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 Pueblos) 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, ethnomedicine, 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. Please note also that the requirements for the major have been modified for the Class of 2003 and beyond.

**Classes of 2001 and 2002**

**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.
Core Course
Students must enroll in one of the following courses: Human Evolution (ANTH 321), Human Osteology (ANTH 325), Methods and Theory in Archaeology (ANTH 230), Field Research in Anthropology (ANTH 236), Methods in Cultural Anthropology (ANTH 364), History of Anthropological Thought (ANTH 465), Logic and Methods of Social Research (ANTH 363), or Topics in Contemporary Anthropological Theory (ANTH 474). In addition, students whose off-campus study programs include coursework on field methods, and field projects (for example, most SIT programs), may use this off-campus work to satisfy the core requirement.

Upper-Level Courses
A minimum of six upper-level courses (3 units) is required excluding the core course and including at least one course in two of the three subdisciplines (physical anthropology, archaeology, and cultural anthropology). With departmental permission, upper-level courses in sociology may be used to fulfill up to 1 unit of this 3-unit requirement. But sociology may not be substituted for one of the subdisciplines of anthropology in fulfilling the above subdisciplinary requirement.

Class of 2003 and Beyond

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 490 (Senior Seminar: Integrating 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
The Senior Exercise in anthropology consists of a core of common readings, three seminar meetings at which the seniors and all faculty members in anthropology discuss these readings, and a take-home exam based on the readings and discussions. The topic of the seminar generally requires an integration of more than one subdiscipline, and readings are frequently from new books that faculty members are exploring for the first time. The goal of this exercise is to place students and faculty together in the roles of expert and colleague, to critique and analyze readings together orally, and to have each student produce a synthetic essay out of this common experience. Sometimes small groups of students are required to manage or lead the discussions or to present a panel analysis before opening the exchange to everyone present.

Seminar meetings take place during the early months of the fall semester. Students are required to submit questions in advance of each meeting. After these three meetings, the faculty members construct between two and four essay questions, and students select one for the exam. Students have approximately one month to complete the essay and are encouraged to discuss their ideas with faculty members and to utilize additional sources based on either library research or readings from other classes. The exam due date falls just before the Thanksgiving break. Faculty members evaluate the papers over the break, and students are notified in writing about their performance early in December. Each student’s paper is read by at least two members of the faculty, who also provide written and/or oral comments. Some students may be asked to rewrite the paper at this point.

Faculty members judge the students’ performance not merely on the quality of the essay (clarity, insight, and technical proficiency) but on participation in the whole process of the exercise itself, especially the timely submission of questions and the exam, and thoughtful and active participation in the discussions. Pass with distinction is awarded to those whose performance excels in all dimensions.

First-Semester Courses
Human Origins:
Paleoanthropology
   ◆ ANTH 110 (1/2 unit)
   Lease
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 (primateology); and (3) the emergence of certain critical biocultural 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 hominin casts.

Introduction to Archaeology

- ANTH 112 (1/2 unit) Schorman, Urban

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. Seniors will not be admitted to ANTH 112.

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

- ANTH 113.001 (1/2 unit) Engelske

This course provides a general overview of cultural anthropology. Students are introduced to many of the theoretical trends that have shaped disciplinary inquiries over the past hundred and fifty years, and will be asked to situate these perspectives in relation to both ethnographic work and everyday life. We will address a number of issues, including social evolution, kinship, language, ritual, symbolism, gender and sexuality, the politics of culture, and cultural relativism. Students should come away from the course with: (1) an understanding of what anthropologists do, (2) a greater sense of cultural diversity both at home and abroad, and (3) some new tools with which to think about their own worlds—how to watch movies, think about debates over “family values” in politics, or walk through a museum in a new light.

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

- ANTH 113.002 (1/2 unit) Kipp

This course introduces students to the discipline that studies and compares other cultures. Students learn about the history of anthropology, its principal concepts, and its methods of research, while also discovering how people live in other times and places. Materialist theories provide a framework for understanding and comparing ways of making a living and of organizing social life. Studying the ceremonies, customs, and struggles in other cultures, students inevitably reexamine some of the premises of their own culture.

Anthropology of Religion

- ANTH 252 Kipp (1/2 unit)

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?

