Anthropology (ANT)

Anthropology (ANT) Courses

ANT 1013. Introduction to Anthropology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours. (TCCN = ANTH 2302)
This course presents basic anthropological concepts and specific archaeological methods and theories. Emphasis is placed on cultural responses to colonization and the importance of the archaeological record in understanding past cultures. The course fulfills all required learning objectives for the Social and Behavioral Sciences component of the core curriculum. Generally offered: Fall, Spring.

ANT 2053. Introduction to Cultural Anthropology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours. (TCCN = ANTH 2351)
This course offers students the opportunity to examine cross-cultural variation in contemporary societies around the world in an anthropological context. It emphasizes ethnographic descriptions to highlight cultural variability in economic, social, political, and ideological contexts. The course fulfills all required learning objectives for the Social and Behavioral Sciences component of the core curriculum. Generally offered: Fall, Spring.

ANT 2063. Language, Thought, and Culture. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
This course surveys anthropological approaches to the cross-cultural study of language, emphasizing links among language, expressive culture, systems of belief and value, and the production of cultural meaning. The effects of social context upon speech are examined as are relations of inequality and power that shape linguistic interaction. Instruction is also given in the fundamentals of descriptive linguistics. The course fulfills all required learning objectives for the Language, Philosophy, and Culture component of the core curriculum. Generally offered: Fall, Spring.

ANT 3013. Evolutionary Medicine. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
This course incorporates principles from evolutionary theory into our understanding of various diseases common to human populations both past and present. Topics include the evolutionary origins and histories of common infectious diseases; the evolution of virulence and antimicrobial resistance; vaccine development and controversies; comparative immunology; the origins of allergy, asthma, and autoimmune disorders; and the evolutionary biology of stress and mental health. The course fulfills all required learning objectives for the Social and Behavioral Sciences component of the core curriculum. Generally offered: Fall, Spring, Summer.

ANT 3023. Great Discoveries in Archaeology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
This course surveys some of the greatest discoveries made by archaeologists in the last 300 years. Specific archaeological sites and finds illustrate the process of archaeological interpretation and provide insight into past cultures. It will also be particularly useful for those interested in health professions.

ANT 3133. Ritual and Symbol. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: ANT 1013 or ANT 2053 recommended. This course critically examines ritual and symbolism in various cultural contexts. Topics may include the origins and development of the native cultures of South America, and their relationships to the cultural areas of Central America and the Caribbean.

ANT 3223. Anthropology and the Environment. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: ANT 1013 or ANT 2053 recommended. This course will critically examine pseudoscience, cult archaeology, and creationism from a scientific perspective. The careful assessment of particular case studies will demonstrate how a strong adherence to professional archaeological methods can uncover facts about the past that are as interesting as myth.

ANT 3233. Frauds, Myths, and Mysteries. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
This course explores the origins and development of the native cultures of South America, their relationships to the cultural areas of Central America and the Caribbean. Emphasis is placed on the variety of cultural forms and cultural evolution. The course fulfills all required learning objectives for the Social and Behavioral Sciences component of the core curriculum.
ANT 3263. Archaeology of North America. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.  
Prerequisite: ANT 1013 or ANT 2043 recommended. Survey of  
prehistoric cultures in North America from earliest times to historic  
contact. May include discussion of Ice Age mammoth hunters, Eastern  
mound-building cultures, Southwestern pueblo cultures, and Plains bison  
hunters. Chronology, sites, settlement and subsistence patterns, and  
recent research issues may be considered.

ANT 3273. Civilizations of Mexico. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.  
Prerequisite: ANT 1013 or ANT 2043 recommended. Examination  
of the development of the ancient civilizations of Mexico and Central  
America: Olmec, Teotihuacan, Toltec, Aztec, and Zapotec, among others.  
Insights will be drawn from archaeological data, art, hieroglyphic writing,  
ethnographic accounts, and Colonial Period documents. (Formerly titled  
"Ancient Civilizations of Mesoamerica.").

