ANTHROPOLOGY (ANTH)

* ANTH 011a, Reproductive Technologies  Marcia Inhorn
Introduction to scholarship on the anthropology of reproduction. Focus on reproductive technologies such as contraceptives, prenatal diagnostics, childbirth technologies, abortion, assisted reproduction, surrogacy, and embryonic stem cells. The globalization of reproductive technologies, including social, cultural, legal, and ethical responses. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program.  

* ANTH 018a, Scientific Thinking and Reasoning  Eduardo Fernandez-Duque
Students read, discuss and reflect on the paramount importance of science and quantitative reasoning in their lives through an exploration of the basic elements of a quantitative scientific process of inquiry. The goal of the course is to introduce students to foundational topics in science that must be, but sometimes are not, thoroughly considered early in the process of scientific inquiry. The first part focuses on reading about truth, facts and skepticism, causality, inference, deductive and inductive reasoning, research questions, and formulation of hypotheses and predictions. The second part considers aspects related to the actual development and implementation of a scientific study including considerations of types of study (e.g., observational, experimental), study feasibility, sample size, selection and validity of variables, power analysis, confounding factors. The third part considers the analyses, interpretation and presentation of results, offering introductory explanations of a priori statistical protocols; predictive and/or explanatory power and interpretation of both statistical significance and research relevance. The course is neither a lecture or seminar, but instead each meeting is a hybrid of both formats; a format where students are required to be active participants in the process of learning. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program.  

* ANTH 021b / PLSC 075b, Memorialization of Mass Atrocities in the Digital Age  David Simon
This seminar explores the means, methods, and meaning of digitization of memorialization of mass violence. Along the way, we address a series of questions, such as "How has digitization changed the way in which violent pasts are represented, shared, and remembered?"; "How do the means of memorialization influence what gets remembered?"; "What advantages and what risks does digital media pose for the project of memorialization?"; "How can digital technology be used and perhaps misused in the service of memorialization?"; "In what directions and to what consequences can we expect memorialization to move in the future, in light of technological change?" The course is premised on the notion that memorialization is a key project that allows individuals, communities, and societies to process episodes of mass violence in their own recent or even distant pasts.  

* ANTH 040b, The Evolution of Human Uniqueness  David Watts
Current ideas in anthropology about what facilitated the evolutionary success of Homo sapiens and what distinguishes humans from other primates. The fossil and archaeological records for human evolution and the evolution of social behavior; research on nonhuman primate behavior and cognitive abilities, with an emphasis on chimpanzees; insights and limitations of comparative primate research. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  

ANTH 110b, An Introduction to Cultural Anthropology  Staff
Anthropological study of cosmology, tacit knowledge, and ways of knowing the world in specific social settings. Ways in which sociocultural specificity helps to explain human solutions to problems of cooperation and conflict, production and reproduction, expression, and belief. Introduction to anthropological ways of understanding cultural difference in approaches to sickness and healing, gender and sexuality, economics, religion, and communication.  

ANTH 116a, Introduction to Biological Anthropology  Jessica Thompson
Introduction to human and primate evolution, primate behavior, and human biology. Topics include a review of principles of evolutionary biology and basic molecular and population genetics; the behavior, ecology, and evolution of nonhuman primates; the fossil and archaeological record for human evolution; the origin of modern humans; biological variation in living humans; and the evolution of human behavior.  

* ANTH 121a / CLCV 307a / RLST 128a, Emotion and Identity in Antiquity  Daniel Eastman
“Your are what you feel.” But how much control do we have over how we feel? Does – or can – everyone experience the world through the same categories of feeling, or “emotions”? To what extent are people's emotional options constrained or scripted by aspects of identity such as religion, gender, class, and language? This seminar explores the connections between emotions and identity in the context of the ancient Mediterranean world, with reference to modern theories of emotion along the way. Topics covered include (1) ancient theories of what emotions are and how they relate to the “self”; (2) norms concerning which emotions are “proper” and for whom (including humans, animals, and gods; women and men; and “pagans,” Jews, and Christians); and (3) practical methods used to cultivate certain emotions over others.  

ANTH 171a / ARCG 171a, Great Civilizations of the Ancient World  Anne Underhill
A survey of selected prehistoric and historical cultures through examination of archaeological sites and materials. Emphasis on the methodological and theoretical approaches by which archaeologists recover, analyze, and interpret the material remains of the past.  

