

Anthropology Course Offerings Fall 2009

Undergraduate Courses

AS.070.113 (H,S) "Freshmen Seminar" (3)

Haeri

Limit 30

Students will be introduced to anthropology through ethnographic films and selected readings in anthropology.

T 1:30-3:30

AS.070.150 (H,S) "The Anthropology of Africa" (3)

Williams

Limit 25

This course revitalizes classic debates about the forms and dynamics of African self-governance, once depicted as "The African Genius."

Anthropological approaches and artistic sources are brought to bear on current African politics and governance.

T/Th 9:00-10:15AM

AS.070.299 (H,S,W) "Visual Economies in the Americas" (3)

Poole

Limit 25

This course explores how visual images, including film, photography and digital media, circulate and acquire meaning. Students will develop fieldwork-based projects that explore the historical and cultural dimensions of visual experience in the Americas.

W 1:30-4PM

AS.070.319 (H,S) "Logic of Anthropological Inquiry" (3)

Guyer

Limit 30

Anthropology combines theory and methods from the sciences and the humanities. We take a close look at those logics, as shown in ethnography as a mode of inquiry and as a genre of writing. This will count as a required course for Anthropology majors but open to all undergraduates.

Th 1:30-4:00 PM

AS.070.325 (H,S) "Anthropology of Money" (3)

Guyer

Limit 50

The root of evil? The passing "stranger?" The proof of virtue? Money has been accorded many roles and meanings, in exchange and as wealth, across society and history. The course combines ethnographic, comparative and historical study with research on responses to our present crisis.

MW 12:00-1:15 PM

AS.070.327 (H,S,W) "Poverty's life: Anthropology of Health and Economy" (3)

Han

Limit 45

Medicine, economics, and ethics have profoundly shaped debates on poverty. This course analyzes these debates and tracks the relationships between body, economy, and the everyday. How can anthropological reasoning and methods inform approaches to health and economic scarcity and insecurity?

Cross-listed with: Public Health Studies

T/TH 9:00-10:15AM

AS.070.368 (H,S,W) "Modern South Asia: Political Culture in Pakistan" (3)

Khan

Limit 25

Pakistan ranks among one of the most politically distressed countries at present. The Pakistani state is considered to be in crisis. Its civil society is considered to be non-existent. Through films, ethnographies, novels, and histories we will see how Pakistanis comment upon their situation. In the process we will see how a political culture endures. Cross list with international studies and political science

M 1:30-4:00 PM

Graduate Courses

070.616 "Proseminar"

Khan

The topic for this year's proseminar is 'seasons.' We take up for consideration the themes of ecology, weather, disasters, and senses of place within the archives of anthropology. This conversation will take place against the backdrop of time more generally conceptualized.

F 2:30-4:30 PM

070.617 "Methods"

Han

Time, Movement, Relation: This course will take the themes of time, movement, and relation as a lenses through which we analyze ethnographic methods and interpretation. Particular attention will be paid to the relationship between method and conceptual claims across diverse anthropological works.

M 4:00-6:00 PM

070.655 "The Place of Law"

Poole

This course explores the intimate relationship of law to place. What affective force does law gain through its appeal to origins and custom? How does law invoke belonging as place?

Th 10:30 AM-12:30 PM

070.659 "Proposal Writing"

Obarrio

This seminar will offer a forum for students to discuss research projects, prepare grant proposals and think further about issues of ethnographic methodology and writing.

Open to anthropology graduate students only.

Th 4:00-6:00PM

070.663 "Semiotics"

Haeri

A close reading of some of the major figures in the history of semiotics. We will learn to carry out semiotic analysis on linguistic texts and then examine other kinds of texts available in popular culture.

F 12:00-2:00 PM

Approved Cross-listed Courses

WGS

360.206 "State and Family: Revisiting the Classical Perspective" (3)

Maunaguru

This course will examine the intersections between state and family. It will provide an introduction to debates about the –often contested– meaning of family, while paying special attention to the debates on social and sexual contracts and the manner in which these ideas impact on contemporary families.

360.233 "Feminist & Queer Theory" (3)

Goodfellow

This course explores concepts foundational to the development of feminist and queer theory. The class provides the necessary tools to continue future scholarly work in gender and sexuality studies.

PLAS

361.325 (W) "Cinema, Expression and Social Life in Contemporary Latin America" (3)

Rojas-Perez

Through viewings of recent and classic films focusing on violence and intimacy, this class explores how cinema documents and expresses the limits and possibilities of social life in contemporary Latin America.

Near Eastern Studies

130.110 "Intro to Archaeology" (3)

Schwartz

130.177 "World Prehistory" (3)

Batiuk

Humanities Center

300.685 "Seriousness and Sincerity in the Work of J.L. Austin, Stanley Cavell and Jacques Derrida"

de Vries

Museums & Society

389.201 "Introduction to the Museum: Past and Present"

Rodini

Musicology at Peabody Conservatory

PY.610.692 "Sound Travels: Mozart to .mp3's"

Birenbaum Quintero

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00-12:20

Peabody Conservatory: Rymland Room

Music has been on the move for as long as humans have been making it, accompanying the travels of warriors, merchants, and missionaries who have left in their wake hybrid forms from Indian brass bands to Mozart's Turkish marches. The successive development of new technologies, economic systems, and networks of musical exchange, from the printing press to the .mp3 have only intensified the speed and unpredictability with which music moves. But musical movement does not just happen spontaneously; rather, it is the product of technology, economics, colonialism, labor, law, and political and cultural hierarchies. How does musical meaning change across cultural lines? What are the ethics of appropriating other musical forms? What is the attraction of exoticism? How do technologies of musical circulation shape our experiences of producing and consuming music? What do current legal and economic changes in music distribution mean for the future of music? These issues can be addressed by looking at various case studies – electronic sampling of Micronesian music, Brazilian musicians who pirate their own recordings, Renaissance Venetian music printing, West Africans adopting Afro-Cuban music to transcend ethnic sectarianism, white listeners to black radio in 1950s America, amateur music like karaoke and Victorian brass bands, and the rise and fall of Napster. This course will examine case studies of musical movement, touching on the theme of "connection" by addressing the kinds of alliances, misinterpretations, and reconfigurations to which they give rise, in order to rethink the role of music in everyday life and in the constitution of society here in the U.S. and around the world.