology, Yale University, PO Box 208277, New Haven CT 06520-8277; 203.432.3670; e-mail, anthropology@yale.edu; website, http://anthropology.yale.edu.

COURSES

ANTH 500a, The Development of the Discipline: Contemporary Themes Lisa Messeri
The major theoretical orientations in social and cultural anthropology (especially in the United States and Europe), their historical development and importance, their relation to one another and to other disciplines. The seminar is reserved for first-year doctoral students in Anthropology.

ANTH 501a, Anthropology and Classical Social Theory Paul Kockelman
Readings of primary texts in classical social theory, especially the writings of Marx, Weber, and Durkheim. Particular emphasis is placed on the role of these theorists in the early development of anthropology and social science more broadly. The course is reserved for first-year graduate students in Anthropology.

ANTH 502a, Research in Sociocultural Anthropology: Design and Methods Helen Siu
The course offers critical evaluation of the nature of ethnographic research. Research design includes the rethinking of site, voice, and ethnographic authority.

ANTH 503a / AMST 746a, Ethnographic Writing Kathryn Dudley
This course explores the practice of ethnographic analysis, writing, and representation. Through our reading of contemporary ethnographies and theoretical work on ethnographic fieldwork in anthropological and interdisciplinary research, we explore key approaches to intersubjective encounters, including phenomenological anthropology, relational psychoanalysis, affect studies, and the new materialisms. Our inquiries coalesce around the poetics and politics of what it means to sense and sensationalize co-present subjectivities, temporalities, and ontologies in multispecies worlds and global economies. This is a core Anthropology graduate program course; others admitted only by permission of the instructor.

ANTH 513a, Language, Culture, and Ideology J. Joseph Errington
Influential anthropological theories of culture are reviewed with critical reference to theories of language that inspired or informed them. Topics include American and European structuralism; cognitivist and interpretivist approaches to cultural description; work of Bakhtin, Bourdieu, and various "critical theorists."

ANTH 528a / ARCG 528a / EGYP 528a, Magic and Ritual in Ancient Egypt John Darnell
Introduction to ancient Egyptian magic and rituals with an overview on the use of magic and discussion of the different rituals and festivals attested in ancient Egypt.

ANTH 539b, Urban Ethnography of Asia Erik Harms
Introduction to the anthropological study of contemporary Asian cities. Focus on new ethnographies about cities in East, Southeast, and South Asia. Topics include rural-urban migration, redevelopment, evictions, social movements, land grabbing, master-planned developments, heritage preservation, utopian aspirations, social housing, slums and precariousness, and spatial cleansing.

ANTH 541a / HIST 965a / PLSC 779a, Agrarian Societies: Culture, Society, History, and Development James Scott, Elisabeth Wood, and Peter Perdue
An interdisciplinary examination of agrarian societies, contemporary and historical, Western and non-Western. Major analytical perspectives from anthropology, economics, history, political science, and environmental studies are used to develop a meaning-centered and historically grounded account of the transformations of rural society. Team-taught.
ANTH 542a, Cultures and Markets: Asia Connected through Time and Space  Helen Siu
Historical and contemporary movements of people, goods, and cultural meanings that have defined Asia as a region. Reexamination of state-centered conceptualizations of Asia and of established boundaries in regional studies. The intersections of transregional institutions and local societies and their effects on trading empires, religious traditions, colonial encounters, and cultural fusion. Finance flows that connect East Asia and the Indian Ocean to the Middle East and Africa. The cultures of capital and market in the neoliberal and postsocialist world.

ANTH 548a, Medical Anthropology at the Intersections: Theory and Ethnography  Staff
Examination of narratives of gender in India. Folkloristic and anthropological approaches to gendered performance in story, song, and theater. Recent feminist examinations of television, film, advertising, and literature. Topics include classical epic (Ramayana, Shilapathigaram).

ANTH 549b / AMST 765b / WGSS 764b, Personhood in the Americas  Ana Ramos-Zayas
Who and what counts as a person? How do we know? When and how is personhood attributed? To what extent does place, and the hemispheric formation that is the Americas, shape personhood? Can personhood be “lost”? Is personhood only for the living, or is it a question for the dead too? What forms of self-fashioning does personhood require, and how have these changed across space and time? How do individuals construct selves and public personas according to socially accepted standards? This course is designed to offer a broad and historically grounded understanding of key interdisciplinary debates and themes associated with understandings of personhood, its social implications, and the relationship between the embodied self and collective identities. Topics include the role of the nation state, the law, and science in defining persons; rites of passage in the life cycle of persons, particularly at the beginning and end of life; the legibility and performance of personhood and self through language, cultivation, and person-person or person-nonperson relationships; “degrees” of personhood in relation to gender, race, class, and illness; incarceration and confinement and their relation to a “loss” of personhood; and transnational, institutional, and psychoanalytic productions of the person. Approaching the Americas from a hemispheric perspective, the course also aims to help students identify the methodological, ethical, and theoretical questions that come with using concepts such as person, individual, self, and subject and to assess the methodological and analytical advantages and/or disadvantages of one term over the other for specific research projects in specific fieldwork sites. Whom we consider a person, whom we label less than fully endowed, and the roles history, culture, and context play in the process are questions that inform some of the most urgent legal and political issues of our time. We look at texts in philosophy, anthropology, history, psychology, law, and popular culture.