ANTH 204a, Molecular Anthropology  Serena Tucci
This course is a perfect introduction for anyone interested in understanding how genetics can help us answer fundamental questions in human evolution and population history. The course is a series of lectures on basic principles of population genetics, molecular evolution,
and genetic data analysis. Topics include DNA and human origins, human migrations, genetic adaptation, ancient DNA, and Neandertals. By the end of this course, students learn about the processes that generate and shape genetic variation, as well as the molecular and statistical tools used to reconstruct human evolutionary history. SC

ANTH 217b, Hormones, Evolution, and Human Behavior  Richard Bribiescas
This course examines the evolution of human behavior through the lens of endocrinology and life history theory. Topics include the evolution of social behavior, pair bonding, parental investment, aggression, sex, feeding behavior, and risk tolerance. This course also addresses these topics with a mindful eye towards variation throughout the human life course from birth to death. Specific attention is made towards examining behavioral endocrinology within the context of human diversity in all its forms, social, biological, and ecological as well as in comparison with other species including non-human primates. ANTH 116, ANTH 242, or a similar course is recommended before enrolling in this course. SO

* ANTH 230a / WGSS 230a, Evolutionary Biology of Women’s Reproductive Lives  Claudia Valeggia
Evolutionary and biosocial perspectives on female reproductive lives. Physiological, ecological, and social aspects of women’s development from puberty through menopause and aging, with special attention to reproductive processes such as pregnancy, birth, and lactation. Variation in female life histories in a variety of cultural and ecological settings. Examples from both traditional and modern societies. SC

ANTH 242b, Human Evolutionary Biology and Life History  Richard Bribiescas
The range of human physiological adaptability across environments and ecologies. Effects of energetic constraints on growth, reproduction, and behavior within the context of evolution and life history theory, with special emphasis on traditional non-Western societies. SC, SO

ANTH 244a, Modern Southeast Asia  Erik Harms
This course offers a comprehensive introduction to the extraordinary diversity of Southeast Asian peoples, cultures, and political economy. Broadly focused on the nation-states that have emerged since the end of World War II (Brunei, Burma [Myanmar], Cambodia, Indonesia, East Timor, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam), the course explores the benefits and limits to a regional perspective. Crossing both national and disciplinary boundaries, the course introduces students to key elements of Southeast Asian geography, history, language and literature, belief systems, marriage and family, music, art, agriculture, industrialization and urbanization, politics and government, ecological challenges, and economic change. In addition to providing a broad and comparative survey of “traditional” Southeast Asia, the course places special emphasis on the intellectual and practical challenges associated with modernization and development, highlighting the ways different Southeast Asian nations contend with the forces of globalization. The principle readings include key works from a multidisciplinary range of fields covering anthropology, art, economics, geography, history, literature, music, and political science. No prior knowledge of Southeast Asia is expected. SO

* ANTH 255b / ARCG 255b / LAST 255b, Inca Culture and Society  Richard Burger
The history and organization of the Inca empire and its impact on the nations and cultures it conquered. The role of archaeology in understanding the transformation of Andean lifeways; the interplay between ethnohistoric and archaeological approaches to the subject. SO

ANTH 264a / ARCG 264a / SPAN 404a, Aztec Archaeology and Ethnohistory  Oswaldo Chinchilla Mazariegos
An anthropological and ethnohistorical examination of the Aztec civilization that dominated much of Mexico from the fourteenth century until the Spanish Conquest of 1521. SO

ANTH 267a / ARCG 267a, Human Evolution  Jessica Thompson
This course deals with scientific questions of human origins and evolution and what we think we know of our own ancestry over the past 6 million years. We begin with an overview of theories and techniques such as evolutionary theory, paleontology, archaeology, paleoenvironmental reconstruction, phylogenetic analysis, genetics, and functional morphology. We critically examine what key debates have taken place over the last century of exploration and discovery in human evolutionary research, learning how unconventional thinking and spectacular discoveries have shaped current knowledge of our origins. Students meet quirky historical characters, and the fossil relatives themselves to understand their morphology, life history patterns, locomotor repertoire, behavior, and dietary constraints. Students discover what a surprising amount of information scientists can discern from fragmentary fossils, and are brought up to date with the most current discoveries and debates in human evolution. Knowledge of introductory biological anthropology or biology are helpful. SO