ANT 3293. Analytical Methods in Anthropology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.  
Prerequisites: Completion of Core Curriculum requirement in  
mathematics recommended; ANT 2043 or ANT 2053 recommended.  
Qualitative and quantitative analysis and computer applications as used  
in anthropological research.

ANT 3303. Nature and Culture in Greater Amazonia. (3-0) 3 Credit  
Hours.  
Prerequisite: ANT 1013 or ANT 2053 recommended. This course  
examines the historical and contemporary situations of the indigenous  
peoples of lowland South America, focusing specifically on the Amazon  
Basin. Consideration will be given to classical ethnographic monographs  
as well as accounts of the political and ecological challenges that  
currently face the inhabitants of Greater Amazonia.

ANT 3333. Human Adaptability. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.  
Prerequisite: ANT 1013 or ANT 2033 recommended. Examines the  
biological variability of living populations; includes genetics, anatomy,  
demography, and change within a physical anthropology framework.  
(Formerly titled "Physical Anthropology of Human Populations.").

ANT 3343. The Contemporary Pacific. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.  
Prerequisite: ANT 1013 or ANT 2053 recommended. This course  
examines the geography, prehistory, colonial contact and contemporary  
society in the Pacific Islands. Drawing on case studies from Hawaii  
to Papua New Guinea, emphasis is placed on ethnography and the  
contribution of the area to anthropological thought.

ANT 3363. Indians of Mesoamerica. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.  
Prerequisite: ANT 1013 or ANT 2053 recommended. Survey of the  
indigenous peoples of Mexico and Central America, including Maya,  
Zapotec, Mixtec, and Nahua (Aztec) cultures, from before the Spanish  
conquest to the present. The course emphasizes interactions between  
native peoples and the Spanish colonial and modern national regimes  
and processes of culture change.

ANT 3383. Folklore and Folklife. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.  
Prerequisite: ANT 1013 or ANT 2053 recommended. Examines  
vernacular arts, crafts, and customs and their function in the maintenance  
of group identity. National, regional, ethnic, and occupational traditions  
are investigated. Attention is given to texts such as legends, myths, and  
ballads, as well as folk performance, clothing, architecture, and foodways.

ANT 3403. Field Course in Archaeology. (0-0) 3 Credit Hours.  
Prerequisites: Upper-division standing, consent of instructor, and at  
least one previous anthropology or archaeology course. Offers the  
opportunity to gain intensive training in archaeological field methods:  
evacuation, site survey, mapping, sampling, and interpretation. Additional  
fees are required. May be repeated for credit with advisor's permission,  
but not more than 6 semester credit hours may be applied to a major in  
anthropology.

ANT 3406. Field Course in Archaeology. (0-0) 6 Credit Hours.  
Prerequisites: Upper-division standing, consent of instructor, and at  
least one previous anthropology or archaeology course. Offers the  
opportunity to gain intensive training in archaeological field methods:  
evacuation, site survey, mapping, sampling, and interpretation. Additional  
fees are required. May be repeated for credit with advisor's permission,  
but not more than 6 semester credit hours may be applied to a major in  
anthropology. Generally offered: Summer.

ANT 3413. The Ethnographic Experience. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.  
Drawing upon the ethnographic experiences of current and historical  
anthropologists, this course explores field research in cultural  
anthropology. Ethnographic methods and techniques are discussed,  
with emphasis on theoretical and ethical considerations. Students may  
engage in short-term ethnographic projects.

ANT 3503. Human Origins. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.  
Prerequisite: ANT 1013 or ANT 2033 recommended. The fossil record  
of human emergence and comparative studies of human evolution.  
Evolution of social organization, technology, and language development  
to the end of the Ice Age.

ANT 3513. The Human Skeleton. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.  
Prerequisite: ANT 1013 or ANT 2033 recommended. Students are given  
the opportunity to develop skills in the study and analysis of human  
osteological remains. Applications of skeletal analysis in a variety of  
fields are considered, including physical anthropology and archaeological  
demography.

