
Department of
African and Afro-American Studies

Courses of Study:
Minor
Major (B.A.)

Objectives

The department welcomes all members of the student body who have an interest in Africa and/or African-America. The major is arranged through consultation with the departmental advisor or another professor. Majors may ask for guidance in the selection of elective courses with related content or approach within their chosen disciplines.

Faculty

Faith Smith, Chair

African and Afro-American literature.
Anglophone Caribbean literature.

Mark Auslander, Mellon Fellow in African Art and Aesthetics

Art and aesthetics. Museum studies.
Religion. Kinship. Historical anthropology.
Development. Africa. United States.

Joan Bryant

African-American history. Reform
movements. Race and ethnicity.

Wellington Nyangon

Africa: Economic development.
Comparative Third World political
economy.

Ibrahim Sundiata

Africa: Social history. Slavery. The African
diaspora. Afro-Brazil.

Requirements for the Major

A. Required of all candidates: eight semester courses from among the AAAS and cross-listed courses below. One of the eight courses must be AAAS 5a (Introduction to African and Afro-American Studies), which should be taken as the first AAAS course, as it provides an introduction to themes and methods of analysis.

B. At least one course will be taken in each of the following areas: social science, humanities, and history.

C. At least four courses will be taken in one of the following disciplines as a field of specialization: literature, music, history, political science, sociology, and economics. A candidate may elect a five-course interdisciplinary focus on Africa or Afro-American affairs as a specialization. Always confirm your choice of specialization with the department academic advisor.

D. Five of the eight required courses must be from within the department (e.g., from the AAAS courses below). No course with a final grade below C- can count toward the major.

E. Candidates for departmental honors must satisfactorily complete AAAS 99d (Senior Research).

Requirements for the Minor

Five semester courses are required, including the following:

A. AAAS 5a (Introduction to African and Afro-American Studies). This should be taken as the first AAAS course, as it provides an introduction to themes and methods of analysis.

B. AAAS 70a (Introduction to Afro-American History).

C. The remaining three courses will be selected from among the department's offerings in literature, history, political science, and music.

Students are required to declare the minor in AAAS no later than the beginning of their senior year. Each student will be assigned a departmental advisor by the undergraduate advising head.

Courses of Instruction

(1-99) Primarily for Undergraduate Students

AAAS 5a Introduction to African and Afro-American Studies

[ss]

An interdisciplinary introduction to major topics in African and Afro-American studies, providing fundamental insights into Africa, the Caribbean, and the Americas through approaches and techniques of social science and the humanities. Usually offered every year. Ms. Bryant

AAAS 18b Africa and the West

[nw ss]

Focuses on the relationship between Africa and the "West" from the time of the ancient Egyptians to the postcolonial period. It also assesses the dilemma neo-colonialism poses for the West. Usually offered every third year. Mr. Sundiata

AAAS 60a Economics of Third World Hunger

[nw ss]

Employs the tools of social science, particularly economics, to study causes and potential solutions to problems in production, trade, and consumption of food in the underdeveloped world. Usually offered every second year. Mr. Nyangoni

AAAS 70a Introduction to Afro-American History

[ss]

A survey of the Afro-American experience from the era of slavery to the present. Topics include the rise of a distinct community and its institutions, Reconstruction and segregation, the contributions of blacks to American society, and the struggles for freedom and equality. Usually offered every year. Ms. Bryant

AAAS 79b Afro-American Literature of the Twentieth Century

[hum ss wi]

An introduction to the essential themes, aesthetic concerns, and textual strategies that characterize Afro-American writing of this century. Examines those influences that have shaped the poetry, fiction, and prose nonfiction of representative writers. Usually offered every second year. Ms. Smith

AAAS 80a Economy and Society in Africa

[nw ss]

Perspectives on the interaction of economic and other variables in African societies. Topics include the ethical and economic bases of distributive justice; models of social theory, efficiency, and equality in law; the role of economic variables in the theory of history; and world systems analysis. Usually offered every third year. Mr. Nyangoni

AAAS 81b Religion in African-American History

[ss]

Prerequisite or corequisite: AAAS 70a.

Examines religious development in African-American history. Explores religious experience and identity, religion in popular culture, institutional developments, political activism among religious figures, theological innovations, and religious conflict in order to understand how religion has informed African-American life. Usually offered every second year. Ms. Bryant

AAAS 85a Survey of Southern African History

[nw ss]

Explores the roots of segregation and apartheid in South Africa, the development of a regional political economy dominated by South Africa, labor migrancy and land alienation in southern Africa, and the rise of African and Afrikaaner nationalisms. Usually offered every second year. Mr. Sundiata

AAAS 89a Race and Ethnicity in American Politics

[ss]

A comparison of how different voting models account for racial and ethnic political behavior in the United States. The course also examines whether ethnic politics generates equal outcomes for equal participation and how the "nature of the game" changes across time. Usually offered every fourth year. Staff

AAAS 98a Independent Study

Independent readings and research on a topic within the student's interest under the direction of a faculty supervisor. Usually offered every year. Staff

AAAS 98b Independent Study

Independent readings and research on a topic within the student's interest under the direction of a faculty supervisor. Usually offered every year. Staff

AAAS 99d Senior Research

Usually offered every year. Staff

(100-199) For Both Undergraduate and Graduate Students

AAAS 115a Introduction to African History

[nw ss]

The history of African societies from their earliest beginnings to the present era. Topics include African participation in antiquity and early Christianity and preindustrial political, economic, and cultural developments, among others. Usually offered every second year. Mr. Sundiata

AAAS 117a Communications and Social Change in Developing Nations

[ss]

Examines the role of communications and information systems within and between developed and underdeveloped nations and addresses the larger perspective of global communications. Usually offered every third year. Staff

AAAS 120b Race in African-American History

[ss]

Prerequisite: AAAS 70a (may be taken concurrently) or AAAS 145b.

Is race un-American? African-American racial thought provides a critical lens for understanding the meanings and functions of race. Analyzing primary sources from the antebellum period to the present, we ask: Is race racist? What is black culture? Does justice require "colorblindness?" Usually offered every second year. Ms. Bryant

AAAS 122a Politics of Southern Africa

[nw ss]

Study of clashing nationalisms, alternative patterns of development, and internationalization of conflict in southern Africa. The political economy of South Africa in regional context and its effect on the politics of its neighbors, particularly Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, and Zimbabwe. Mr. Nyangoni

AAAS 123a Third World Ideologies

[nw ss wi]

Analyzes ideological concepts developed by seminal Third World political thinkers and their application to modern political analysis. Usually offered every second year. Mr. Nyangoni

AAAS 126b Political Economy of the Third World

[nw ss wi]

Development of capitalism and different roles and functions assigned to all "Third Worlds," in the periphery as well as the center. Special attention will be paid to African and Afro-American peripheries. Usually offered every year. Mr. Nyangoni

AAAS 131b American Freedom before Emancipation

[ss]

Prerequisite or corequisite: AAAS 70a or HIST 51a.