ANTH 559b / ARCG 559b, Introduction to Experimental Archaeology  Roderick McIntosh and Ellery Frahm
Experimental archaeology is one of the most important tools to develop and test models that link human behaviors and natural forces to the archaeological record. This class explores the elements of good experimental design and procedures.

ANTH 588a, Politics of Culture in Southeast Asia  Eve Zucker
The course analyzes how Southeast Asian nations promote national culture as part of political and economic agendas. It also explores Southeast Asian cultural and political diversity to rescue the possibility for cultural difference within a global world.

ANTH 594b / AMST 747b / WGSS 633b, Affect and Materiality  Kathryn Dudley
Recent scholarship in the fields of affect studies and the new materialisms raises important questions about the ethnographic encounter and the kind of knowledge it produces. Refusing to grant ontological status to classic oppositions between nature/culture, self/other, subject/object, and human/nonhuman, this work encourages anthropologically inclined ethnographers to rethink longstanding assumptions about the composition of the “social” and the “political” in an anthropocentric world that ignores the vulnerabilities and agential capacities of global ecosystems at its peril. Reading across ossifying disciplinary divides, this seminar examines the intellectual projects of writers such as Jane Bennett, Bruno Latour, Lauren Berlant, and Kathleen Stewart, among others. Our objective is to theorize the intersection between public and private feelings and human and nonhuman materiality in ways that bring the political and aesthetic implications of ethnographic research and writing to the fore.

ANTH 600b, Contemporary Social Theory  Aimee Cox
An overview of central themes and debates in contemporary social theory, with a focus on the integration of theory and research, rather than a hermeneutical analysis of particular theoretical texts. Concentrating on questions of power, inequality, the self, and community, assessment of the relevance of sociological theory to advancing an understanding of the complexities of late-twentieth-century Western society. Critical theory, feminist theories, postmodernism, and the contributions of individual theorists are reviewed and critiqued.

ANTH 643a, Primate Behavior and Ecology  Eduardo Fernandez-Duque
Socioecology of primates compared with that of other mammals, emphasizing both general principles and unique primate characteristics. Topics include life-history strategies, feeding ecology, mating systems, and ecological influences on social organization.

ANTH 651b / WGSS 651b, Intersectionality and Women's Health  Marcia Inhorn
This interdisciplinary seminar explores how the intersections of race, class, gender, and other axes of “difference” (age, sexual orientation, disability status, nation, religion) affect women's health, primarily in the contemporary United States. Recent feminist approaches to intersectionality and multiplicity of oppressions theory are introduced. In addition, the course demonstrates how anthropologists studying women's health issues have contributed to social and feminist theory at the intersections of race, class, and gender.
ANTH 700b, The Development of the Discipline: Contemporary Themes  Kalyanakrishnan Sivaramakrishnan
Second term of yearlong core course on the major theoretical orientations in social and cultural anthropology (especially in the United States and Europe), their historical development and importance, their relation to one another and to other disciplines. Reserved for first-year doctoral students in Anthropology. Prerequisite: ANTH 300.

ANTH 716La / ARCG 716a, Introduction to Archaeological Laboratory Sciences  Ellery Frahm and Roderick McIntosh
Introduction to techniques of archaeological laboratory analysis, with quantitative data styles and statistics appropriate to each. Topics include dating of artifacts, sourcing of ancient materials, remote sensing, and microscopic and biochemical analysis. Specific techniques covered vary from year to year.

ANTH 717a / ARCG 717a, Ancient Maya Writing  Oswaldo Chinchilla Mazariegos
Introduction to the ancient Maya writing system. Contents of the extant corpus, including nametags, royal and ritual commemorations, dynastic and political subjects, and religious and augural subjects; principles and methods of decipherment; overview of the Maya calendar; comparison with related writing systems in Mesoamerica and elsewhere in the ancient world.

ANTH 750a / ARCG 750a, Analysis of Lithic Technology  Staff
This course provides an introduction to the analysis of the chipped and ground stone tools found on archaeological sites. As a laboratory course, it includes hands-on instruction: we learn how to manufacture chipped stone tools out of obsidian. We begin by reviewing the development of chipped and ground stone tool technology from the earliest simple pebble tools to historical period tools. We discuss the relevance of lithics research to issues of subsistence, craft specialization, and trade. We also discuss how these artifacts are recorded, analyzed, and drawn, and we review related studies such as sourcing and use-wear analysis.

ANTH 769a / AMST 716a / ARCG 769a / HSAR 716a, Landscapes of Meaning: Museums and Their Objects  Anne Underhill
This seminar explores how museums convey various meanings about ethnographic, art, and archaeological objects through the processes of collecting, preparing exhibitions, and conducting research. Participants also discuss broader theoretical and methodological issues such as the roles of museums in society, relationships with source communities, management of cultural heritage, and various specializations valuable for careers in art, natural history, anthropology, history, and other museums.

