

Faculty

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Anthropology is an unusually broad discipline that embraces biological, historical, and cross-cultural study. Anthropology courses at Kenyon reflect these three distinct but interrelated areas.

Physical anthropology studies the complex connections between our biological and cultural existence, investigating how humans have evolved in the past and how we are continuing to evolve in the present. More advanced courses in physical anthropology focus on such topics as primate behavior, human skeletal anatomy, human paleontology, behavioral evolution, and how humans adapt to changing environmental conditions.

Courses in archaeology allow students to learn about prehistoric peoples of the New World (Aztecs, Maya, Inkas, Moundbuilders, and

Puebloans) as well as the Old World (Egypt, Mesopotamia, and European megalith builders). Methods of investigation are also covered. Field study provides students with first-hand experience in conducting archaeological research.

In cultural anthropology courses, students can study native North Americans and the peoples of Africa, Asia, and Latin America, as well as such topics as religion, ethno-medicine, sexuality and gender, politics, and linguistics.

All anthropology courses deal with human diversity.

Beginning Studies in Anthropology

A first course in anthropology should be any of the four one-semester introductory courses listed below. Each course combines lecture and discussion and has an enrollment of no more than twenty-five to thirty students. Look for the ♦ symbol, designating courses most appropriate for first-year students or upperclass students new to the anthropology curriculum.

ANTH 110 Human Origins: Paleoanthropology

ANTH 111 Contemporary Humans: Bioanthropology

These courses offer two ways to begin the study of physical anthropology. Take either one first. At least one of these courses is necessary to enroll in upper-level physical anthropology courses.

ANTH 112 Introduction to Archaeology

This course is required for upper-level work in archaeology.

ANTH 113 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

This is the first course in cultural anthropology, required for upper-level work in cultural anthropology.

Having completed an introductory course, students may enroll in any upper-level course in that area of the anthropology program. Alternatively, students may enroll in another introductory course to gain a broader understanding of anthropology. Diversification credit is earned either by taking an introductory course and an upper-level course in the same area of anthropology or by taking two introductory courses.

The Anthropology Major (minimum of 5 units)

Minimum requirements are described below. Note that all departmental courses are one semester in length (1/2 unit each) and that all courses have limited enrollment.

Foundation Courses

An introductory course in each of the three anthropological subdisciplines is required: physical anthropology (ANTH 110 or ANTH 111); archaeology (ANTH 112); and cultural anthropology (ANTH 113). These courses should be taken as early in the major as practicable and may be taken in any sequence. All upper-level courses in anthropology normally have one of the foundation courses as prerequisite.

Upper-Level Courses

A minimum of six upper-level courses (3 units) is required, including at least one course in each of the three anthropological subdisciplines (physical anthropology, archaeology, and cultural anthropology).

Capstone Course

All departmental majors must enroll in Anth 499 (Senior Seminar in Anthropology) during the fall semester of their senior year.

The Anthropology Minor

All minors will include a minimum of 2 units of coursework. No more than half of the courses may be taken at the foundation level (i.e., ANTH 110, 111, 112, 113). Courses will typically be taken from at least two department faculty members. The courses selected for the minor will have a clear and cohesive focus (e.g., a subdiscipline within anthropology) or a substantive theme to be examined within the discipline. The specific cluster of courses to be included within the minor will be selected by the student in consultation with a member of the department's faculty, who will serve as advisor. The final selection of courses will be approved by the department chair and subsequently reported to the registrar.

The Senior Exercise

Seniors are required to take the integrative senior seminar (ANTH 499) in the fall of their senior year. Assessment in this course will be based mainly on exams covering the materials as well as participation and other assignments. During the semester, students will choose an individual research topic, preferably one related to the theme of the seminar, and will begin to write, producing a draft of the paper near the end of the semester. As part of the course, students may be graded on a prospectus for the paper, presentations about the research, or other preparatory activities, but will not be graded on the draft of the paper itself. Faculty will read and comment on the draft, returning it to the student at the beginning of the second semester. The revised paper, which constitutes the senior exercise, will be due by February 15 and will be read by two faculty members. Papers will be assessed on the breadth and quality of the sources used, the proficiency of the composition, and the strength and creativity of the argument. Those who excel in all three dimensions will receive a pass

with distinction; those whose performance is judged inadequate in any two of these dimensions may be asked to revise and rewrite.