ANT 3523. Medical Anthropology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.  
Prerequisite: ANT 1013, ANT 2033, or ANT 2053 recommended. This  
course explores primary concepts and research questions in medical  
anthropology by looking at how humans experience and understand  
health, illness, and healing. Theoretical and methodological approaches  
will be considered using case studies, with an emphasis on the potential  
that medical anthropologists have to improve health and wellbeing.

ANT 3543. Museum Studies in Anthropology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.  
Prerequisite: ANT 1013, ANT 2043, or ANT 2053 recommended. By  
studying the nature and functioning of museums, past and present, this  
course will explore major controversies and debates about the politics  
of memory and visual display. Particular emphasis will be placed upon  
the role of anthropologists and archaeologists in museum contexts.  
Methodologically, the course will provide an overview of techniques used  
in exhibition planning and design as well as in collections management.

ANT 3603. Sex, Gender, and Culture. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.  
Prerequisite: ANT 1013 or ANT 2033 recommended. Examination of the  
biological and cultural sources of differences between men and women.

ANT 3713. Anthropology of Material Culture. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.  
Prerequisite: ANT 2043 or ANT 2053 recommended. This course surveys  
the role of material culture in human social systems of the past and  
present. Archaeological, historical, and ethnographic case studies are  
used to illustrate how the material world is variously woven into the fabric  
of culture. (Formerly titled “Material Culture Systems.”).
The question of whether great apes exhibit culture is also approached to understanding the biological variation within this primate morphological adaptations. This course focuses on the major theoretical Modern apes show considerable diversity in their behavioral and ANT 3853. Modern Ape Behavior and Ecology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.

ANT 3833 and ANT 4133.)

Prerequisite: ANT 1013 recommended. Ethnological survey of the Indian populations of Texas from the early historic period to the present. (Formerly ANT 4133. Credit cannot be earned for both ANT 3833 and ANT 4133.)

ANT 3843. Introduction to Primate Diversity. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.

This course offers a broad survey of the social behavior and ecology of the living primates. It begins with a survey of primate taxonomy, drawing distinctions among prosimians, monkeys, and apes. The course concludes with consideration of what the study of nonhuman primates can tell us about human evolution.

ANT 3853. Modern Ape Behavior and Ecology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.

Modern apes show considerable diversity in their behavioral and morphological adaptations. This course focuses on the major theoretical approaches to understanding the biological variation within this primate group. The question of whether great apes exhibit culture is also discussed.

ANT 3863. The Evolution of Human Nature. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.

A central concept in the evolution of human behavior is the idea that our brains, like our bodies, have been shaped by natural selection. The extent to which this factor influences the diverse behavior of modern humans is a topic of considerable debate. This course takes a critical look at different attempts to explain human behavior based on adaptive design.

ANT 3873. Food, Culture, and Society. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.

This course explores the relationship between food and culture in diverse societies by examining food, food practices, and production, as well as the meanings associated with food. Topics include issues of identity, class, food habits, global food systems, and world hunger. Generally offered: Summer.

ANT 3883. Death and Dying. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.

Prerequisite: ANT 1013, ANT 2043, or ANT 2053 recommended. Cross-cultural approaches to death, dying, and bereavement with a focus on either contemporary or prehistoric cultures depending on instructor's emphasis. When exploring contemporary cultures, attention will be given to the emotional, social and ethical issues of dying, and the social organization of death and dying. When exploring prehistoric groups, attention will be given to conceptualizing death through diverse funerary practices, body treatment of the deceased, and religious principles involved with death. In both cases, the course seeks to provide a comparative understanding of death and its wider social implications. May be repeated once with advisor's approval when topic varies.

ANT 3893. Primate Ecology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.

Nonhuman primates in their natural habitats, including biogeography, feeding and ranging behavior, structure and social organization of groups in relation to environment, and primate as members of communities.