What did it mean to be free in an age of slavery? The experiences of free African-Americans focus our investigation of this founding myth of America. Explores what freedom meant to criminals, reformers, laborers, slaveholders, artists, abolitionists, soldiers, and statesmen. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Bryant

AAAS 132b Introduction to African Literature

[hum nw ss]

Examines the cultural production of African writers and filmmakers and their critiques of the post-colonial state. Their exploration of gender, sexuality, language choice, the pressures placed on "authentic" identities by diasporic communities, and the conflicting claims of tradition and modernity. Usually offered every third year.

Ms. Smith

AAAS 133b The Literature of the Caribbean

[hum nw ss]

An exploration of the narrative strategies and themes of writers of the region who grapple with issues of colonialism, class, race, ethnicity, and gender in a context of often conflicting allegiances to North and South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Smith

AAAS 134b Novel and Film of the African Diaspora

[hum nw]

Writers and filmmakers, who are usually examined separately under national or regional canonical categories such as "(North) American," "Latin American," "African," "British," or "Caribbean," are brought together here to examine transnational identities, and investments in "authentic" "African" or "black" identities. Usually offered every third year.

Ms. Smith

AAAS 143a Economies of African Countries

[ss wi]

Combines lectures and discussions of general themes with student research and presentations on specific countries in comparing and contrasting the economic experience of the nations of sub-Saharan Africa. Topics include the economic impact of colonialism, land tenure institutions and agricultural production, food policy, primary product exports, migration and urbanization, and industrialization. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Nyangoni

AAAS 145b What is Race?

[ss]

What is race? How has it shaped what it means to be American? We explore 19th- and 20th-century interpretations of race in science, law, reform initiatives, and popular literature. Issues include eugenics, census categories, race loyalty, polygenesis, immigration, passing, and miscegenation. Usually offered every third year.

Ms. Bryant

AAAS 147b Women in African Societies

[ss]

Explores women's ways of thought in different African societies. Studies how elite and non-literate women articulate their cultural and historical experiences. Usually offered every third year.

Staff

AAAS 155a Slavery in America

[ss]

Examines the rise of slavery in America, the formation of slave and free black communities, the emergence of the planter class, the role of slavery in the economy and politics, the relationship between slavery and racism, and the legacy of slavery. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Bryant

AAAS 156a The Civil Rights Movement

[ss]

Explores the civil rights movement through primary readings and films. Includes an assessment of the consequences of the movement and the ongoing controversies over the best ways to achieve equality for black Americans. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Bryant

AAAS 158a Theories of Development and Underdevelopment

[nw ss wi]

Humankind has for some time now possessed the scientific and technological means to combat the scourge of poverty. The purpose of this seminar is to acquaint students with contending theories of development and underdevelopment, emphasizing the open and contested nature of the process involved and of the field of study itself. Among the topics to be studied are modernization theory, the challenge to modernization posed by dependency and world systems theories, and more recent approaches centered on the concepts of basic needs and of sustainable development. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Nyangoni

AAAS 163b Africa in World Politics

[ss]

Explores the impact of African states in world affairs; the African and Afro-Asian groups in the United Nations; relations with Eastern Europe, Western Europe, and the Americas; the Afro-Asian Movement; nonalignment; the Organization of African Unity; and Pan-Africanism. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Nyangoni

AAAS 167a African and Caribbean Comparative Political Systems

[nw ss]

Introduces students to the literature and method of comparative political analysis. Case studies central to the course will be Ghana, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe; and Puerto Rico, Jamaica, and Cuba. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Nyangoni

AAAS 170b Seminar: Political Economy of Developing Countries

[ss]

Analysis of political and economic issues in developing countries. Special emphasis on the major explanations for underdevelopment and alternative strategies for development. Topics include colonialism, nationalism, developing countries in the international system, state-building, rural development, and gender perspectives on underdevelopment. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Nyangoni

AAAS 175a Comparative Politics of North Africa

[nw ss]

Formation and development of political cleavages and cleavage systems, and of mass-based political groups. Analysis of the expansion of mass political participation, elections, the impact of the military on political groups, and international factors. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Nyangoni

Cross-Listed Courses

ANTH 112a

African Art and Aesthetics

ANTH 133a

Tradition and the Contemporary Experience in Sub-Saharan Africa

ANTH 184b

Cross-Cultural Art and Aesthetics

COML 111b

Creating the Transnational Caribbean: Language, Gender, Race

ENG 16a

Nineteenth-Century African-American Literature: Texts and Contexts

ENG 17b

African Novel

ENG 127b

Migrating Bodies, Migrating Texts

ENG 147b

South African Literature and Apartheid

HIST 115a
History of Comparative Race and Ethnic Relations

HIST 116a
History of West Africa

POL 140a
Politics of Africa

SOC 125b
U.S.-Caribbean Relations

SOC 171a
Women Leaders and Transformation in Developing Countries

Department of
American Studies

Courses of Study:
Major (B.A.)

Objectives

American studies takes an interdisciplinary approach to the culture, society, politics, institutions, identities, thoughts, values, and behavior of Americans, in all their variety, and to the critical issues that confront the United States domestically and internationally. Using materials central to the disciplines of American studies—film, literature, popular and material culture, music, art and architecture, oral history, social and intellectual history—the major is designed to provide students with an educated awareness of the way the United States, viewed as a civilization, frames the lives, aspirations, and self-perceptions of its citizens. Typically, students who enroll anticipate careers in law, business, public service, communications, education, journalism, museum work, and teaching, at all levels. As the sponsor of the programs in legal studies, film studies, journalism, and environmental studies, the American studies major aims to provide a broad background to those areas and welcomes students who seek active engagement with the contemporary world through firm grounding in a sound liberal arts education.

How to Become a Major

Normally, students declare their major in their sophomore year and attempt to complete the three required courses (see below) by the end of the first semester of their junior year, or at the latest, the end of their junior year. Working with a departmental advisor, students are urged to develop a coherent selection of electives tailored to their particular interests and gifts. Because of the close working relationship between the department and its resident programs (law, film, journalism, and environmental studies) students often offer several courses in joint satisfaction of their major (American studies) and their program. Courses in other departments which satisfy American Studies elective requirements are listed on the departmental website. Students wishing to earn departmental honors must write a senior thesis in a full year course, AMST 99d. Special opportunities are available for supervised internships (AMST 92a,b). Many majors gain a valuable cross-cultural perspective on America by studying abroad in their junior year.

Faculty

Jacob Cohen, Chair
American culture, politics, and thought.

Joyce Antler
Women's history. Social history.

Shilpa Davé
Race and ethnicity. Asian American studies.

Thomas Doherty (Chair, Film Studies)
Film and culture.

Brian Donahue (Chair, Environmental Studies)
American environmental studies.

Henry Felt
Documentary film.

Richard Gaskins (Director, Legal Studies)
Law, social policy, and philosophy.

Laura Goldin
Environmental studies.

Tona Hangen
American religion.

Michael Socolow (Chair, Journalism Program)
Journalism. Communications history.

Daniel Terris
Literature and intellectual history.

Stephen Whitfield
Modern political and cultural history.

Requirements for the Major

A. AMST 10a (Foundations of American Civilization). Normally, students will take 10a in their sophomore year and no later than the spring term of their junior year. Exceptions should be discussed with the student's advisor.