ANTH 269b, Apes and Human Evolution  David Watts
Humans belong to the Hominioidea, a family of primates that also include the apes (gibbons, orangutans, gorillas, chimpanzees, and bonobos). The evolutionary history that we share with living apes, combined with our inability to study the behavior of extinct hominins (members of the human lineage since it diverged from the last common ancestor with chimpanzees and bonobos) directly, makes comparative research on their anatomy, social behavior, ecology, and psychology highly relevant to many issues in the study of human evolution. This course provides an overview of ape evolution, ecology, and social behavior and uses this as background for addressing some of these issues. Examples include how research on apes contributes to reconstructions of the behavior and ecology of extinct hominins; what we can learn from chimpanzees about the importance of hunting and meat eating in human evolution; whether data on intergroup aggression in chimpanzees provides insights into human behavior, and why chimpanzee-bonobo contrasts are important; how studying communication informs us about communication in humans, and whether it tells us anything about language; whether chimpanzees have culture; and how research on ape cognition challenges or confirms claims for human uniqueness. SO
This class examines how technology matters in our daily lives. How do technologies shape understandings of ourselves, the worlds we inhabit, and each other? How do the values and assumptions of engineers and innovators shape our behaviors? How do technologies change over time and between cultures. Students learn to think about technology and culture as co-constituted. We read and discuss texts from history and anthropology of science, as well as fictional explorations relevant to course topics.
* ANTH 371a, Modern Indonesia  J Joseph Errington
Political and cultural dynamics in contemporary Indonesia explored from historical and anthropological perspectives. Major ethnic
groups, key historical dynamics, political culture, and interaction between modernization and traditional lifeways. Issues of ethnicity,
gender, religion, and economy in situations of rapid social change.  SO

* ANTH 374a / ARCG 374a / LAST 374a, Origins of Andean Civilization  Richard Burger
The diversity of early Andean complex societies and their transformations during the first two millennia B.C. Special attention to the
Chavin civilization of the northern Peruvian highlands, including its art, technology, socioeconomic organization, territorial expansion,
and cultural antecedents. Emphasis on recent research and on explanatory models that have been used to explain the emergence of
complexity in pre-Hispanic Peru.  SO  RP

* ANTH 376b / EVST 377b, Observing and Measuring Behavior  Eduardo Fernandez-Duque
Survey of theoretical issues and practical methods relevant to the study of animal and human behavior, primarily in the wild. Topics
include research design, behavior and ecological sampling protocols, basic methods for data analysis, including simple descriptive and
analytical statistics, and widely-used technologies that facilitate the study of behavior, such as radiotelemetry. Working around a specific
research question, students design their own behavioral study. Prerequisite: Course in evolutionary biology or in the study of animal
behavior.  SC, SO

ANTH 380a / LING 210a, The Evolution of Language and Culture  Claire Bowern
Introduction to cultural and linguistic evolution. How human language arose; how diversity evolves; how innovations proceed through
a community; who within a community drives change; how changes can be “undone” to reconstruct the past. Methods originally
developed for studying evolutionary biology are applied to language and culture.  WR, SO

* ANTH 381a / WGSS 378a, Sex and Global Politics  Graeme Reid
Global perspectives on the sexual politics of gender identity, sexual orientation, and human rights. Examination of historical, cultural, and
political aspects of sexual orientation and gender identity in the context of globalization.  SO

* ANTH 385b / ARCG 385b, Archaeological Ceramics  Anne Underhill
Archaeological methods for analyzing and interpreting ceramics, arguably the most common type of object found in ancient sites. Focus
on what different aspects of ceramic vessels reveal about the people who made them and used them.  SO

* ANTH 386a / GLBL 393a, Humanitarian Interventions: Ethics, Politics, and Health  Catherine Panter-Brick
Analysis of humanitarian interventions from a variety of social science disciplinary perspectives. Issues related to policy, legal protection,
health care, morality, and governance in relation to the moral imperative to save lives in conditions of extreme adversity. Promotion of
dialogue between social scientists and humanitarian practitioners.  WR, SO

* ANTH 387b / ARCG 387b, East Asian Objects and Museums  Anne Underhill
Exploration of East Asian art and anthropological collections at Yale's museums and at other major museums in North America and
East Asia. Through study of the pioneers who created these collections and the formation history of the collections, students consider
the meaning and importance of contemporary museum practice. A student-curated exhibition in conjunction with Yale University Art
Gallery. Trips to regional museums and attendance at Yale sponsored conference on Korean Art and Photograph Collections.  SO

* ANTH 388b, Politics of Culture in Southeast Asia  Erik Harms
The promotion of national culture as part of political and economic agendas in Southeast Asia. Cultural and political diversity as a
method for maintaining a country’s cultural difference in a global world.  SO