ANTH 771a / ARCG 771a, Early Complex Societies  Richard Burger
A consideration of theories and methods developed by archaeologists to recognize and understand complex societies in prehistory. Topics include the nature of social differentiation and stratification as applied in archaeological interpretation; emergence of complex societies in human history; case studies of societies known ethnographically and archaeologically.

ANTH 780a / ARCG 780a, Archaeology of Religion  Richard Burger
The course explores archaeological approaches to the study of religion. While the term “religion” is hard to define, it is generally agreed that religious phenomena occur in almost all cultures and that this realm played a significant part in most prehistoric cultures. In order to provide a broad vision of this theme, the course begins by considering influential schools of thought on the definition, origins, and social significance of religious behavior. The course then reviews a variety of methods that scholars may use to reconstruct ancient beliefs and rituals. The course assesses the applicability and success of these methodologies across the broad spectrum of ancient cultures representing differing degrees of sociopolitical complexity. Finally, we explore case studies from a diverse range of ancient societies and consider the impact of religious behaviors within their broader cultural contexts.

ANTH 785b / ARCG 785b, Archaeological Ceramics I  Anne Underhill
Ceramics are a rich source of information about a range of topics including ancient technology, cooking practices, craft specialization, regional trade, and religious beliefs. This course provides a foundation for investigating such topics and gaining practical experience in archaeological analysis of ceramics. Students have opportunities to focus on ceramics of particular interest to them, whether these are low-fired earthen wares, or porcelains. We discuss ancient pottery production and use made in diverse contexts ranging from households in villages to workshops in cities. In addition we refer to the abundant ethnoarchaeological data about traditional pottery production.

ANTH 806a, Research Methods in Biological Anthropology  Claudia Valeggia and Eduardo Fernandez-Duque
The goal of the course is to encourage students to consider whether we should all “stop working and start thinking.” We use the title of the book by J. Cohen and G. Medley as a premise to read and discuss issues related to research design, data analyses, and interpretation of results. We focus on foundational topics in science that we think are not getting enough attention early enough in the process of doing scientific research. Some of the specific topics addressed are: (1) articulation of clear hypotheses and predictions; (2) considerations of study feasibility, sample size, selection of proxy variables, and data organization; (3) a priori statistical protocols; (4) data-sharing plans; (5) interpretation of statistical vs. biological significance of results; and (6) broader impacts.

ANTH 808b, Topics and Issues in Evolutionary Morphology  Eric Sargis
The discipline of morphology is considered in historical context. Topics include pre-Darwinian morphology, the primacy of form or function, the paradigm method, historical analysis of form, and constructional morphology. Current phylogenetic and biomechanical applications to the study of form are evaluated.

ANTH 828b / RLST 882b, Neighbors and Others  Nancy Levene
Concepts and stories of family, community, borders, ethics, love, and antagonism. Sources include philosophy, psychology, anthropology, literature, and film.
ANTH 836a, Obesity: Biology, Evolution, and Society  Claudia Valeggia
The goal of this course is to provide an interdisciplinary approach to learning about obesity as a biological and social phenomenon. We use biology as a scaffolding to understand obesity, yet also discuss the social, cultural, and psychological elements that shape our relationship with food and body size. The course focuses on three perspectives: the biological pathways over the lifetime that lead to obesity, the evolutionary origin of obesity, and the cross-cultural and societal meanings of obesity. Briefly, topics include adipose tissue as a regulatory and endocrine organ, human body composition variation in differing ecologies, the developmental origins of obesity, efficacy of obesity interventions, and political economies’ influence on obesity. This class has a “leminar” format, in which lectures are mixed with active, student-centered, in-class discussions.

ANTH 849a, Primate Models for Human Evolution  David Watts
Review of ways in which the study of living nonhuman primates can be used to address questions about hominin evolution and modern human behavior. Topics include chimpanzees as referential models, intergroup aggression, sexual conflict and sexual selection, social cognition, and inferring diets and social systems of extinct hominins.

ANTH 864b / ARCG 864b, Human Osteology  Eric Sargis
A lecture and laboratory course focusing on the characteristics of the human skeleton and its use in studies of functional morphology, paleodemography, and paleopathology. Laboratories familiarize students with skeletal parts; lectures focus on the nature of bone tissue, its biomechanical modification, sexing, aging, and interpretation of lesions.

ANTH 963a and ANTH 964b / HIST 963a and HIST 964b / HSAR 841a and HSAR 842b / HSHM 691a and HSHM 692b, Topics in the Environmental Humanities  Paul Sabin
This is the required workshop for the Graduate Certificate in Environmental Humanities. The workshop meets six times per term to explore concepts, methods, and pedagogy in the environmental humanities, and to share student and faculty research. Each student pursuing the Graduate Certificate in Environmental Humanities must complete both a fall term and a spring term of the workshop, but the two terms of student participation need not be consecutive. The fall term each year emphasizes key concepts and major intellectual currents. The spring term each year emphasizes pedagogy, methods, and public practice. Specific topics vary each year. Students who have previously enrolled in the course may audit the course in a subsequent year. Open only to students pursuing the Graduate Certificate in Environmental Humanities. ½ Course cr per term