B. AMST 100a (Classic Texts in the American Culture to 1900). Normally, students will take 100a in their sophomore year and no later than in their junior year. Students may take 100a in their senior year only in the most unusual circumstances, with the approval of the department chair.

C. AMST 100b (Twentieth Century American Culture). After completing 100a, students must take 100b, normally in their sophomore or junior year.

D. Six (6) semester courses in American studies, chosen either from within the department or from other departments, with departmental approval.

E. To be eligible for departmental honors, seniors must enroll in AMST 99d (Senior Research) with departmental approval and participate in a year-long honors colloquium. AMST 99d does not satisfy other departmental requirements.

F. Not more than two courses satisfying a second major may be offered to complete the American studies major.

G. No course, whether required or elective, for which a student receives a grade below C- may be counted toward the major.

Courses of Instruction

(1-99) Primarily for Undergraduate Students

AMST 10a Foundations of American Civilization

[ss]

Interpretations of the meaning of the myths, symbols, values, heroes and rogues, character ideals, identities, masks, games, humor, languages, expressive repertoire, and ideologies that are exhibited in the social, political, economic, and cultural history of the United States. Usually offered every year.

Mr. Cohen

AMST 15a Writing for the Media

[ss]

A hands-on workshop designed to teach basic broadcast newswriting skills, as well as techniques for gathering, producing, and delivering radio and television news. Stresses the importance of accuracy. Issues of objectivity, point of view, and freedom of the press are discussed. Writing assignments will be written on deadline. Usually offered every year.

Staff

AMST 20a Environmental Issues

[ss]

An interdisciplinary overview of major environmental challenges facing humanity, including population growth; food production; limited supplies of energy, water, and other resources; climate change; loss of biodiversity; waste disposal and pollution. Students examine these problems critically and evaluate different ways of thinking about their causes and solutions. Usually offered every year.

Mr. Donahue

AMST 92a Internship in American Studies

Off-campus work experience in conjunction with a reading course with a member of the department. Requires reading and writing assignments drawing and amplifying the internship experience. Only one internship course may be submitted in satisfaction of the department's elective requirements. Usually offered every year.

Staff

AMST 92b Internship in American Studies

See AMST 92a for special notes and course description. Usually offered every year.

Staff

AMST 97a Readings in American Studies

Enrollment limited to juniors and seniors.

Independent readings, research, and writing on a subject of the student's interest, under the direction of a faculty advisor. Usually offered every year.

Staff

AMST 97b Readings in American Studies

Enrollment limited to juniors and seniors.

Independent readings, research, and writing on a subject of the student's interest, under the direction of a faculty advisor. Usually offered every year.

Staff

AMST 98a Independent Study

Usually offered every year.

Staff

AMST 98b Independent Study

Usually offered every year.

Staff

AMST 99d Senior Research

Seniors who are candidates for degrees with departmental honors should register for this course and, under the direction of a faculty advisor, prepare a thesis. In addition to regular meetings with faculty advisors, seniors will participate in an honors colloquium, a seminar group bringing together the honors candidates and members of the American studies faculty. Usually offered every year.

Staff

(100-199) For Both Undergraduate and Graduate Students

AMST 100a Classic Texts in American Culture to 1900

[ss wi]

Preference given to American studies majors.

Various visions of America from the earliest colonization through the 19th century are explored. Of special concern will be the ways the individual's inner life is conceived or expressed in relation to the new society and nation-building of the 18th and 19th centuries. Usually offered every year.

Mr. Donahue

AMST 100b Twentieth-Century American Culture

[ss]

Prerequisite: AMST 100a.

The democratization of taste and the extension of mass media are among the distinguishing features of American culture in the 20th century. Through a variety of genres and forms of expression, in high culture and the popular arts, this course traces the historical development of a national style that came to exercise formidable influence abroad as well.

Usually offered every year.

Staff

AMST 101a American Environmental History

[ss]

Provides an overview of the relationship between nature and culture in North America. Covers Native Americans, the European invasion, the development of a market system of resource extraction and consumption, the impact of industrialization, and environmentalist responses. Current environmental issues are placed in historical context. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Donahue

AMST 102a Women, the Environment, and Social Justice

[ss]

Focuses on the profound and unique roles women have played in preserving and enhancing the natural environment and protecting human health. Students explore a wide range of environmental issues from the perspective of women and examine how women have been a driving force in key efforts to improve our environment. Also further explores the legal, ethical, and social issues embodied in environmental racism and classism. Usually offered second year.

Ms. Goldin

AMST 103a The American Experience: Approaches to American Studies

[ss]

Students examine the many meanings of the American experience by exploring the sources, subjects, and methodologies used in the practice of American studies. In the classroom and on field trips, students use such resources as fiction and poetry, photography and painting, oral history and music, and architecture and the natural landscape to enlarge their knowledge and understanding of American history and contemporary society. Highly recommended for students intending to write theses and those considering graduate school. Usually offered every fourth year.

Staff

AMST 104b Boston and its Suburbs: Environment and History

[ss]

Advanced seminar follows the development of the cultural landscape of Boston, Waltham, and the western suburbs from glacial retreat to urban sprawl. Employs ecology and history to better understand and address contemporary environmental issues. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Donahue

AMST 105a The Eastern Forest: Paleocology to Policy

[ss]

Can we make sustainable use of the Eastern Forest of North America while protecting biological diversity and ecological integrity? Explores the forest's ecological development, the impact of human cultures, attitudes toward the forest, and our mixed record of abuse and stewardship. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Donahue

AMST 106b Food and Farming in America

[ss]

American food is abundant and cheap. Yet many eat poorly, and some argue our agriculture may be unhealthy and unsustainable. Explores the history of American farming and diet, and the prospects for a healthy food system. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Donahue

AMST 111a Images of the American West in Film and Culture

[ss]

Explores how motion picture images of the West have reflected and shaped American identities, ideologies, and mythologies. Through a variety of films—silent, “classic,” and “revisionist”—and supplementary readings, examines the intertwined themes of progress, civilization, region, nation, democracy, race, gender, and violence. Usually offered every fourth year.

Staff

AMST 112b American Film and Culture of the 1950s

[ss]

Traces the decline of classical Hollywood cinema and the impact of motion pictures on American culture in the 1950s, especially Hollywood's representations of the Cold War. Students learn methods of cinematic analysis to conduct cultural historical inquiry. Usually offered every fourth year.

Mr. Doherty

AMST 113a American Film and Culture of the 1940s

[ss]

Examines the nature of classical Hollywood cinema and the impact of motion pictures on American culture in the 1940s, especially Hollywood's representations of World War II. Students learn methods of cinematic analysis to conduct cultural historical inquiry. Usually offered every fourth year.

Mr. Doherty

AMST 113b American Film and Culture of the 1930s

[ss]

Traces the rise of Hollywood sound cinema and the impact of motion pictures on American culture in the 1930s, especially Hollywood's representations of the Great Depression. Students learn methods of cinematic analysis to conduct cultural historical inquiry. Usually offered every fourth year.

Mr. Doherty

AMST 114a American Film and Culture of the 1920s

[ss]

Traces the rise and fall of silent Hollywood cinema and the impact of motion pictures on American culture in the 1920s, especially Hollywood's role in the revolution in morals and manners. Students learn methods of cinematic analysis to conduct cultural historical inquiry. All films are screened with a music score or live piano accompaniment. Usually offered every fourth year.

