

Anthropology

The anthropology major and minor are administered by the Department of Sociology and Anthropology: Professors Battaglia, Lass, Morgan; Associate Professor Roth; and Five College Assistant Professor Klarich.

Contact Persons

Susan Martin, *senior administrative assistant*
Eleanor Townsley, *chair, fall 2011*
Joshua Roth, *chair, spring 2012*

Anthropology at Mount Holyoke College is devoted to the study of human cultural diversity through time and around the world. The approach is cross-cultural, the perspective non-ethnocentric. The analytic tools will help students make sense of the human condition no matter how familiar or foreign it may seem. Our courses are designed to expose students to a variety of cultures and introduce them to the different topics, theories, and methods of the discipline of anthropology.

Requirements for the Major

Credits

- A minimum of 32 credits in anthropology
- 12 credits at the 300 level

Courses

- 105, Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
- 235, Development of Anthropological Thought (*or* Sociology 223, Development of Social Thought)
- 275, Doing Ethnography: Research Methods in Anthropology
- 350, Issues in Contemporary Anthropological Theory
- One cultural area course

The cultural area requirement can be fulfilled in various ways:

1. An area course in anthropology
2. Studies abroad

3. Foreign language through two semesters at the intermediate level
4. An area course in another discipline

Only Option 1 (area course in anthropology) provides academic credit towards the major. The others satisfy the cultural area requirement and perhaps credit towards graduation but not credit towards the 32 required for the major. Discuss your options in advance with your advisor to be sure credit will transfer.

Note: Anthropology 295, 390, or 395 do not count toward the requirements of courses in the major at the 200 and 300 level.

Requirements for the Minor

Credits

A minimum of 20 credits in anthropology, including:

- 105, Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
- 4 credits at the 300 level (cannot be fulfilled by 395)
- 12 additional credits above the 100 level

Course Offerings

105fs Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

Introduces the analysis of cultural diversity, including concepts, methods, and purposes in interpreting social, economic, political, and belief systems found in human societies.

Meets multicultural requirement; meets Social Sciences III-A requirement

D. Battaglia, A. Lass, S. Hermez
4 credits

207s Peoples of the South Pacific

This course emphasizes the social and cultural diversity of peoples in Polynesia, Micronesia, Melanesia, and Australia. Special attention is given to social relationships, political economies, ritual, and religious practices in modernity.

Meets multicultural requirement; meets Social Sciences III-A requirement

D. Battaglia

Prereq. Anthropology 105; 4 credits

216f Special Topics in Anthropology: Archaeology of Food

This course explores the study of ancient foodways with a focus on how and why humans across the globe began to domesticate plant and animal resources approximately 10,000 years ago. The first half of the course presents the types of archaeological data and analytical methods used to study the “agricultural revolution” in a variety of regions. The second half explores a number of themes within the archaeology of food that investigate the relationship between agriculture and sedentism, food and gender, the politics of feasting, and methods for integrating archaeological and ethnographic approaches to the study of food.

Meets Social Sciences III-A requirement

E. Klarich

Prereq. Anthropology 105; 4 credits

222f Making Class Visible

This course examines questions of social class within the Mount Holyoke community, at critical intersections with race, gender, and disability. Drawing upon readings in anthropology and film studies that critique the notion of a homogeneous “community” and offer alternative theoretical models, students will focus reflexively on three projects: the co-production of an ethnographic film, the creation of an advertising campaign for the film, creation of a website, for extending the conversation about class. Among the questions we explore at all three sites are: What is your idea of work? Where and when do you notice class? Is class a topic of conversation and/or storytelling in your family?

Meets Social Sciences III-A requirement

D. Battaglia

Prereq. Anthropology 105; 1 meeting (2.75 hours) plus screenings and production time to be arranged; 4 credits

226fs Research Seminar in Sociology and Anthropology

(Same as Sociology 226) This seminar meets to discuss practical issues in doing research in anthropology and sociology. Depending on student interest, activities could include reading field notes, narrative analysis of texts, survey design, coding and measurement of

quantitative variables, and/or visual analysis. Students might think about how to develop a class paper into an independent study, how to organize research for a thesis, or how to make sense of research and internship experience off-campus or during study abroad.