ANT 3903. Introduction to Linguistics. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.

Basic principles of analysis and description of the structure of language, including sound system, word order, and meaning. Also, overview of selected subfields of linguistics, such as historical linguistics, sociolinguistics, language acquisition, and bilingualism. (Same as ENG 3343 and LNG 3813. Credit cannot be earned for more than one of these courses.)

ANT 3933. Anthropology of Superheroes. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.

This course will examine the world of superheroes as both an imagined universe and a fan culture. Superheroes are not simply characters in illustrated books, but reflections of our own ideas about what it does and does not mean to be human, offering dystopic/utopic reflections of our own reality and imagined future. Ultimately, our goal is to discover what an anthropology of superheroes potentially can be. The course will delve into classic anthropological concepts including: Gender, Ethnicity, Nature vs. Culture, Utopia/Dystopia, media studies, ritual, creativity, etc. while considering comic and real world superheroes.

ANT 4013. Maya Civilization. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.

Prerequisite: ANT 1013 or ANT 2043 recommended. Examination of the development of Maya civilization in Mexico and Central America. Insights will be drawn from archaeological data, art, hieroglyphic writing, ethnohistoric accounts, and Colonial Period documents.

ANT 4023. Histories of Anthropology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.

Prerequisite: ANT 2033, ANT 2043, ANT 2053, or ANT 2063 recommended. This course examines the history of anthropology as a distinct field, including considerations of historical figures, institutions and relationships among subfields. Emphasis will be placed on changes in theoretical and methodological orientations as they emerge in specific historical contexts.
ANT 4113. Archaeology of Texas. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: ANT 2043 or ANT 3263 recommended. Detailed review of prehistoric and historic aboriginal cultures of Texas and adjacent areas; current trends in Texas archaeology; examination of artifacts; and field trips to local prehistoric sites.

ANT 4123. Archaeology of the American Southwest. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: ANT 2043 or ANT 3263 recommended. Consideration of the prehistoric cultures in the American Southwest and northern Mexico from the earliest occupations to European contact. Paleo-Indian, Archaic, Mogollon, Anasazi, and Hohokam occupations are reviewed with a consideration of recent research directions and theory.

ANT 4143. Primate Feeding Biology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: ANT 2033, ANT 3843, or ANT 3893 recommended. An investigation into the ecology and evolution of wild primate feeding biology and nutrition. Topics include primate-plant interactions, nutritional requirements, plant defensive chemistry, foraging theory, sensory ecology, evolution of body size and its implications for feeding, and evolution of primate feeding-related anatomy.

ANT 4233. Conservation of Primates in Global Perspective. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: ANT 2033 or ANT 3843 recommended. Analysis of the conservation status of the world’s nonhuman primates, and the specific threats to their survival. Includes examination of issues relating to the anthropology of conservation, such as human-nonhuman primate resource competition, anthropogenic habitat alteration related to land use and development, and efforts to achieve community-based conservation.

ANT 4243. Ethnographic Film. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: ANT 1013 or ANT 2053 recommended. Critique of major ethnographic films, concentrating on field methodology, production values, and the issue of representation.

ANT 4263. Anthropology of Globalization and Development. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: ANT 1013 or ANT 2053 recommended. Anthropological perspectives on the nature, causes, and consequences of social and cultural change, with an emphasis on how local cultures are shaped by and resist the process of globalization and development. (Formerly titled “Social and Cultural Change”.)

ANT 4273. The Anthropology of Oil. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: ANT 1013 or ANT 2053 recommended. This course explores the social, cultural, and political-economic significance of oil, the most important industrial commodity of the world. Case studies will be drawn from books, articles, and films that describe the importance of oil at the level of its production, distribution, and consumption in the United States and around the world.

ANT 4303. Water, Sustainability, and Health. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Drawing on environmental and medical anthropology, this course explores how anthropologists study issues related to water, sustainability, and health and how these are shaped by political, economic, and ecologic factors over time. This course introduces students to several of the key theoretical frameworks through which anthropologists examine struggles around water and the human consequences of water scarcity.