Mr. Doherty

AMST 118a Gender and the Professions

[ss]

Explores gender distinctions as a key element in the organization of professions, analyzing the connections among sex roles, occupational structure, and American social life. Topics include work culture(s) compatible with sexual discrimination and harassment, pay equity, the “mommy” and “daddy” tracks, and dual-career families. Among the professions examined are law, medicine, teaching, social work, nursing, journalism, business, and politics. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Antler

AMST 120b Film Theory and Criticism

[hum ss]

A course for students with some preliminary background in film studies, providing a forum not only to see and to interpret films but to master the ways films are seen and interpreted. Classic Hollywood cinema will be examined. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Doherty

AMST 121a The American Jewish Woman: 1890-1990s

[ss]

Surveys the experiences of American Jewish women in work, politics, religion, family life, the arts, and American culture generally over the last 100 years, examining how the dual heritage of female and Jewish “otherness” shaped their often conflicted identities. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Antler

AMST 123b Women in American History: 1865 to the Present

[ss]

A historical and cultural survey of the female experience in the United States with emphasis on issues of education, work, domestic ideology, sexuality, male-female relations, race, class, politics, war, the media, feminism, and antifeminism. Usually offered every third year.

Ms. Antler

AMST 124b American Love and Marriage

[ss]

Ideas and behavior relating to love and marriage are used as lenses to view broader social patterns such as family organization, generational conflict, and the creation of professional and national identity. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Antler

AMST 127b Women and Popular Culture

[ss]

Examines women's diverse representations and participation in United States' popular culture. Using historical studies, advertising, film, television, music, and literature, discusses how constructions of race, gender, class, sexuality, ethnicity, and religion have shaped women's encounter with popular and mass culture. Topics include women and modernity, leisure and work, women's roles in the rise of consumer culture and relation to technology, representations of sexuality, and the impact of feminism.

Staff

AMST 130b Television and American Culture

[ss]

An interdisciplinary course with three main lines of discussion and investigation: an aesthetic inquiry into the meaning of television style and genre; a historical consideration of the medium and its role in American life; and a technological study of televisual communication. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Doherty

AMST 131b News on Screen

[ss]

Combines an investigation of the history of broadcast journalism in America with practical training exercises in broadcast writing and Web production. Examines changes in the media landscape over the years and the legal and ethical issues facing contemporary broadcast journalists. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Socolow

AMST 132b International Affairs and the American Media

[ss]

Analyzes and assesses United States media coverage of major international events, personalities, and perspectives. The course is designed to introduce students to the international events over the past three decades as they have been interpreted by American journalists and media instructors and to challenge students to evaluate the limitations and biases of this reportage. Usually offered every second year.

Staff

AMST 134b The New Media in America

[ss]

Analyzes the adaptation of new media in American society and culture. Examines the ways Americans have thought about and utilized new methods of mass communications in the 20th century. Usually offered every year.

Mr. Socolow

AMST 137b Journalism in Twentieth-Century America

[ss]

Examines what journalists have done, how their enterprise has in fact conformed with their ideals, and what some of the consequences have been for the republic historically, primarily in the 20th century. Usually offered every year.

Mr. Whitfield

AMST 138b Reporting Contemporary America

[ss]

Introduces students to the practice of news reporting for print media and links theory and history to the working craft of journalism. Trains students in the fundamentals of newsgathering and writing and provides an opportunity to practice those skills in conditions simulating a newsroom. A concern for ethics, balance, and accuracy is stressed in all assignments. Usually offered every second year.

Staff

AMST 139b Reporting on Gender, Race, and Culture

[ss]

An examination of the news media's relationship to demographic and cultural change, and of how journalistic ideologies influence the coverage of women and various ethnic and cultural groups. Usually offered every second year.

Staff

AMST 140b The Asian/American Experience

[ss]

An examination of the political, economic, social, and contemporary issues related to Asians in the United States from the mid-19th century to the present. Topics include patterns of immigration and settlement, and individual, family and community formation. Course material includes a variety of sources from history, literature, personal essays, films, and other popular media. Usually offered every year.

Ms. Dave

AMST 141b The Native American Experience

[ss]

Survey of Native American history and culture with focus on the social, political, and economic changes experienced by Native Americans as a result of their interactions with European explorers, traders, and colonists. Usually offered every third year.

Staff

AMST 149a On the Edge of History

[ss]

Examines how visionaries, novelists, historians, social scientists, and futurologists in America, 1888-2000, have imagined and predicted America's future and what those adumbrations—correct and incorrect—tell us about our life today, tomorrow, and yesterday when the predictions were made. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Cohen

AMST 150a The History of Childhood and Youth in America

[ss]

Examination of cultural ideas about childhood and youth, policies and institutions developed across generations, as well as child-rearing, child-saving, socialization, and delinquency. And not least of all, the experiences of children and youth themselves. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Antler

AMST 155a American Individualism

[ss]

This course may not be repeated for credit by students who have taken AMST 114b in previous years.

Through various major works, central dilemmas of the American experience are examined: the ambition to transcend social and individual limitations and the tension between demands of self and the hunger for community. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Whitfield

AMST 156b America in the World

[ss]

Designed to elucidate how the United States—as a promise, as a dream, as a cultural projection—has interacted with the rest of the world (but primarily with Europe). Focuses less on the flow of people than on the flow of ideas, less on the instruments of foreign policy than on the institutions that have promoted visions of democracy, individual autonomy, power, and abundance. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Whitfield

AMST 160a U.S. Immigration History and Policy

[ss]

An examination of the economic, political, and ideological factors underlying immigration policy in U.S. history, especially since 1965. Analysis of contemporary immigration, refugee and asylum issues, and of problems of immigrant acculturation today. Usually offered every third year.

Staff

AMST 163b The Sixties: Continuity and Change in American Culture

[ss]

Analysis of alleged changes in the character structure, social usages, governing myths and ideas, artistic sensibility, and major institutions of America during the 1960s. What were the principal causes and occasions for the change? Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Cohen

AMST 167b The Cultural Work of Religion in America

[ss]

Examines the roles of religion in the adaptation of ethnic and racial cultures to one another in the United States, and to the mainstream American culture. Topics include the ways in which Americans used their religious institutions to assimilate newcomers and to contain those they defined as the "other," the religions of immigrants, and the responses of immigrants and Americans to religious pluralism. Usually offered every year.

Staff

AMST 168b Religion in America

[ss]

Exploration of the many religious traditions in modern America, their often contentious interactions, their varied cultural expressions, and their personal relevance. Analysis of various cultural "texts" including history, fiction, film, poetry, music, radio, television, oratory, and personal narrative. Usually offered every year.

Ms. Hangen

AMST 169a Ethnicity and Race in the United States

[ss]

Consideration of the experience of Native Americans, Euro-Americans, African-Americans, Latino-Americans, and Asian-Americans and distinctive patterns of racial and ethnic American pluralism and unity. Usually offered every second year.

