Southern Illinois University
Carbondale

Anthropology
Course Descriptions
Spring 2020
ANTHROPOLOGY 104-950 The Human Experience, Sections 001-004, 007-008

Instructor Assoc. Prof. Ulrich H. Reichard, Department of Anthropology, on-line course

The Human Experience covers subject matter and concepts anthropologists use to explore humans as individuals and members of society. We will study societies all over the world, in space and time, through the lens of ethnography and archaeology. In this course, we will also cover human origins (paleoanthropology), and in doing so consider what we can learn from primates (primatology), our closest relatives, as well as examine the origin of language and how we communicate (linguistics). The goal of The Human Experience is to provide students with a holistic understanding of “humanness” through the four-fields of anthropology:

**Sociocultural Anthropology:** the study of contemporary human societies. **Anthropological Archaeology:** the study of past human societies through material remains. **Biological Anthropology:** the study of humans as biocultural organisms, human origins, contemporary human biological diversity, and nonhuman primates. **Linguistic Anthropology:** the study of human language as symbolic communication.

The course explores relevant anthropological theories and concepts alongside controversial issues, such as:

- What are race and ethnicity?
- Is human cannibalism fact or myth?
- Is gender biologically determined?
- What is art
- Do animals have same-sex sex?
- Is warfare part of the human condition?
- Is the origin of agriculture our greatest technological innovation or our worst?
- What is the difference between anthropogenic climate change today and in the past?
- Does infanticide really happen?
- Do chimpanzees have culture?
- Is human cannibalism fact or myth?
- Is the origin of agriculture our greatest technological innovation or our worst?
- What is the difference between anthropogenic climate change today and in the past?

The above questions as well as others relative to our rapidly changing world are examined objectively and from the unique perspective of anthropology. At the end of this course students will have a better understanding of themselves relative to the history of our species and our place on this planet – past, present and future.


Requirements: Windows 10/8/7 or Mac OS X 10.10 or higher; web camera; functional microphone; Adobe Flash Player

Contact Information: Dr. Ulrich H. Reichard, (618) 453-5052, ureich@siu.edu
ANTHROPOLOGY 104-950 The Human Experience (online)

Instructor Assoc. Prof. Ulrich H. Reichard, Department of Anthropology, on-line course

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Contact Information: Dr. Ulrich H. Reichard, (618) 453-5052, ureich@siu.edu
ANTH 231: Introduction to Forensic Anthropology

Instructor: Dr Gretchen R. Dabbs, gdabbs@siu.edu

When & Where: T-F, 3-4:15pm 221 Lawson (first 8 weeks, only)

Course Description: Introduction to the anthropologist’s role in assisting the legal community in identification of skeletonized and badly decomposed human remains. Students will learn how to estimate the age, sex, ancestry, stature, and disease history of an individual from his/her skeletal remains. This course is required for the interdisciplinary Forensic Science minor.

ANTH 240A

Human Biology: An Introduction to Biological Anthropology

Instructor: Assoc. Prof. Ulrich Reichard (ureich@siu.edu)

When & Where: Lecture T/Th 12:35-1:50pm, Quigley Hall 140B


(Faner 3438) **Required for all Anthropology majors**

!!!!!! Fulfills Core Curriculum Life Science with Lab requirements !!!!!

Course description: Explore human biology, our origins, and our closest living relatives the non-human primates:
- Evolutionary processes and genetics, and how they generate biological diversity and organismal adaptation.
- The natural history of the primates, including anatomy, behavior, and ecology.
- The fossil and cultural records of human origins.
- The biology of living humans, including diversity and variation, the concept of race, adaptation to disease and extreme environments, and the interaction between culture and biology.

Requirements: Exams, short projects, and laboratory exercises. $10 lab fee.

How do archaeologists find the remains of past human activities and decide where, when, and how to excavate? How do they know where, when and how recovered artifacts were made or used? How can they explain or interpret past cultures and human activities including beliefs and symbolism? How can archaeological understanding of the past contribute to our life today?