Cross-Listed Courses

The following courses are cross-listed in the anthropology listings for 2003-04:

MUSC 103 Introduction to Ethnomusicology
 MUSC 392 Special Topics in Ethnomusicology
 MUSC 485 Indonesian Music Ensemble

First-Semester Courses

Introduction to Ethnomusicology

◆ MUSC 103 (1/2 unit)
Spiller

This course introduces the basic questions that drive the field of ethnomusicology—the study of music in its cultural context—and examines how these questions might be approached through selected case studies of music cultures from Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Asia, or the Americas. This course can be used to satisfy anthropology as well as music requirements. No prerequisite. Enrollment limited.

Human Origins: Paleoanthropology

◆ ANTH 110 (1/2 unit)
Smail

This course examines the Order Primates, with particular emphasis on the origin and evolution of the human species as ascertained from studies of (1) primate paleontology and human evolution (paleoanthropology); (2) comparative primate behavior (primatology); and (3) the emergence of certain critical bio-cultural essentials. A laboratory is incorporated within the class and has two principal foci: (1) human osteology and (2) forensic anthropology. Both lecture and laboratory make extensive use of the department's collection of primate and human skeletal material and fossil hominid casts.

Contemporary Humans: Bioanthropology

◆ ANTH 111 (1/2 unit)
Smail

An investigation of “ongoing human evolution,” focusing on human variability, diversity, adaptation, and change in the cultural and biological present (bioanthropology). Topics to be considered include: (1) the mechanisms governing human variability (descriptive human heredity); (2) the range of human biological diversity and its relevance to the concept of “race”; (3) adaptive responses to (and interactions between) a selected group of biological and cultural variables; (4) mechanisms that facilitate short-term evolutionary change in the human species (micro-evolution); (5) human population expansion and its consequences in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries; and (6) the practice of medicine from an evolutionary perspective. Several illustrative laboratory exercises may be incorporated within the class.

Introduction to Archaeology

◆ ANTH 112 (1/2 unit)
Schortman

Today people increasingly live in highly industrialized and urban civilizations. But how long have humans had “civilization?” What is “civilization” and how can it be recognized? This course will address these questions, first, by looking at the basic elements of archaeology and its place in anthropology. Some of the topics we will cover include the history of archaeology, fundamental aspects of fieldwork and analysis, and the prehistoric record from the first humans to the origins of civilization.

We will begin the chronological sequence with the Old Stone Age, or Paleolithic, a long period during which basic human cultural practices and beliefs became established. Our next topic is the development of agriculture and settled life around the globe, innovations that permitted the growth of complex social organizations that culminated in civilization and the state. In the latter part of the course, we will study the first, or “pristine,” civilizations, focusing on

Mesopotamia and ancient Egypt. The course concludes with a survey of New World cultural development, including the Maya.

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

◆ ANTH 113 (1/2 unit)
Kipp, Spiller, Suggs

This course introduces students to the discipline that studies and compares other cultures. Students learn about the main concepts used in anthropology and how anthropologists conduct research, while also discovering how people live in other times and places. Students will learn about theories that provide frameworks for understanding and comparing cultures. Ethnographies—descriptions of life in particular places—give students factual materials with which to apply and critique such theories. Through this introduction to the study of culture in general, and an exposure to specific cultures, students inevitably come to reexamine some of the premises of their own culture. Note: Section 02 uses ethnographies almost exclusively about Asia and also counts as an Asian studies course.