Staff

AMST 170a The Idea of Conspiracy in American Culture

[ss]

Consideration of the "paranoid style" in America's political and popular culture and in recent American literature. Topics include allegations of "conspiracy" in connection with the Sacco and Vanzetti, Hiss, and Rosenberg cases; antisemitism and anti-Catholicism; and Watergate and Irangate. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Cohen

AMST 175a Violence (and Non-Violence) in American Culture

[ss]

Studies of the use of terror and violence by citizens and governments in the domestic history of the United States. What are the occasions and causes of violence? How is it imagined, portrayed, and explained in literature? Is there anything peculiarly American about violence in America—non-violence and pacifism? Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Cohen

AMST 180b Topics in the History of American Education

[ss]

Examines major themes in the history of American education, including changing ideas about children, childrearing, and adolescence; development of schools; the politics of education; education and individual life history. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Antler

AMST 183b Sports and American Culture

[ss]

How organized sports have reflected changes in the American cultural, social, and economic scene, and how they have reflected and shaped the moral codes, personal values, character, style, myths, attachments, sense of work and play, fantasy, and reality of fans and athletes. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Cohen

AMST 185b The Culture of the Cold War

[ss]

Addresses American political culture from the end of World War II until the revival of liberal movements and radical criticism. Attention will be paid to the specter of totalitarianism, the "end of ideology," McCarthyism, the crisis of civil liberties, and the strains on the pluralistic consensus in an era of anti-communism. Usually offered every year.

Mr. Whitfield

AMST 186a Topics in Ethics, Justice, and Public Life

[ss]

Introduces a significant international ethics or social justice theme and prepares students to integrate academic and community work during an internship. Special attention is given to comparative issues between the United States and other nations and regions. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Terris and Staff

AMST 187a The Legal Boundaries of Public and Private Life

[ss]

Confrontations of public interest and personal rights across three episodes in American cultural history: post-Civil War race relations, progressive-era economic regulation, and contemporary civil liberties, especially sexual and reproductive privacy. Critical legal decisions examined in social and political context. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Gaskins

AMST 188b Justice Brandeis and Progressive Jurisprudence

[ss]

Brandeis's legal career serves as model and guide for exploring the ideals and anxieties of American legal culture across the 20th century. Focus on how legal values evolve in response to new technologies, corporate capitalism, and threats to personal liberty. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Gaskins

AMST 189a Legal Foundations of American Capitalism

[ss]

Surveys core legal institutions of property, contracts, and corporations. Examines how law promotes and restrains the development of capitalism and market society in America, from the era of mass production through the age of global trade and digital commerce. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Gaskins

AMST 191b Greening the Ivory Tower: Researching and Improving the Brandeis Environment

[ss]

Uses the Brandeis campus as model laboratory for applied environmental study, research, and implementation of environmentally beneficial initiatives. Students analyze the environmental impact of human activities within the existing legal, political, and social structure; learn basic research strategies for auditing and assessing the effect of these activities; and contribute to the overall understanding of the environmental impact of the Brandeis community on its surroundings. Usually offered every year.

Ms. Goldin

AMST 196d Film Workshop: Recording America

[ss]

Does not participate in early registration (March and October). Admission by consent of the instructor on the basis of an interview. It is preferred that students concurrently take an American studies course.

The training of students in audiovisual production to explore aspects of American urban society. Production format can include video, slide, tape, and audio. Students should be prepared to create a documentary during this full-year course. Usually offered every year.

Mr. Felt

Cross-Listed Courses

Other courses given by American studies faculty that satisfy American studies elective requirements:

ENG 6a

American Literature from 1832 to 1900

HS 104b

American Health Care

JOUR 104a

Political Packaging in America

JOUR 107b

Media and Public Policy

JOUR 110b

Ethics in Journalism

JOUR 112b

Literary Journalism: The Art of Feature Writing

JOUR 125b

Journalism of Crisis

LGLS 10a

Introduction to Law

LGLS 114a

American Health Care: Law and Policy

LGLS 120a

Sex Discrimination and the Law

LGLS 121b

Law and Social Welfare: Citizen Rights and Government Responsibilities

LGLS 126b

Marriage, Divorce, and Parenthood

LGLS 127b

Law and Letters in American Culture

LGLS 129b

Law, Technology, and Innovation

LGLS 132b

Environmental Law and Policy

NEJS 164a

Judaism Confronts America

PHIL 74b

Foundations of American Pragmatism

Department of

Anthropology

Courses of Study:

Minor

Major (B.A.)

Combined B.A./M.A.

Master of Arts

Doctor of Philosophy

Objectives**Undergraduate Major**

The Department of Anthropology offers courses covering the discipline's four major subfields: sociocultural anthropology, linguistic anthropology, physical anthropology, and archaeology. The major is structured to provide an introduction to the major concepts, methodologies, and theoretical issues of anthropology, while permitting each student sufficient latitude to pursue his or her own special interests.

Graduate Program in Anthropology

The graduate program in anthropology, leading to the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees, is designed to produce scholars who will broaden our knowledge of culture and society. Graduate training is based on required courses in the history, theory, and method of anthropology and on elective courses in the subfields of anthropology (sociocultural anthropology, archaeology, biological anthropology, and linguistic anthropology). Some graduates of the program accept appointments at colleges and universities; a number take employment in government, private institutions, or foundations. Intensive training for independent research is stressed, with particular emphasis on comparative studies and fieldwork.

How to Become an Undergraduate Major

Students who wish either to major in anthropology or to study for a minor in anthropology should see the undergraduate advisor, who will discuss specific interests and assign an advisor. This consultation is especially important for those interested in a particular subfield. ANTH 1a (Introduction to the Comparative Study of Human Societies) and ANTH 5a (Human Origins) [(or ANTH 1a and LING 100a (Introduction to Linguistics) for students on the linguistic anthropology track)] should be taken early in a student's academic career. Majors are encouraged to select honors research projects, particularly those students considering graduate study in anthropology or other professional training.

The department sponsors credit-bearing internships (ANTH 92a and b) for junior and senior majors and minors. Internships combine off-campus work that provides a significant anthropological learning experience and academic study supervised by a departmental faculty sponsor. Majors may substitute one internship for the ninth elective course option. Students doing summer internships register for course credit in the following fall semester. A minimum of a B+ grade point average in anthropology courses is required for eligibility. For information see *Guidelines for Anthropology Internships* available from the undergraduate advisor.

How to Be Admitted to the Graduate Program

The general requirements for admission to the Graduate School, specified in an earlier section of the *Bulletin*, apply to candidates for admission to graduate study in anthropology. Admission decisions are based primarily on the candidate's undergraduate academic record, letters of recommendation, writing sample, and the personal statement that is part of the application form. It is also advisable that the results of the Graduate Record Examination be submitted. A personal interview on campus is encouraged, but not required.

Applicants to the master of arts program or for study towards the joint degree of master of arts in anthropology and women's studies need not have completed an undergraduate major in anthropology or sociology-anthropology, although they may be required to make up deficiencies while they are enrolled as graduate students. Students enrolled in the master of arts program in anthropology or anthropology and women's studies may, after having completed the equivalent of their first semester's course-work, apply for admission to the doctoral program. Their applications will be considered along with the pool of candidates from outside Brandeis seeking admission directly to the doctoral program. Candidates for the Master of Arts program in anthropology or in anthropology and women's studies with demonstrated financial need may petition to the graduate school for partial tuition scholarships.