Old World Archaeology

- ANTH 333 (1/2 unit) Urban

This course is a survey of the ancient cultures of the Old World (in particular Egypt and Western Asia) from the Neolithic through the rise of major civilizations. Major topics include the development of agriculture and the origins of the state in Sumeria, in the Indus Valley, and in Egypt. This course will be of particular interest to students of archaeology and ancient history. Prerequisite: ANTH 112 or permission of instructor.

Theory and Method in Archaeology: Models and Explanations in Archaeology

- ANTH 338 (1/2 unit) Urban

This is a course with changing topics and can be taken more than once for credit. This fall, we will be looking at how archaeologists describe and explain what they believe was the past behavior of the residents of sites and regions. To do this, we will begin by considering the differences between models and explanations. Next, we will look at the Naco Valley, Honduras, on a season-by-season basis, examining the data available after each season, the models constructed to make sense of the data, and the theories of behavior behind those models. The final exercise for all students will be writing a grant proposal for a small research project in the valley, based on our prior research and each student’s concerns within anthropology and archaeology. This course should interest students of anthropology who expect to attend graduate school, particularly those intending to study archaeology, regardless of their geographic areas of interest. It is also strongly recommended for participants in the Spring 2002 Kenyon Honduras Program.
Anthropology

This course examines the diversity of cultures within South America (south of Panama), from the dense jungles of the Amazon to the high grasslands of the Andes. Special emphasis is placed on how these groups have adapted both to the environments they occupy and to the challenge of continued survival within the modern nations of the area. The prospects for their continued persistence into the future are also considered. This course should be of interest to students of history, international studies, religion, Spanish language and literature, and political science. No prerequisite.

History of Anthropological Thought
ANTH 465 (1/2 unit)
Schortman

Beginning with the Age of Discovery, developing through the periods of conquest and colonization, and continuing into the present, anthropology has embodied as well as defined the Western world’s experience with “other” peoples and cultures. Within this broad historical context, this course investigates the emergence and definition of anthropology as a discipline by focusing on (1) significant theoretical issues and “schools” of thought (e.g., evolutionism, functionalism, materialism, and structuralism); (2) biographical and intellectual portraits of several major figures who were instrumental in formulating these issues; and (3) continuing controversies in the elucidation of certain fundamental principles (e.g., "culture," "relativism," and "the primitive"). Prerequisites: at least three courses in anthropology and permission of instructor.

Witchcraft and Spirit Possession in Africa
ANTH 491 (1/2 unit)
Engelke

This seminar introduces students to distinct yet complementary bodies of anthropological work in Africa—the exquisite literatures on witchcraft and spirit possession. Fieldwork in these two areas has not only enriched our understanding of everyday African life but also contributed in numerous ways to theoretical debates in anthropology about rationality, power, secrecy, personhood, healing, mimesis and alterity, and modernity. Through a close reading of classics in these genres, as well as a look at some provocative recent work, students will situate many of these theoretical concerns within their broader understandings of both Africa and anthropology. In addition to the reading assignments, films will be shown in class. Prerequisite: ANTH 113. Familiarity with African anthropology, history, religions, and/or literature is suggested but not required. Limited enrollment.

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.

Second-Semester Courses

Contemporary Humans: Bioanthropology
ANTH 111 (1/2 unit)
Small

The course offers 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 diversity (racial heterogrophy); (3) adaptive responses to (and interactions among) a selected group of biological and cultural variables; (4) human population expansion and its twentieth- and twenty-first-century consequences; (5) the explanation of short-term evolutionary change in the human species; and (6) the practice of medicine from an evolutionary perspective. Several illustrative laboratory exercises may be incorporated in the class.

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
ANTH 113.001 (1/2 unit)
Engelke

See first-semester course description.

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
ANTH 113.002 (1/2 unit)
Kipp

See first-semester course description.

Evolution and Human Evolution: History, Theory and Current Issues
ANTH 321 (1/2 unit)
Small

Part I 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 over the past two and a half million years. Prerequisite: ANTH 110 or ANTH 111 or permission of instructor.

Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective
ANTH 351 (1/2 unit)
Kipp

We will look at the phenomenon of cross-dressing to see how gender is culturally constructed in various places. The phenomenon of cross-dressing implies a gender division, and that persons in certain circumstances are able to traverse that
division. Sometimes cross-dressing is a ritual act or a ritual component. Sometimes it occurs in a theatrical setting. What do these ritual or theatrical moments reveal about a society’s gender system? At other times, individuals cross-dress for long periods or as a life-long pattern. How is this behavior understood in different societies? We will read about cross-dressing and gender in a variety of cultures, including our own. Our two related goals in this are: to examine cross-dressing itself as an interesting phenomenon that appears in various cultural settings; and to see what we can learn from cross-dressing about gender systems.

**Theater and Performance Across Asia**

ANTH 358 (1/2 unit)

Kipp

We will examine performance from both theoretical and ethnographic perspectives. What is performance, and what is its relation to tradition and to change? In some settings, performances have religious significance, and the line between ritual and entertainment blurs. In some cases, performances challenge tradition or question authority, rebellion masking itself as “mere” play. Inevitably, our exploration of performances elsewhere will evoke contrasts and comparisons with theatrical performance, production, and training in the West, but our focus will remain on Asian societies in various historical moments and comparisons across Asia. Film is included in this exploration of performance, although film does not easily fit some of the generalizations we will make. It is important to understand how film compares to other forms of performance, however, if only because the performing arts in Asia have been so profoundly affected by this twentieth-century medium.

**Human Rights in Africa:**

**Historical and Anthropological Perspectives**

ANTH 392 (1/2 unit)

Engelke

This seminar addresses the fundamental tension in human-rights theory and activism between “universal rights” and the respect for “local cultures.” Time and again, the basic assumptions of human-rights legislation have been challenged on the grounds that its fundamental ideas are Western, not universal, and that its liberal underpinnings are inherently problematic, imperialistic, and untenable. We begin the semester by reading a number of key human-rights documents and the theoretical texts which have inspired them. These readings will be complemented by critical assessments and framed by the ways in which human-rights discourse contributes to debates about modernity, global/local cultures, and cosmopolitanism. The second half of the semester is devoted to two in-depth case studies from Africa and will draw heavily on ideas and themes presented in the first half of the course. The first case is the rubber trade in the Belgian Congo, circa 1900, and the development of what Adam Hochschild has called “the first modern human-rights campaign,” led by Roger Casement. The second case involves the current debates in southern Africa over homosexuality and human rights, in which we will pay particular attention to the ways in which activists on both sides frame their understandings of “humanity,” “African culture,” and the modern African state. Prerequisite: ANTH 113. Limited enrollment.

**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.
Ethnicity in Central America
ANTH 345 (1/2 unit)
Urban

Although most people have heard of the Mayas of Guatemala, few are aware of other ethnic groups in Central America, such as the Jicaque, Sumu, Pech, and Miskitu, all Native American groups; the Afro-Central Americans, such as the Garifuna and Creoles; and the self-named Arab-Central Americas. This class will begin with a consideration of the term "ethnicity" and "ethnic group," after which we will examine case studies of particular groups, looking at questions of identity formation and maintenance, the groups’ structural position in the larger society, and the future of ethnic identities. The course should be of particular interest to majors in anthropology, sociology, international studies (Latin American concentration), and Hispanic civilization. Enrollment limited.

Methods in Cultural Anthropology
ANTH 464 (1/2 unit)
Ausec, 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 small-scale research project. 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.

History of Central America
HIST 492 (1/2 unit)
Ausec, Schortman, Urban

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 except Belize. 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 2002-2003:

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 Subsaharan Africa
ANTH 244 Cultures of Southeast Asia
ANTH 254 Beginning Maya Hieroglyphs
ANTH 322 Primate Behavior and Social Organization
ANTH 325 Human Osteology, Anthropometry, and Forensic Anthropology
ANTH 338 Theory and Method: Household Archaeology
ANTH 346 Women in Latin-American Culture
ANTH 348 South American Archaeology
ANTH 350 Human Sexuality and Culture
ANTH 353 Psychological Anthropology
ANTH 357 Anthropology of Development
ANTH 461 Linguistic Anthropology
ANTH 362 Contemporary Anthropology: Field Data
ANTH 464 Methods in Cultural Anthropology
ANTH 465 History of Anthropological Thought
ANTH 469 Topics in Mesoamerican Anthropology
ANTH 471 Ethnomedicine
ANTH 473 Topics in Contemporary Anthropology Theory
ANTH 474 Drinking Culture: The Anthropology of Alcohol Use