

Anthropology

Professor Paul Axelrod (Chair);

Associate Professor Emily M. Stovel (on leave spring 2010);

Visiting Assistant Professor William T. Whitehead

Adjunct Scholar John H. Steinbring

Departmental Mission Statement Anthropology studies the human experience in a broad framework of time, space, biology and culture. The global, comparative, and holistic approach equips the student with intellectual and practical tools for understanding the past and contemporary world systems.

Anthropology emphasizes the study of human biological and cultural evolution and uses a holistic and comparative approach in the study of cultural diversity. Regardless of your career goals, a demonstrated anthropological emphasis (in the form of a major, a double major in another department, or a minor) indicates a commitment to diversity and intercultural communication. Anthropology and archaeology offer exciting career opportunities for the student interested in travel, social justice and working with people. Anthropology courses are also fundamental to a well-rounded teaching degree in broad social studies certification. Please speak with the Education Department for further details.

Communicating Plus: Anthropology. Students completing a major in Anthropology develop skills in the four Communicating Plus areas – written communication, oral communication, critical thinking and problem solving – in required and elective course work in the discipline. The Anthropology major is based on a sequence of courses that emphasize the staged development of skills and abilities. As students complete required course work in 100 and 200 level courses, they are developing skills that will be used for more sophisticated analysis, problem-solving, and presentation of information and theoretical perspectives in 300 level elective courses and the senior seminar research project. Graduates of this program will have had many and varied opportunities to present their ideas in written and oral forms. They will also have had many opportunities to engage in the kinds of discussions, debates, hands-on-learning activities, data analysis, and research through which anthropologists attempt to integrate humanistic, scientific and social scientific perspectives to address human problems.

Requirements for a major in anthropology: Thirty-two credits. Required courses are Anthropology 110, 213, 214, and 402. At least 12 credits must be at the 300 level and above. No more than one course in independent study may be applied toward the major.

Requirements for a minor in anthropology: Twenty credits in anthropology including 110, 213, 214, and at least one course at the 300 level or above.

110. The Human Experience:

Staff

How To Think Anthropologically

Four credits.

Introduction to cultures around the world and the principle methods and concepts used in their study. Anthropology involves the holistic study of human life on earth, including economic, social, religious, political, and symbolic systems. Students will explore such diversity through films, workshops, and ethnographies. Counts toward the Global and Cultural Studies requirement.

116. Practicum in Anthropology

Staff

One to three credits.

An opportunity for students to perform independent work on a topic of interest under the supervision of a faculty member. *Prerequisite: Consent of the department chair and the faculty tutor.*

213. Human Origins

Axelrod

Four credits.

The study of human evolution and the development of the capacity for culture. The course covers evolutionary principles, the fossil record of human evolution, primate behavior, human variation, and the question of race. *Prerequisite: Anthropology 110 or consent of the instructor.*

214. Dust, Pots, and Empires:

Staff

How to do Archaeology

Four credits. Offered every spring.

Students are introduced to the content and methods of modern archaeological analysis. Topics include the development of cultural chronologies and archaeological cultures and thematic analyses of the many material and cultural components of archaeological investigation. Students watch films,

experience hands-on workshops in material culture analysis, and examine world prehistory. Lectures and laboratory work. *Prerequisite: Anthropology 110 or consent of the instructor.*

216. Archaeological Methods

Whitehead

Four credits.

A hands-on introduction to archaeological methods. Students will explore the concepts and techniques of archaeological field and laboratory research. Topics covered will include mapping, surveying, excavation, artifact and material analysis, and model building. *Prerequisite: Anthropology 110 or consent of the instructor.*

217. Archaeological Laboratory Techniques

Stovel

Four credits.

A hands-on introduction to the cataloging, illustration, analysis, and conservation of archaeological artifacts in the laboratory. Artifacts excavated from local archaeological sites will be used as study material, so students will also gain some understanding of the material culture of ancient and historic North America. *Prerequisite: Anthropology 110.*

219. Archeological Field School

Stovel

Three or four credits. A Maymester course. Not offered in 2009.

This is a three-week course designed to familiarize the student with basic survey and excavation procedures. It includes attention to artifact identification, recording, cleaning, processing, labeling, cataloging, and description. *Prerequisite: Anthropology 110 or consent of the instructor.*

222. Anthropology and Contemporary Global Issues

Axelrod

Four credits.

An analysis of the impact of global changes on societies in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Pacific Islands. The course will address the following issues: the spread of global capitalism, modernization, urbanization, poverty, detribalization, terrorism, disease, cultural survival, and immigration. Counts toward the Global and Cultural Studies requirement. *Prerequisite: Anthropology 110 or consent of the instructor.*

224. Gender Roles in Culture

Axelrod

Four credits.

An examination of the relationship between gender and culture. The course considers the definition of masculine and feminine roles in different cultures and the reasons for their origin. Counts toward the Global and Cultural Studies requirement. *Prerequisite: Anthropology 110 or consent of the instructor.*

226. Indians of North America

Axelrod

Four credits.

A survey of the native peoples and cultures of North America from the time of European contact. The course considers environmental adaptations, political and economic systems, and the impact of European ideas, policies, and technologies on native peoples of North America. Counts toward the Global and Cultural Studies requirement. *Prerequisite: Anthropology 110 or consent of the instructor.*

227. Society in India

Axelrod

Four credits.