These are the basic questions that guide this course. In essence, this course introduces you to the fundamentals of modern archaeology. We begin by defining the basic nature and objectives of archaeology, as well as its basic concepts and terms, followed by discussion of the historical development of various intellectual traditions that contributed to the rise of modern archaeology. The remainder of the semester focuses on methods and theories underlying archaeology as well as the challenges posed in applying them. The course also considers archaeological investigations of technology, economics, social structure, and cultural change, as well as social significance of archaeology. These will be illustrated using case studies drawn from various parts of the world, as well as the instructor’s ongoing research in Peru. Many Powerpoint presentations, videos and handouts will supplement class lectures.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Requirements:** (1) Three 50-minute exams (each 20% of the course grade) and (2) Two take-home, writing assignments (ca. 5 pages in length; each 20% of the course.

**Textbooks:**
Renfrew, Colin, and Paul Bahn
COURSE DESCRIPTION: What is culture and why does cultural difference matter? How does culture shape our lives from what we love (and hate) to eat, to who we think of as our family, to how we play sports, how we cure and heal, or whether we give lavish gifts or hoard our wealth? What can ritual, shamanism, drug-taking and belief in the magical power of words reveal about the nature of human societies? This course will explore these and other issues through readings that span the globe from the Amazon to China. Far from merely exotic, we will explore many aspects of U.S. society, and projects will include studying rituals and gift-giving in the Carbondale area.

Required Texts:
Janet Siskind To Hunt in the Morning
Peter Wogan Magical Writing in Salasaca
ANTH 261: Issues in Popular Biological Anthropology

Instructor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ulrich H. Reichard, ureich@siu.edu

When & Where: T/Th 9-10:15 a.m., Faner 1230

Course Description: In Issues in Popular Biological Anthropology we will discuss the theories and methods used by biological anthropologists to study human evolution. Course topics include how the fossil record informs our understanding of human anatomy and behavior via the field of paleoanthropology as well as the contributions made to this understanding by primate behavioral ecology, genetics, and ethnographies of present-day hunter-gatherers. These studies are often incorporated into a popular understanding of humans and our place in the world, relative to our environments, as well as “other” individuals, and “other” societies. To understand the complex relationship between scientific research and everyday knowledge, we will examine news feeds, documentaries, commentaries, magazines, videos, photo essays and other popular media outlets that inform a worldwide audience. The class is presented in seminar-style with ample room for presentations, discussion, and topic exploration, in a class environment that aims to promote critical thinking and a holistic understanding of our place in the world, including where we’ve been and where we are going.

Prerequisites: none.

Requirements: In-class presentation; quizzes

Textbook: No textbook
Peoples and Cultures of Africa
ANTH 310A (Anthropology), ANTH310H (Honors),
ANTH 470A (Graduate), AFR 310A (Africana)
With Dr. John C. McCall
2:00-3:15 TR – Faner Hall 3515

The objective of this course is to get beyond the misinformation and stereotypes about Africa in the mainstream media, and gain deeper insights into the problems and potentials of contemporary Africa.

This course examines African societies from an interdisciplinary perspective. After a brief overview of African geography & history, we focus on present-day Africa.

- African History
- African Culture
- African Economics
- African innovation
- African Arts
- African Film
- African Science Fiction

A course about the Africa you never see in mainstream media
ANTHR 310D / 470D: (Trans)Nationalism and Cultural Identity in Central and Eastern Europe
[Peoples and Cultures of Europe]
13 January – 13 March 2020
TRF 3:35 - 5:15, Faner 3515

Instructor: Dr. Vytis Ciubrinskas

Course Description: The course will be of interest to students in a variety of disciplines and does not assume prior knowledge of the European region, nor of the discipline of anthropology. The course will focus on social change taking place in “New Europe” where the fall of communism resulted in a climax of nationalisms and the emergence of transnationalism through increasing amounts of transatlantic migration. Although the primary focus will be on such European countries as Poland, the Baltic States, the Balkans, Ukraine, and Russia, attention will also be paid to the identity politics and complexities of diasporic communities. Questions to be addressed include:

- Is East European development still at work with the socialist past?
- How is social change visible through such intimate human bonding ties revealed through ethnicity, religion, language and nationalism?
- What creative or divisive forces are hidden in symbolic kinship and ‘roots’ as bonds of territorial and de-territorialized nation?
- How are ‘primordial’ ties recreated through history, genealogy, heritage and memory?
- How are these ties re-enacted in ‘life-style’ and ‘cosmopolitanism with roots’ identities?