Survey of Mesoamerican Prehistory

ANTH 332 (1/2 unit)
Schortman

When the conquistadors reached Mexico, they encountered an empire whose capital city, Tenochtitlan, surpassed Spanish cities in area, population, and complexity. This Aztec empire was, however, merely the last in a series of polities in central Mexico whose roots go back thousands of years to Paleoindian mammoth hunters. Nor did the Aztecs flourish in isolation: Contemporary civilizations include the Maya, Mixtec-Zapotec, Tlaxcalans, and Tarascans. This course surveys the development of civilization in Mesoamerica, an area including southern Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, and parts of Honduras and Nicaragua. While we will begin with the Paleoindians and their transformation into settled agriculturists, our focus will be on the major cultures of the zone: the Olmecs,

Mayas, Teotihuacanos, Toltecs, and Aztecs. Topics covered include social and political organization, religion, art and architecture, and writing and calendrical systems. This course should be of interest to students of Latin American culture and history, art history, and religion, and to those simply curious about the thousands of ruins dotting the Central American landscape. No prerequisites, although ANTH 112 is strongly recommended.

Theory and Method in Archaeology: Archaeology in the Public Eye

ANTH 338 (1/2 unit)
Urban

Who is the audience for the information archaeologists produce about the past: other professionals, regular people, the people among whom we work? How should we address audiences: standard field reports, narrative documents, films, lectures? How are we perceived by our audiences: as Indiana Jones; as the always male, bearded old archaeologist in shorts and a pith helmet, staring at an inscription; as violators of the dead who are disrespectful of tradition; or simply as useless nobodies in a world where people are hungry, sick, and increasingly thirsty? This course will examine how archaeology interacts with the public, how it can—but perhaps should not—be used by modern nation-states, and how the field and its practitioners are perceived. We will look at lectures and coursework, textbooks, monographs, popular magazines, films and television shows, and cartoons in an attempt to see how others see us.

Women In Latin-American Culture

ANTH 346 (1/2 unit)
Urban

What happens to women's roles in traditional societies undergoing modernization? Is life better for women in cities or rural areas? Are the benefits of development and industrialization felt equally by all members of a family? How and why do women become involved in revolutionary movements? These and other questions will be examined as this course looks at women's lives in

contemporary Latin America. Case studies will be drawn from Middle and South America. Enrollment limited; permission required.

Human Sexuality and Culture

ANTH 350 (1/2 unit)
Suggs

In popular thought, sex is about “the birds and the bees” and “doing what comes naturally.” Yet anthropology teaches us that for human beings the natural is the cultural. Based on that premise, this course looks for cultural patterns in sexual belief and behavior. We begin with an examination of the evolution of sexuality. Is sexuality or sexual behavior expressed the same way by all peoples? Why do humans avoid incest? To what extent are gender roles biologically determined? Are sexually transmitted diseases primarily biological or social problems? How do sexual norms reflect sociocultural adaptations? These are just some of the questions we will confront in this course as we examine the functional and structural significance of sexual behaviors in the sociocultural milieu. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor. Enrollment limited.

Linguistic Anthropology

ANTH 461 (1/2 unit)
Kipp

This is a general survey of one of the major subfields of anthropology. A brief introduction to the techniques and symbols used in describing unknown languages is followed by an examination of issues such as the following: the evolution of language; the relationship between language and thought; and the correspondence of social and linguistic variations. Prerequisite: ANTH 113 or permission of instructor.

Indonesian Music Ensemble

MUSC 485 (1/4 unit)
Spiller

This course, which is also offered in the spring, provides ongoing study of the music of Indonesia, focusing on Sundanese gamelan salendro (bronze percussion ensemble) from West Java. Students will be introduced to basic and advanced instrumental tech-

niques for several individual gamelan instruments and receive coaching in musicianship and ensemble skills.

The focus will be on traditional styles and conventional repertoires. Each semester will culminate in one public performance. This course may be repeated for credit. No previous musical experience is required.

Prerequisite: permission of instructor.

Individual Study

ANTH 493 (1/2 unit)
Staff

This course is for students who wish to do advanced work beyond regular courses or to study topics not included in course offerings. Prerequisites: permission of instructor and department chair.