* ANTH 391b / ARCG 391b, Paleoclimate and Human Response  Roderick McIntosh
The recursive interaction of climate change with human perception and manipulation of the landscape. Mechanisms and measures of
climate change; three case studies of historical response to change at different scales. Prerequisite: an introductory course in archaeology.
SO

* ANTH 394a, Methods and Research in Molecular Anthropology I  Serena Tucci
The first part of a two-term practical introduction to molecular analysis of anthropological questions. Discussion of genetics and
molecular evolution, particularly as they address issues in anthropology, combined with laboratory sessions on basic tools for genetic
analysis and bioinformatics. Development of research projects to be carried out in ANTH 395.  SC

* ANTH 397a / ARCG 397a, Archaeology of East Asia  Anne Underhill
Introduction to the findings and practice of archaeology in China, Japan, Korea, and southeast Asia. Methods used by archaeologists to
interpret social organization, economic organization, and ritual life. Attention to major transformations such as the initial peopling of an
area, establishment of farming villages, the development of cities, interregional interactions, and the nature of political authority.  SO

* ANTH 401a, Meaning and Materiality  Paul Kockelman
The interaction of meaning and materiality. Relations among significance, selection, sieving, and serendipity explored through classic
work in biosemiosis, technocognition, and sociogenesis. Sources from sociocultural and linguistic anthropology, philosophy, and
cognitive sciences such as psychology.  SO

* ANTH 409a / ERKM 394a / EVST 422a / F&ES 422a / GLBL 394a, Climate and Society from Past to Present  Michael Dove
Discussion of the major currents of thought—both historic and contemporary—regarding climate, climate change, and society; focusing
on the politics of knowledge and belief vs disbelief; and drawing on the social sciences and anthropology in particular.  WR, SO
* ANTH 413a, Language, Culture, and Ideology  J Joseph Errington
Review of influential anthropological theories of culture, with reference to theories of language that inspired or informed them. American and European structuralism; cognitivist and interpretivist approaches to cultural description; the work of Bakhtin, Bourdieu, and various critical theorists.  

* ANTH 414a / EAST 417a, Hubs, Mobilities, and World Cities  Helen Siu
Analysis of urban life in historical and contemporary societies. Topics include capitalist and postmodern transformations; class, gender, ethnicity, and migration; and global landscapes of power and citizenship.  

* ANTH 417a / ARCG 417a, Maya Hieroglyphic Writing  Oswaldo Chińchilla Mazariégos
Introduction to the ancient Maya writing system. Contents of the extant corpus, including name tags, 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 419a / EAST 419a, Anthropology of Japan: Continuity and Change  Staff
Taking an anthropological perspective, this course provides an introductory survey of Japan, which is designed to interest students who not only wish to learn about the different conditions of modern Japanese life but are also curious about the enormous global impact that this non-Western society has had over the last century. Japan currently faces a historically crucial moment as it fosters more international ties—both within and outside Asia—moving beyond its postwar relationship with the United States. In this seminar, we discuss topics of the workplace, schooling, youth culture, family matters, gender and feminism, religion and nationalism, social media, and demographic challenges. As such, the course draws on scholarship from across the social sciences as well as a broad range of perspectives about contemporary Japan, considering thematically coherent issues that inform students on how Japan’s complex society may be approached by anthropologists.  

* ANTH 428b / PHIL 493b / RLST 428b, Neighbors and Others  Nancy Levene
This course is an interdisciplinary investigation of concepts and stories of family, community, borders, ethics, love, and antagonism. Otherwise put, it concerns the struggles of life with others—the logic, art, ethnography, and psychology of those struggles. The starting point is a complex of ideas at the center of religions, which are given to differentiating “us” from “them” while also identifying values such as the love of the neighbor that are to override all differences. But religion is only one avenue into the motif of the neighbor, a fraught term of both proximity and distance, a contested term and practice trailing in its wake lovers, enemies, kin, gods, and strangers. Who is my neighbor? What is this to ask and what does the question ask of us? Course material includes philosophy, anthropology, psychology, fiction, and film.  

* ANTH 438a, Culture, Power, Oil  Douglas Rogers
The production, circulation, and consumption of petroleum as they relate to globalization, empire, cultural performance, natural resource extraction, and the nature of the state. Case studies include the United States, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Venezuela, and the former Soviet Union.  

* ANTH 439b, Africa, Politics, Anthropology  Louisa Lombard
Historical-anthropological study of politics in Africa since the early nineteenth century. The creation and operation of African states; the negotiation of legitimacy, authority, and belonging by state agents and the people they govern; anthropological theories about the workings of African politics, including the involvement of both state and nonstate actors.  