Students may apply for admission directly to the doctoral program in anthropology. Preference will be given to those with an undergraduate background in anthropology or in sociology-anthropology. In any case, applicants to the doctoral program must demonstrate that their anthropological interests are well defined and that these interests are congruent with and

acceptable to those of the Brandeis anthropology department faculty. Full-tuition scholarships and cash fellowships are awarded to students in the doctoral program. Assuming satisfactory progress in the doctoral program, scholarships and fellowships are renewable for four years.

Faculty

Richard Parmentier, Chair

Semiotic anthropology. Historical anthropology. Material culture. Language and communications. Oceania. Middle Ages. United States.

Mark Auslander, Mellon Fellow in African Art and Aesthetics

Art and aesthetics. Museum studies. Religion. Kinship. Historical anthropology. Development. Africa. United States.

Elizabeth Emma Ferry, Undergraduate Advising Head

Economic anthropology. Political anthropology. Exchange, property, and value. Latin America.

Charles Golden

Archaeology of complex societies. Modern contexts of archaeological research. Mesoamerica. The Maya.

David Jacobson

Social anthropology. Urban social organization. Psychosocial transitions. Families and households. Computer-mediated communication. United States. Africa.

Suzanne Joseph, Mellon Fellow in Microdemography

Anthropological demography. Ecological anthropology. Biocultural anthropology. Social change in pastoral and peasant societies. Middle East.

Cornelia Kammerer

Cultural anthropology. Medical anthropology, gender and sexuality. AIDS. Southeast Asia. United States.

Sarah Lamb, Women's Studies Liaison

Social-cultural theory. Gender studies. Anthropology of aging. Medical anthropology. Immigrant and transnational communities. South Asia.

Janet McIntosh

Cognitive anthropology. Linguistic anthropology. Religion. East Africa.

Ellen Schattschneider, Director of Graduate Studies

Religion. Anthropology of the body. Commodification. Psychoanalytic theory. East Asia. Japan.

Javier Urcid

Archaeology. Bioarchaeology. Complex societies. Writing systems. Comparative aesthetics. Mesoamerica.

Requirements for the Undergraduate Major

A. Required of all majors: A minimum of nine semester courses in anthropology, to include ANTH 1a, ANTH 5a, and ANTH 83a (or ANTH 1a, 83a, 186b, and LING 100a for students on the Linguistic Anthropology track).

B. Honors candidates are required to take ANTH 99d. One semester course credit from this year-long, two-semester course may be counted towards the above nine courses.

C. A student may petition to have a course taken in another department replace one anthropology course requirement, provided that course is clearly related to the student's program. An approved internship in anthropology, completed for credit, may be counted as fulfilling one course requirement for the major in place of a course taken in another department.

D. A minimum of five of the nine courses required for the major must be taken from Brandeis anthropology faculty.

E. No course with a final grade below C- can count toward fulfilling the requirements for the major in anthropology.

General Anthropology Track

Anthropology majors who do not select the linguistic or archaeology track will be in the general anthropology program and can select a range of courses that fit their interests.

Linguistic Anthropology Track

The following alternative track is recommended to anthropology majors with a special interest in linguistics. The purpose of this program is to introduce major issues and ideas in the study of language, the study of sociocultural systems, and the study of relations between language, society, and culture. Students interested in linguistic anthropology should arrange their programs in consultation with Ms. McIntosh. Requirements for the major for students who choose this track are as follows:

A. ANTH 1a and ANTH 83a.

B. ANTH 186b and LING 100a.

C. A minimum of four other anthropology courses chosen from those listed in the departmental offerings.

D. A minimum of one other linguistics course from the LING listing (selection to be approved by the student's faculty advisor in anthropology).

E. Candidates for a degree with honors must enroll in ANTH 99d during their senior year.

Archaeology Track

The following alternative track is designed to provide a coherent curriculum for anthropology students desiring to focus on archaeology. The curriculum is particularly recommended to those students considering the study of archaeology on the graduate level. Such students are encouraged to seek the advice of Mr. Urcid in designing their undergraduate programs.

A. Basic course requirements for the archaeological track are the same as those described under *Requirements for the Major* (above), and include ANTH 1a, ANTH 5a, and ANTH 83a.

B. Of the remaining courses required for the anthropology major, it is recommended (but not necessary) that students on the archaeology track include as many as possible of the following: ANTH 60a, ANTH 60b, ANTH 110a, ANTH 116a, ANTH 123a, ANTH 136a, ANTH 141b, ANTH 147b, ANTH 149a, ANTH 153a, ANTH 187a, and ANTH 188b in their program.

C. Candidates for a degree with honors must enroll in ANTH 99d during their senior year.

Requirements for the Undergraduate Minor

Five semester courses are required, including the following:

- A. ANTH 1a and ANTH 5a
- B. Three courses in anthropology, to be chosen in consultation with the student's advisor in the department.
- C. A minimum of three of the five courses required for the minor must be taken from Brandeis anthropology faculty.
- D. No course with a final grade below C- can count toward fulfilling the requirements for the minor in anthropology.

Combined B.A./M.A. Program

The four-year B.A./M.A. Degree Program in Anthropology is designed to enable exceptional or gifted undergraduates to earn two degrees simultaneously during their period of study at Brandeis University. The program provides a strong academic grounding for those students who aspire to a professional career in anthropology and anticipate continuing their studies elsewhere for the doctoral degree. Eligibility for the program is normally limited to anthropology majors who have maintained a minimum 3.40 (B+) grade point average overall and a 3.67 (A-) grade point average in anthropology courses for their first six semesters of undergraduate study. Students admitted to the program must fulfill all the requirements for a major in anthropology *with honors*, as well as the special requirements of the College of Arts and Sciences and the Department of Anthropology for the combined B.A./M.A. Specifically, they must complete a minimum of three years residence on campus, one of which is at the graduate level; a total of 38 courses (vs. the 32 required for the bachelor's degree); six anthropology courses at the graduate level (100+ numbered courses), including ANTH 190a and ANTH 193b, beyond the nine (10 in honors) required for the major in anthropology, with a minimum grade of B- in each; and an acceptable master's research paper (or honors thesis), evaluated by the student's advisor and one additional anthropology faculty member.

All candidates for the combined B.A./M.A. must complete all the requirements for the program by the end of their eighth semester (for entering freshmen). If the requirements for the M.A. portion are not complete at that time then the student is only eligible for the B.A. degree.

Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts

Program of Study

Students admitted to the Master of Arts Program in Anthropology must fulfill the Graduate School residence requirement of one full year of course-work. Course requirements include the foundational sequence, ANTH 190a (History of Anthropological Thought) and ANTH 193b (Contemporary Anthropological Theory). In addition to the above, all candidates for the Master of Arts degree in anthropology must meet the following requirements:

- A. Complete a program consisting of six elective courses designed around their anthropological interests, selected with the approval of a faculty advisor to be assigned to each student upon matriculation.
- B. Submit an acceptable master's research paper, evaluated by their advisor and one additional faculty member. There is no foreign language requirement for the Master of Arts degree in anthropology.