Prerequisites: none

Requirements: Students are required to participate in class discussions on a regular basis and to give two class presentations (10-minute) based on the course literature plus a take-home essay (up to two thousand words) covering topics of their own choosing.

Readings:

Other readings will include ‘Russian Jews and “Gypsy Punks”: The Performance of Real and Imagined Cultural Identities within a Transnational Migrant Group’ (Jablonsky 2012); “Fraternal” Nations and Challenges to Sovereignty in Ukraine: The Politics of Linguistic and Religious Ties” (Wanner 2014); “Children of Genghis Khan, Lenin and Mac Donald’s. Cultural Belonging of the Post-Soviet Generation in Tatarstan” (Friedli 2014), as well as other articles and chapters selected from journals and books.
Do culture and meaning take form independently of people's "natural" environment? What does it mean to live sustainably? How should we engage the present “climate crisis”? During the last 150 years, socio-cultural anthropologists have documented and analyzed the diverse ways people in various parts of the world engage and establish relationships with their surrounding “natural” environments. Along the way, we have learned about the kinds of relationships between people, their social institutions, and the material world that enable humans to live in certain environments for prolonged periods of time, or those that lead to unexpected and undesirable consequences. This class introduces students to the various methods and theories anthropologists have devised to understand human-environment relationships and examines the question: How can anthropology contribute to tackling the environmental challenges of the 21st Century?
Want to know about him? Were built? Wonder how these

Want to know what this is all about?

Then take…

Anthropology 340E
Introduction to the Archaeology of Ancient Egypt

Anthropology 430E
Archaeology of Ancient Egypt

Gretchen R. Dabbs, PhD
When: T-F 12:30-2pm (first 8 weeks, only)
Where: Faner 3438

This course is a detailed study of the early culture of ancient Egypt with emphasis on the evolutionary cultural development and hands on activities, including ancient Egyptian games, build your own cartouche, and making a mummy.

Anthropology 424-3 Native American Verbal Art  
(Same as ENGL 424)*

**Description**: This class examines the oral traditions (story-telling, poetry, song, chant, etc.) of Native American Peoples. The course will begin with an exploration of anthropological methods for translating indigenous verbal artistry into English in ways that remain faithful to the original texts while also capturing the spirit of the original in a different language. From there the course will cover three major theoretical approaches to the study of Native American verbal art: 1) ethnography of speaking and discourse-centered approaches to culture; 2) sound-centered and other ethnomusicological approaches; and 3) mythopoetic and semiotic approaches to narrative discourses. Attention is paid to the place and structure of verbal art in Native societies. This class focuses on the broad spectrum of Native verbal art in the Americas.

**Readings** will come from a variety of edited volumes and journals that will be available on the course website. In addition, *Made-from-Bone: Trickster Myths, Music, and History from the Amazon* (Hill 2009) is required.

Instructor: Jonathan D. Hill, Faner 3531, 453-4084, jhill@siu.edu

Time and Place: Tues & Thurs 9-10:15 am, Faner 3515

* This course fulfills requirements for the new Mythology minor as well as the minor in Latino and Latin American Studies.
Instructor: Dr. Jonathan Hill (jhill@siu.edu)

When & Where: T/Th, 11 am – 12:15 pm, Faner 3461

Required for all Anthropology majors.

Course Objectives: This course is designed to give advanced undergraduate majors an opportunity to enhance their abilities to read and write critically about selected theoretical topics in anthropology. Each student will choose a topic for research; refine and develop this topic into a set of specific research questions and problems; locate, read, and annotate sources; and write a research paper. The topics, questions, and problems for research must be completed by the end of Part I of the course. The course will emphasize the processes of critical reading, creative exploration of published literature, determining scope and structure of the paper, and revision of drafts based on feedback from the instructor and other students. The course is organized into three sections: I. Reading Critically to Write Critically, II. Groundworks for Writing a Good Research Paper, and III. Writing a Good Research Paper.