* ANTH 441a / MMES 399a / MMES 430a / WGSS 430a, Gender and Citizenship in the Middle East  Eda Pepi
This seminar explores the gendered and ethnic-based social processes and forms of power that citizenship, statelessness, and migration crises fuel, and are fueled by, in the Middle East and North Africa. The history of gender and citizenship in the region is imbricated in ethnossexual and orientalist colonial legacies that articulate a racialized problematic of “modernity.” Part of these legacies involve obscuring the role that women, sexual minorities, and gender, more broadly, have played in framing citizenship and statehood in the Middle East in global, regional, and local imaginations not only as border policing and legal doctrine, but as signifier—and reifier—of culture, race, and ethnicity. By examining the gendered and sexual dimensions of war, conflict, and partition, and the formation of modern citizenship in the Middle East, the seminar presents ethnographic, historical, literary and visual scholarship that theorizes the role of kinship and citizenship in gendered and racialized narratives of the nation and political sovereignty.  

* ANTH 448a, Medical Anthropology at the Intersections: Theory and Ethnography  Marcia Inhorn
The field of medical anthropology boasts a rich theoretical and empirical tradition, in which critically acclaimed ethnographies have been written on topics ranging from local biologies to structural violence. Many scholars engage across the social science and humanities disciplines, as well as with medicine and public health, offering both critiques and applied interventions. This medical anthropology seminar showcases the theoretical and ethnographic engagements of nearly a dozen leading medical anthropologists, with a focus on their canonical works and their intersections across disciplines. Prerequisite: A prior medical anthropology course or permission of instructor.  

* ANTH 451b / WGSS 431b, Intersectionality and Women’s Health  Marcia Inhorn
The intersections of race, class, gender, and other axes of “difference” and their effects on women’s health, primarily in the contemporary United States. Recent feminist approaches to intersectionality and multiplicity of oppressions theory. Ways in which anthropologists studying women’s health issues have contributed to social and feminist theory at the intersections of race, class, and gender.  

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* ANTH 454b / ARCG 454b, Statistics for Archaeological Analysis  William Honeychurch
An introduction to quantitative data collection, analysis, and argumentation for archaeologists. Emphasis on the exploration, visualization, and analysis of specifically archaeological data using simple statistical approaches. No prior knowledge of statistics required. QR

ANTH 464a / ARCG 464a / E&EB 464a, 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. SC, SO

* ANTH 467b / LITR 467b, Blood: Science, Culture, and Society  Claudia Valeggia and Moira Fradinger
How does biology define blood? What can the history of the science of blood tell us about blood's mythical connotations? Why is blood so often used in cultural narratives of national belonging, fear and desire, purity and impurity? This cross-divisional seminar explores the complexity of blood from the disciplinary angles of medical anthropology and the humanities. We study how cultural narratives have informed scientific research about blood and how scientific research has influenced cultural beliefs surrounding blood. Blood is a biological substance bearing a host of social meanings. It can keep communities together and tear them apart. The course establishes a transdisciplinary dialogue in order to study the complexity of blood in different cultures. We treat topics such as, among others, the role of blood in religious sacrifice; the history of blood therapies; the mythologies of vampires; the relationship of blood to ideologies of gender, class, race and ethnicity; and the roles played by blood in works of art. HU, SO

* ANTH 471a or b and ANTH 472a or b, Readings in Anthropology  Staff
For students who wish to investigate an area of anthropology not covered by regular departmental offerings. The project must terminate with at least a term paper or its equivalent. No student may take more than two terms for credit. To apply for admission, a student should present a prospectus and bibliography to the director of undergraduate studies no later than the third week of the term. Written approval from the faculty member who will direct the student’s reading and writing must accompany the prospectus.

* ANTH 473a / ARCG 473a / EVST 473a / NELC 473a, Climate Change, Societal Collapse, and Resilience  Harvey Weiss
The coincidence of societal collapses throughout history with decadal and century-scale abrupt climate change events. Challenges to anthropological and historical paradigms of cultural adaptation and resilience. Examination of archaeological and historical records and high-resolution sets of paleoclimate proxies. HU, SO

* ANTH 491a or b, The Senior Essay  Staff
Supervised investigation of some topic in depth. The course requirement is a long essay to be submitted as the student’s senior essay. By the end of the third week of the term in which the essay is written, the student must present a prospectus and a preliminary bibliography to the director of undergraduate studies. Written approval from an Anthropology faculty adviser and an indication of a preferred second reader must accompany the prospectus.