Senior Honors

ANTH 497 (1/2 unit)
Staff

This course is for students pursuing departmental honors. Prerequisites: permission of instructor and department chair.

Senior Seminar

ANTH 499 (1/2 unit)
Urban

This year, the senior seminar will focus on race and ethnicity. After defining these terms (or at least trying to) we will look at a variety of anthropological approaches to both terms: historical, biological, archaeological, and ethnographic. Readings will be supplemented by films. Guest professors will also be a regular part of the course. This course is required for all senior majors.

Second-Semester Courses

Introduction to Ethnomusicology

◆ MUSC 103 (1/2 unit)
Spiller

See first-semester course description.

Human Origins: Paleoanthropology

◆ ANTH 110 (1/2 unit)
Lease

See first-semester course description.

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

◆ ANTH 113 (1/2 unit)
Kipp, Spiller, Suggs

See first-semester course description.

Anthropology of Religion

ANTH 252 (1/2 unit)
Kipp

The focus of this course will be on religious change. We will begin, however, by trying to understand how religion functions in social and cultural life *as if* these settings were stable. We will then take a theoretical pause to consider religion as a system, some ecological implications of religion, and an evolutionary outline of religions' developments through time. Then, turning back toward ethnography, we will try to apprehend the process of religious change in specific settings. Here the focus will be religious movements, conversion, and communities that are religiously divided. Why do people convert to new religions, or else attempt to change their own religious community from within? What does "conversion" mean for individuals and for communities, and what does it have to do with other kinds of changes—economic, social, or political? Prerequisite: ANTH 113.

Evolution and Human Evolution: History, Theory and Current Issues

ANTH 321 (1/2 unit)
Lease

Part I of this course examines basic concepts and issues in the development of evolutionary thought and contemporary evolutionary theory, together with important benchmarks in the growth of paleoanthropology. Part II then considers, in a lecture and seminar format, the emergence of various contemporary perspectives (and issues) in Plio/Pleistocene hominid evolution, with particular emphasis on the origin and evolution of Genus Homo—both biological and behavioral—over the past two and a half million years. Prerequisite: ANTH 110 or ANTH 111 or permission of instructor.

Special Topics in Ethnomusicology

MUSC 392 (1/2 unit)
Spiller

This course explores ethnomusico-logical issues and methodology by focusing on a theme (which changes each time the course is taught). For

2003-04, the theme will be vocal music, with a concentration on Asian vocal forms. Prerequisite: MUSC 103.

Drinking Culture: The Anthropology of Alcohol Use

ANTH 474 (1/2 unit)
Suggs

Commensality (cooperative, collective consumption of food) is one of the hallmarks of human culture. Of course, what constitutes food, who gets together to share it, and the systematic connections between commensality and economic, social, and political organization are all widely variable across cultures. This course examines alcohol consumption not as a "social problem" or "addictive behavior" but as a commensal behavior which is culturally meaningful. Taking a cross-cultural perspective, we will look at how the symbolic values and social structure of alcohol and its consumption reflect (and sometimes create) the larger sociocultural milieu of which it is a part. How is drinking related to the construction of gender? How is it related to cooperative labor or competitive acquisition? How is alcohol and its consumption used to subordinate some people and elevate others in political systems? What is its relationship to spiritual life? What role does alcohol consumption play in culture change? In short, what do people "get" from drinking besides "drunk?" The literature will cover anthropological research in Africa, Polynesia, the Americas, and Europe. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Enrollment limited.

Indonesian Music Ensemble

MUSC 485 (1/2 unit)
Spiller

See first-semester course description.

Individual Study

ANTH 494 (1/2 unit)
Staff

This course is for students who wish to do advanced work beyond regular courses or to study topics not included in course offerings. Prerequisites: permission of instructor and department chair.

Senior Honors

ANTH 498 (1/2 unit)
Staff

This course is for students pursuing departmental honors. Prerequisites: permission of instructor and department chair.