Requirements for the Joint Degree of Master of Arts in Anthropology and Women's Studies

Students who are candidates for the joint degree of Master of Arts in anthropology and women's studies must:

- A. Complete ANTH 144a (The Anthropology of Gender), ANTH 190a, and ANTH 193b.
- B. Complete WMNS 205a, the foundational course in women's studies. Under certain circumstances an alternative course can be taken instead of WMNS 205a. See advisor for approval.
- C. Complete two elective graduate courses in women's studies chosen from the list of courses in the *Bulletin*, at least one of which must be from a field other than anthropology.
- D. Complete two additional elective graduate courses in anthropology, selected with the approval of their advisor.
- E. Submit an acceptable master's research paper, dealing with a topic related to anthropology and women's studies, approved by their advisor. The paper must be evaluated by their advisor and one additional faculty member.
- F. Attend the year-long, noncredit, eight-part Women's Studies Colloquium Series.

There is a residence requirement of one full year of course-work. There is no language requirement for the joint master's degree in anthropology and women's studies. Students interested in the joint degree program should consult with the anthropology department women's studies liaison, Ms. Lamb.

Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

Program of Study

Flexibility in the curriculum allows doctoral students to organize a program of study around their particular anthropological interests. At the same time, the program is structured so that a broad familiarity with the anthropological discipline is achieved. Students entering through the Brandeis Master of Arts program will have already completed the two foundational courses in anthropology (ANTH 190a and ANTH 193b). All others must complete these two core courses during their first two years of residence. These courses emphasize epistemological issues in cross-cultural research and the relationship between scientific and humanistic modes of inquiry. ANTH 182b (Designing Ethnographic Research) is also required. Additional courses may be required as determined by the student's advisory committee. From their courses and outside reading, students must obtain a high level of competence in a specific topical field of anthropological research and in at least one culture area.

Graduate-level course offerings at Brandeis are augmented by the University's participation in a cross-registration program with Boston College, Boston University, Tufts University, and Wellesley College. Anthropology students are eligible to take courses at these institutions with the approval of their advisor. Students with an interest in archaeology may also take courses offered through the Center for Materials Research in Archaeology and Ethnology, a Boston-area consortium comprised of faculty from Brandeis, Boston University, Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Museum of Fine Arts, Tufts University, University of Massachusetts, Boston, and Wellesley College. Students interested in gender and women's studies may enroll in interdisciplinary courses offered through the Radcliffe Consortium.

Candidates for the doctoral degree work closely with an advisory committee consisting of two anthropology department faculty members, one of whom, the principal advisor, is in a field of specialization related to the interests of the student. The advisory committee has the following responsibilities: (1) to aid the student in

constructing a coherent program of course-work leading to a high level of competency in one or more areas of anthropological theory and methodology; (2) to make certain that the courses selected include exposure to other areas within the discipline; (3) to ensure that a component of interdisciplinary study is included; and (4) to ensure that the student is knowledgeable in the anthropology of one or more of the world's culture areas. Each semester the department faculty as a whole meets to evaluate the progress of students in the doctoral program.

Teaching Requirement

Students will be required to serve as teaching fellows as part of their Ph.D. training.

Residence Requirement

Candidates for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in anthropology are required to meet the residence requirement as set forth by the Graduate School.

Qualifying Procedure

During the year following completion of residence and course requirements (normally the end of the second year of full-time study) students must take a general examination that tests for their overall mastery of anthropological history, theory, and

methodology. In subsequent years they will study independently in their area of specialization, completing additional course-work, including reading courses if needed, and writing a Specialist Essay. The Specialist Essay requires a student to focus on a theoretical and/or topical issue relevant to their proposed dissertation research. Upon successful completion of the essay, students submit a brief prospectus, outlining their proposed dissertation research, for approval by their advisory committee. Students then normally apply for research grants to fund their project and engage in fieldwork and/or data gathering, followed by the writing of a dissertation.

Language Requirement

A reading knowledge of at least one foreign language must be demonstrated by written examination prior to the third year of enrollment and, at some point before graduation, by the submission of a research paper (such as a course paper) or doctoral dissertation in which sources in the selected language contribute to the research.

Dissertation and Defense

The completed dissertation must be successfully defended in an oral examination, as required by University regulations, before it can be formally accepted. At that point the department will recommend to the dean of arts and sciences that the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in anthropology be awarded the candidate.

Courses of Instruction

(1-99) Primarily for Undergraduate Students

ANTH 1a Introduction to the Comparative Study of Human Societies

[nw ss]

Examines the ways human beings construct their lives in a variety of societies. Includes the study of the concept of culture, kinship and social organization, political economy, gender and sexuality, religion and ritual, symbols and language, social inequalities and social change, and globalization.

Consideration of anthropological research methods and approaches to cross-cultural analysis. Usually offered every year.

Ms. Lamb

ANTH 5a Human Origins

[ss]

Major transformations of humanity from early hominids to civilizations. Fossils and archaeological evidence serve to highlight the origins of bipedalism and language, the shift from foraging to agricultural economies, and the inception of urban life and large-scale political centralization.

Usually offered every year.

Mr. Golden

ANTH 26a Communication and Media

[ss]

The exploration of human communication and mass media from cross-cultural perspective. Examination of communication codes based on language and visual signs. The global impact of revolutions in media technology, including theories of cultural imperialism and indigenous uses of media. Usually offered every third year.

Ms. McIntosh

ANTH 55a Models of Development

[nw ss]

Investigates models of development and their economic, political, social, and cultural consequences. We will begin with a discussion of the idea of progress in Euroamerican culture and thought and will then address four stages in the "development of development" as a particular application of the idea of progress: (1) modernization; (2) alternatives and modifications to modernization; and (3) recent reformulations, including participatory and sustainable development. In each phase of the course we will examine theories, applications, and cultural manifestations in detail. Usually offered every year.

Ms. Ferry

ANTH 60a Archaeological Methods

[ss]

A practice-oriented introduction to field methods, including surface-survey, mapping, and excavation of archaeological features. Other topics include principles of stratigraphy and relative/chronometric dating methods. Focuses on the exploration of a 19th-century farm near campus. Usually offered every year.

Mr. Golden

ANTH 60b Archaeological Analysis

[ss]

Introduction to techniques applied in the analysis of archaeological remains. Topics include cataloging, classification and taxonomy, conjoining and reconstruction of objects, electronic databases, quantitative and qualitative analysis, statistical techniques, spatial analysis, archaeological illustration, reporting, and exhibition of archaeological materials. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Golden

ANTH 61b Language in American Life

[ss]

Examines the relations between language and some major dimensions of American social life: social groupings (the structures of ethnic, regional, class, and gender relations); social settings (such as courtrrooms, workplaces, and homes); and social interaction. Usually offered every year.

Ms. McIntosh

ANTH 80a Anthropology of Religion

[nw ss]

An introduction to the anthropological study of human religious experience, with particular emphasis on religious and ritual practice in comparative perspective. Examines the relationship between religion and society in small-scale, non-western contexts as well as complex societies, global cultures, and world historical religions. Usually offered every year.