Does not meet a distribution requirement

M. McKeever, E. Townsley, L. Morgan

Prereq. 8 credits in Anthropology or Sociology; 2 credits

230s Language in Culture and Society

Every society is held together by systems of interpersonal and institutional communication. This course examines the nature of communication codes, including those based on language (speaking and writing) and those based on visual images (art, advertising, television). To understand communication in its social and historical dimensions, we study the psychological and cultural impact of media revolutions and then look at ways communication systems manipulate individual consciousness. Illustrative examples are drawn from Western and non-Western societies.

Meets multicultural requirement; meets Social Sciences III-A requirement

A. Lass

Prereq. Anthropology 105; 4 credits

240f Medical Anthropology

Biocultural aspects of disease and healing are examined through case studies of nonindustrialized societies, including the relationship between malaria and sickle cell anemia in West Africa and ritual cannibalism, AIDS, and a degenerative nervous-system disorder (kuru) in highland New Guinea. This course surveys the cultural construction of suffering and healing, the medicalization of human social problems, and inequities in the distribution of disease and therapy.

Meets multicultural requirement; meets Social Sciences III-A requirement

L. Morgan

Prereq. Anthropology 105; 4 credits

275s Research Methods in Cultural Anthropology

This course examines anthropological fieldwork techniques, including interviewing and participant observation, as well as qualitative approaches to the analysis of cultural data.

Topics include cross-cultural field techniques, research design, ethical dilemmas, and the difference between academic and applied research. Research projects are an integral part of this course.

Does not meet a distribution requirement

J. Roth

Prereq. Anthropology 105 or 4 credits in department; 4 credits

295fs Independent Study

(Writing-intensive course)

Does not meet a distribution requirement

The department

Prereq. soph and permission of department; 1-4 credits

316f Advanced Seminar: Living the Law: Seminar in Political and Legal Anthropology

This course will explore the fundamental question of how the state and the law figure into our everyday lives. We will look at the ways in which state practices and apparatuses come to influence society and culture. Issues to be dealt with will also include transitional justice, post-conflict reconciliation, law and colonialism, and law and violence. The course will think through theories in legal and political anthropology but also include a secondary regional component where many ethnographic examples will come from the Middle East. We will take advantage of contemporary legal claims and constitutional battles resulting from the 2011 Arab revolts to place theory into the social world.

Meets Social Sciences III-A requirement

S. Hermez

4 credits

331s Anthropology and Sexualities

(Same as Gender Studies 333s(07)) This seminar focuses on contemporary anthropological scholarship concerned with the varieties of sexual expression in diverse cultural settings. We will read ethnographic accounts of sexual ideologies and the politics and practices of sexuality in Brazil, Japan, Native North America, India, and elsewhere. We will examine anthropological theories of sexuality with an emphasis on contemporary issues, including performance theory, “third gender” theories, sexual identity formulation, and techniques used by various societies to discipline the body.

Meets multicultural requirement; meets Social Sciences III-A requirement

L. Morgan

Prereq. sr or jr major in department or gender studies, plus 8 credits in department; 4 credits

334s Memory, History, and Forgetting

(Speaking- and writing-intensive course) In this seminar we question the distinction between myth and history and consider the relationship of historical consciousness to memory, forgetting, and other types of temporal awareness. We then examine the relationships among literacy, art, nationalism, and the invention of tradition and test the limits of ethnohistory. Finally, we look at the ways in which relics, museums, and tourism have all helped make history—as fact, experience, or commodity—possible.

Meets multicultural requirement; meets Social Sciences III-A requirement

A. Lass

Prereq. 8 credits in department; 4 credits

350f Issues in Contemporary Anthropological Theory

(Speaking- and writing-intensive course)

This course offers an appraisal of the core questions and theoretical frameworks of the past two decades. It covers the relationship of fieldwork to theory building, new trends in anthropological analysis, and critical examinations of the uses and abuses of anthropological data.

Meets multicultural requirement; meets Social Sciences III-A requirement

A. Lass

Prereq. sr, 8 credits in department; 4 credits

395fs Independent Study

(Speaking- and writing-intensive course)

Does not meet a distribution requirement

The department

Prereq. jr, sr and permission of department; 1-8 credits