Courses offered in Honduras ONLY:**Archaeological Methods**

ANTH 330 (1/2 unit)
Schortman, Urban

This class is a survey of some of the major analytical techniques and theoretical approaches archaeologists employ in their effort to reconstruct past societies. We will consider briefly the historical development of archaeology, then we will explore the key concepts that define the discipline. The student will gain an appreciation of: (1) the procedures involved in conducting field research; (2) the nature of the material record; (3) the process of archaeological reasoning; (4) the study of various materials; (5) the role of cultural resource management in modern archaeology; and (6) the nature of culture change. The class will consist of lectures and discussion.

Ethnicity in Contemporary Central America

ANTH 345 (1/2 unit)
Urban, Schortman

Central America is the home of some easily recognizable ethnic groups, such as the Mayas and Kunas, but are there other, less well-known peoples? After considering what ethnicity might (or might not) be, we will learn about a number of groups: Mayas, Garifunas, suppressed Native American groups in El Salvador and Nicaragua, Black Creoles, and immigrants from the Levant who are known as Arabes. Studying these groups will help us understand the milieu in which we live and the hidden ethnic tensions sometimes cloaked by national assertions of mestizo identity.

Methods in Cultural Anthropology

ANTH 464 (1/2 unit)
Schortman, Urban

This course will provide hands-on experience with some research methods

that cultural anthropologists use. Participant observation, interviews, and note-taking are standard methods, and we will consider how to organize and access qualitative data through electronic database management. There will be some attention to quantitative methods as well, statistical inference-based on methods such as unobtrusive observation or survey questionnaires. The difficulties of designing a good questionnaire and of becoming a perceptive interviewer or observer are best learned through practice. Students will be required to carry out a research project—from literature search and project design to writing and possibly publishing the results. Only by actually attempting primary research ourselves do we realize just how difficult it is to make statements about human ideas and behaviors that stand up to scientific scrutiny. It is only through such research, however, that we can contribute to knowledge. These studies will do just that.

Problems in Mesoamerican and Central-American Anthropology

ANTH 469 (1/2 unit)
Schortman, Urban

This course is designed to give program participants genuine research experiences, beginning with defining a problem, then moving to designing and carrying out an investigative program, to writing a report to file with the *Instituto Hondureño de Antropología e Historia*, the government agency in charge of all field research in cultural anthropology and archaeology. Students will be able to apply the methods learned in ANTH 330 and ANTH 464 to real-world situations, thereby improving their understanding of how anthropology produces knowledge, as well as their understanding of themselves and their neighbors in Honduras.

History of Central America

HIST 492 (1/2 unit)
Urban, Schortman

This survey of Central American history, from late Precolumbian times to the present, will follow a conventional narrative format for most of the

course. At the end, we will closely examine current topics for each country. Throughout, emphasis will be placed on the impact of national policies on Native American populations. Attention is also directed to the manner in which Central American nations are embedded within the international economy and the consequences of these relations for the creation and transformation of local political, commercial, and social structures. The format will be lecture and discussion.

The following may be offered in 2004-2005:

- ANTH 110 Human Origins
- ANTH 111 Contemporary Humans
- ANTH 112 Introduction to Archaeology
- ANTH 113 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
- ANTH 243 Peoples and Cultures of Sub-Saharan Africa
- ANTH 244 Cultures of Southeast Asia
- ANTH 321 Evolution and Human Evolution
- ANTH 326 Human Nature and Culture: Anthropological Perspective
- ANTH 332 Survey of Mesoamerican Prehistory
- ANTH 338 Theory and Method: Household Archaeology
- ANTH 348 South American Archaeology
- ANTH 350 Human Sexuality and Culture
- ANTH 351 Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective
- ANTH 353 Psychological Anthropology
- ANTH 362 Contemporary Anthropology: Field Data
- ANTH 465 History of Anthropological Thought
- ANTH 469 Topics in Mesoamerican Anthropology
- ANTH 471 Ethnomedicine