The transformation of culture and society on the Indian subcontinent since prehistoric times. The course examines the caste system, Hinduism, tribal and village structure, and the social changes influenced by colonialism, urbanization and modernization in contemporary India. Counts toward the Global and Cultural Studies requirement. *Prerequisite: Anthropology 110 or consent of the instructor.*

230. Tombs, Temples and Llamas: Archaeology in Latin America

Stovel

Four credits.

An introduction to the archaeology of Latin America, including the Andes and Mesoamerica. Students will learn about the principal prehistoric cultures of the region and recent historic work. The course will also consider the role of archaeology in various nation-building processes, the political uses of archaeology, and the use of the past in current indigenous and human rights debates. Counts toward the Global and Cultural Studies requirement. *Prerequisite: Anthropology 110 or consent of the instructor.*

300. Departmental Studies:

Staff

Four credits.

Special subjects in anthropology not covered by regular courses. Topics are announced as courses are offered. This course may be repeated for credit when topics change. Some topics may count toward the Global and Cultural Studies requirement. *Prerequisites: Anthropology 110 or consent of the instructor.*

313. The Anthropology of Death**Staff**

Four credits.

An exploration of the diverse ways that cultures approach and commemorate death, dying, and the afterlife. The relationship between funerary practices and gender roles, economics, socio-political structure, and ideological concerns are emphasized. Topics discussed include the notion of good and bad death, taboos surrounding the corpse, death as a rite of passage, and the association of mortality with fertility. Counts toward the Global and Cultural Studies requirement. *Prerequisite: Anthropology 110 or consent of the instructor.*

314. Religion, Magic, and Witchcraft**Axelrod**

Four credits.

The role of the sacred in cultural systems. Topics include: the relationship of belief systems and rituals to other aspects of culture; the differences and similarities between magic, religion, witchcraft, and mythology; the development of religious systems; religion as a form of symbolic communication; and cults in the modern world. Counts toward the Global and Cultural Studies requirement. *Prerequisite: Two courses in anthropology or consent of the instructor.*

316. The Nature of Culture**Axelrod**

Four credits.

The study of anthropological views of culture. The course includes the study of ethnographic and theoretical works representing the major approaches of contemporary anthropology. *Prerequisite: Two courses in anthropology or consent of the instructor.*

318. Ecological Anthropology**Whitehead**

Four credits.

An overview of anthropological approaches to human and cultural ecology, as well as the varied means by which human groups adapt to and modify their environments. Selected topics include the adaptations of foraging groups, horticultural and agricultural peoples, and pastoralists; the problems of defining nature (and what is 'natural'); and the relationship between ideology and human adaptations. Counts toward the Global and Cultural Studies requirement. *Prerequisite: Anthropology 110 or consent of the instructor.*

321. Activist Anthropology**Stovel**

Four credits.

This course explores the use of anthropology to respond to activist questions. Students will write an analytical paper that looks at a social issue from an anthropological perspective. The class will also discuss effective oral presentation methods and explore the ethical ramifications of social science research. Counts toward the Global and Cultural Studies Requirement. *Prerequisite: Anthropology 110 or on sent of the instructor.*

323. Topics in Archaeology**Stovel**

Four credits.

Special subjects in archaeology not covered by regular courses. Topics are announced as courses are offered. This course may be repeated for credit when topics change. Some topics may count toward the Global and Cultural Studies requirement. *Prerequisite: Anthropology 110 or consent of the instructor.*

325. Advanced Museum Studies**Stovel**

Four credits.

This course provides students with an advanced grounding in the theoretical, ethical, and practical concerns of Museum Studies. In particular, it provides students with an introduction to conservation methods and the politics of display. Students will be asked to participate in the conservation and reorganization of various Ripon College archaeological and historical collections, write short research papers, and develop ideas for future displays on campus. There will be an additional service learning option in the areas of education or public promotion of local history. *Prerequisite: Sophomore standing or higher.*

330. Constructing Latin America: Identity and Society**Stovel**

Four credits.

This course explores conflicting images of Latin America as represented in novels, news media, films, critical theory and the social sciences. It has two basic goals: 1) introduce students to contemporary fiction from Latin America as a tool for critically evaluating North American representations of other nations; and 2) consider themes such as identity, economic inequality, democratization and globalization in Latin America from literary sources. Counts toward the Global and Cultural Studies requirement. *Prerequisite: Anthropology 110 or consent of the instructor.*

333. The Anthropology of Contemporary American Culture **Axelrod**

Four credits.

The study of North American culture is anthropology's greatest challenge and promise. The course considers the relevance of anthropological techniques for the study of North America's complex multicultural society through analyses of case studies. A second goal of the course is to apply anthropological techniques, research paradigms, and analytic techniques to local student-designed research projects.

402. Seminar in Anthropological Method and Theory **Staff**

Four credits.

Selected topics in anthropology. Emphasis is placed on method, theory, and inference. Students will prepare research papers related to specific problems considered each year. Required of all anthropology majors, this course may be repeated for credit when topics differ. *Prerequisite: Open to junior and senior anthropology majors and minors. Other juniors and seniors may be admitted with the consent of the instructor.*

541, 542. Independent Study **Staff**

Two to four credits each semester.

Supervised investigation related to the student's area of advanced concentration. The course is designed to promote independent scholarship.

Prerequisite: Open to senior majors with consent of the department chair.

551, 552. Independent Study: Internship **Staff**

One to five credits each semester.

Supervised field or laboratory work in an area of anthropology of special interest to the student. Participants are expected to produce a narrative or exhibit in which they reflect on their activities. *Prerequisite: 12 credits of anthropology or permission of the supervisor.*