Texts: The Craft of Research (Second Edition) by Wayne Booth, Gregory Colomb, and Joseph Williams, $18.00
Anthropology 480: Introduction to Historical Archaeology

Instructor: Mark J. Wagner, mjwagner@siu.edu

When & Where: 2:00-3:15 W-F, Faner 3461

Course Description: Historical archaeology or the “archaeology of the recent past” is primarily concerned with the archaeological investigation of the period following initial contact between western and Indigenous societies around the globe. Historical archaeologists use a combination of archaeological and written data to explore anthropological issues such as the cultural entanglement of European and Indigenous societies, colonialism, consumerism, gender relations, and other topics. The temporal and regional focus of this particular course is on late 18th to 20th century Indigenous, Anglo-American, and African-American lifeways in Illinois. As part of that we will explore such diverse topics as colonialism, the African diaspora, and silences in the historical record that can be penetrated using archaeological data as an independent source of information. We also will look at the types of material culture associated with different societies and periods through time and how ceramic, glass, metal and other artifacts can inform on issues such as power relations, resistance, consumerism, and other topics when viewed within their appropriate historical context.

Spencer (1993) *What This Awl Means* ISBN 9780873512787 (new or used)
Deetz (1996) *In Small Things Forgotten* ISBN 9780385483995 (new or used)
Crisp (2005) *Sleuthing the Alamo* ISBN 9780195163506 (new or used)
Anthropology 485 SPECIAL TOPICS

ANTHROPOLOGY THROUGH SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY

Basic concepts of anthropology are used to interpret the imaginary worlds of science fiction and fantasy. Fictional cultures are examined to see how features of human biology, language, gender, technology, etc. are patterned after or are different from known human cultures. Questions of cultural relativism and morality are explored through science fiction, as well as the relationship of nature to culture. How do science fiction and anthropology both call on the imagination of otherness to critique the present? These themes will be explored through a selection of short stories, novels and films.

Instructor: David Sutton

When and Where: MW 2:00-3:15 Faner 3515

Required Texts:

Ted Chiang *Exhalation*

Others TBA
ANTH 500D: Theory and Method in Sociocultural Anthropology

Instructor: Dr. David Sutton, dsutton@siu.edu

When & Where: MW 3:35-450 Faner 3515

Course Description: This course introduces key contemporary approaches in Sociocultural Anthropology. How does contemporary anthropology address classic topics such as kinship, exchange, ritual and the environment? What role does fieldwork play in anthropological understanding, and what ethical and epistemological issues are raised by the process of turning fieldwork into written texts? How have issues such as gender, history, and power reshaped anthropological understandings and approaches? These issues will be explored as you write essays and book reviews which engage with current sociocultural theories, methods and debates.

Textbook: Gananath Obeyesekere, *The Apotheosis of Captain Cook*

Marshall Sahlins, *How Natives Think*

David Howes, *Sensual Relations*
What is “Mississippian”? Originally designating a set of similar pottery vessels from the southeastern U.S., the term has variously been defined as a culture area, a “people”, an adaptive niche, a form of sociopolitical organization, the use of a particular pottery tempering agent, a cultural interaction zone, an architectural grammar, a set of religious and mythological beliefs, etc. Underlying these varying definitions are fundamental notions about the nature of culture and the relation of people to culture (or social structure, or the superorganic, or the dialectic, or sociocultural formations, or praxis, or habitus, or cognitive models, or other ways of thinking about humans who live in groups, communities, towns, tribes, etc.). This is not a course about artifacts; it is about why people did the things we see they did.

We will read all, or substantial portions of these books:


ANTH 515A - Seminar in Cultural Anthropology
Special Topic: African Film
Dr. John C. McCall
3:35 - 4:50, Tuesday & Thursday, Faner Hall 3515
Open to grad students from all disciplines

We will screen, discuss, read about, and write about films made by Africans. We will learn about the celebrated auteurs of the 20\textsuperscript{th} century, and the 21\textsuperscript{st} century digital movie boom that launched a global pan-African media culture. We will examine the cultural and historical contexts of the films, and look critically at political & economic aspects of their production. Students will write brief reviews of select films & readings, take leadership of discussions, and write an independent research paper. There will be no exams. All required readings and movies will be available online to registered students.