ANT 4333. Ecology and Evolution of Human Diseases. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: ANT 2033 recommended. Ecological, evolutionary, and biocultural aspects of human disease. Topics include the ecology of infectious/parasitic disease pathogens and their human hosts, the evolution of human host-pathogen interactions, the impact of cultural and demographic change in human populations, and the effects of global environmental change on human disease patterns. Generally offered: Spring.

ANT 4363. Primate Evolutionary Biology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: ANT 2033 or consent of Instructor. This course evaluates the evolutionary history of the nonhuman primates. Examination will include information gained from fossil and genetic data as well as from modern phylogenetic methods.

ANT 4433. One Health: Global Health and Conservation Medicine. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
A One Health perspective explores the deep connections between human health, the health of wildlife and livestock, and the ecosystems we share. This course examines the complex environmental causes of infectious diseases, the ecological and population factors responsible for the emergence and spread of infectious diseases in humans and nonhuman animals, the roles of zoonotic diseases in human health, and the importance of community-based conservation medicine in addressing the spread of infectious diseases.

ANT 4911. Independent Study. (0-0) 1 Credit Hour.
Prerequisites: Permission in writing (form available) from the instructor, the student’s advisor, the Department Chair, and Dean of the College in which the course is offered. Independent reading, research, discussion, and/or writing under the direction of a faculty member. May be repeated for credit, but not more than 6 semester credit hours of independent study, regardless of discipline, will apply to a bachelor’s degree.

ANT 4912. Independent Study. (0-0) 2 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: Permission in writing (form available) from the instructor, the student’s advisor, the Department Chair, and Dean of the College in which the course is offered. Independent reading, research, discussion, and/or writing under the direction of a faculty member. May be repeated for credit, but not more than 6 semester credit hours of independent study, regardless of discipline, will apply to a bachelor’s degree.

ANT 4913. Independent Study. (0-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: Permission in writing (form available) from the instructor, the student’s advisor, the Department Chair, and Dean of the College in which the course is offered. Independent reading, research, discussion, and/or writing under the direction of a faculty member. May be repeated for credit, but not more than 6 semester credit hours of independent study, regardless of discipline, will apply to a bachelor’s degree.

ANT 4933. Internship in Anthropology. (0-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: Consent of internship coordinator. Supervised experience relevant to anthropology within selected community organizations. A maximum of 6 semester credit hours may be earned through Internship in Anthropology. Must be taken on a credit/no-credit basis.

ANT 4936. Internship in Anthropology. (0-0) 6 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: Consent of internship coordinator. Supervised experience relevant to anthropology within selected community organizations. A maximum of 6 semester credit hours may be earned through Internship in Anthropology. Must be taken on a credit/no-credit basis.
ANT 4953. Special Studies in Anthropology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
An organized course offering the opportunity for specialized study not normally or not often available as part of the regular course offerings. Special Studies may be repeated for credit when the topics vary, but not more than 6 semester credit hours, regardless of discipline, will apply to a bachelor’s degree.

ANT 4973. Seminar in Anthropology. (3-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisite: Junior or senior standing as an anthropology major. A seminar reserved for anthropology majors during their junior or senior year. Areas of significant new research in each subfield of the discipline will be reviewed in conjunction with individualized research projects.

ANT 4983. Anthropology Honors Research. (0-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: Enrollment limited to candidates for Department Honors during their last two semesters; approval of the Department faculty. Supervised individual research and preparation of a major paper in support of Department Honors. May be repeated once with advisor’s approval.

ANT 4993. Honors Thesis. (0-0) 3 Credit Hours.
Prerequisites: Enrollment limited to candidates for University Honors in Anthropology during their last two semesters; and consent of the Honors College. Supervised research and preparation of an honors thesis. May be repeated once with advisor’s approval.