Ms. Schattschneider

ANTH 83a Anthropological Inquiry

[ss wi]

Prerequisite: ANTH 1a or 5a.

An ethnographic and comparative survey of key paradigms of anthropological explanation. Evaluation of exemplary theoretical statements and empirical case studies. Relationship of anthropological models to contemporary social theory. Usually offered every year.

Ms. Ferry

ANTH 83b Fieldwork

[ss]

An introduction to the theory and practice of fieldwork. The course will include discussion of classical and contemporary accounts of doing ethnographic research. Students will conduct supervised fieldwork in a variety of local settings. Usually offered every third year.

Mr. Jacobson

ANTH 90a Independent Fieldwork

Four semester course credits, of which a maximum of two may count toward the major. May not be taken by students who have taken either ANTH 90a or 90b in previous semesters.

Students proposing to take this course are expected to work out a detailed plan of study for one semester with the help of two anthropology faculty members. This plan is to be submitted to the department for its consideration before the end of the semester preceding the one in which 90a would be taken. Approval depends on the department's resources for supporting the student's plan as well as on the student's competence and the excellence of the plan itself. Usually offered every year.
Staff

ANTH 90b Independent Fieldwork

See ANTH 90a for special notes. Usually offered every year.
Staff

ANTH 92a Internship and Analysis

No more than one departmental internship for credit.

The department sponsors internships for junior and senior majors and minors. Internships combine off-campus work that provides a significant anthropological learning experience and academic study supervised by a departmental faculty sponsor. Majors may substitute one internship for the ninth elective course option. Students doing summer internships register for course credit in the following fall semester. A minimum of a B+ grade point average in anthropology courses is required for eligibility. For information see Guidelines for Anthropology Internships available from the undergraduate advisor. Usually offered every year.
Staff

ANTH 92b Internship and Analysis

No more than one departmental internship for credit.
Usually offered every year.
Staff

ANTH 98a Readings in Anthropology

Separate sections are offered on demand for the subdisciplines of sociocultural anthropology, archaeology, linguistics, and physical/biological anthropology. Usually offered every year.
Staff

ANTH 98b Readings in Anthropology

Separate sections are offered on demand for the subdisciplines of sociocultural anthropology, archaeology, linguistics, and physical/biological anthropology. Usually offered every year.
Staff

ANTH 99d Senior Research

Usually offered every year.
Staff

(100-199) For Both Undergraduate and Graduate Students**ANTH 105a Myth and Ritual**

[nw ss]
Enrollment limited to advanced undergraduate and graduate students.
Myth and ritual studied as two interlocking modes of cultural symbolism. Theoretical approaches to myth are evaluated by looking at creation and political myths. Performative, processual, and spatial models of ritual analysis are evaluated by study of initiation, sacrifice, and funerals. Usually offered every second year.
Ms. Schattschneider

ANTH 108b History, Time, and Tradition

[ss]
Topics relating to the historical dimension of societies are explored in cross-cultural and interdisciplinary perspectives: the cultural construction of the past, temporal and calendrical systems, the invention of tradition, ethnohistorical narrative, and historical monuments. Usually offered every third year.
Mr. Parmentier

ANTH 110a Human Evolution

[qr ss]
Evolutionary principles that shape human physical characteristics and generate variability of human groups around the world. Exploration of the fossil record, biological and behavioral relationships of humans and non-human primates, and current changes in the genetic composition of human populations. Usually offered every year.
Staff

ANTH 112a African Art and Aesthetics

[ss]
The visual arts and aesthetics of sub-Saharan Africa and the African diaspora, with attention to the spiritual, social, and cultural dimensions of art and performance. Special emphasis on the historical dynamism and cultural creativity of "tradition-based" and contemporary African artists. Usually offered every third year.
Mr. Auslander

ANTH 116a Human Osteology

[sn ss]
Junior and senior majors have priority for enrollment.
Skeletal anatomy and application of forensic techniques to archaeological problems. Hands-on laboratory sessions focus on methods of estimating age, determining sex, assessing variability, distinguishing bone disorders, and identifying cultural and natural modifications to bony tissue. Case studies exemplify bioarchaeological approaches. Usually offered every second year.
Mr. Urcid

ANTH 118b Peoples and Societies of the Middle East

[ss]
An anthropological introduction to the peoples and societies of the Middle East. Focus on Islam, family and kinship, communal identities, gender, and youth culture. Reading critical ethnographies develops sensitivities in understanding the variety of experiences in the Middle East. Usually offered every year.
Ms. Joseph

ANTH 123a Directions and Issues in Archaeology

[ss]
An examination of concepts involved in the archaeological study of the human past. Selected readings will be discussed as illustrations of major theoretical and methodological issues. Usually offered every second year.
Mr. Urcid

ANTH 126b Symbol, Meaning, and Reality: Explorations in Cultural Semiotics

[ss]
Provides a historical survey of the development of theories of signs and symbols; comparison of Peircean and Saussurean foundations of modern semiotics; the structure of cultural codes (language, art, music, and dress); and the possibility of crosscultural typologies. Usually offered every third year.
Mr. Parmentier

ANTH 127a Medicine, Body, and Culture

[nw ss]
Examines main areas of inquiry in medical anthropology, including medicine as a sociocultural construct, political and economic dimensions of suffering and health, patients and healers in comparative medical systems, and the medical construction of men's and women's bodies. Usually offered every second year.
Ms. Lamb

ANTH 128a Meaning and Material Culture

[ss]
An investigation of the relationship between cultural meaning and material objects. Central objects are emblems of social identity (fabric, houses, monuments), objectifications of value (money, valuables, commodities), and aesthetic representations (images, icons, statues). Usually offered every second year.
Messrs. Parmentier and Urcid

ANTH 129b Global, Transnational, and Diasporic Communities

[ss]
Examines social and cultural dimensions of globalization from an anthropological perspective. Topics include the impact of global capitalism upon indigenous communities, global forms of popular culture and consumerism, transnational migration and diasporas, changing inequalities and gender systems, global sexual cultures, and the AIDS pandemic. Usually offered every second year.
Ms. Lamb

ANTH 131b Latin America in Ethnographic Perspective

[ss wi]

Examines issues in contemporary Latin America and the Spanish Caribbean from the perspective of sociocultural anthropology, based primarily on books and articles drawing on long-term ethnographic research. Topics include, but are not limited to: the Zapatista Rebellion in Mexico; tin mining and religion in Bolivia; mortuary cannibalism in the Amazon; the role of the Virgin of Guadalupe in Mexican national identity; love and marriage among young migrants between Mexico and the United States; weaving, beauty pageants, and jokes in Guatemala; and daily life in revolutionary Cuba. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Ferry

ANTH 133a Tradition and the Contemporary Experience in Sub-Saharan Africa

[nw ss]

Explores the variety and richness of indigenous African social and cultural forms, such as the organization of the family; indigenous political systems; rank and slavery; traditional economics; ideas about magic, witchcraft, and religion; and the arts. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Auslander

ANTH 134a South Asia: Tradition and the Contemporary Experience

[nw ss]

May be repeated for credit if taught by different instructors.

Examines the diversity and richness of the cultures and societies of South Asia, with a focus on India. Concentrates on the lived experiences of class, caste, gender, religion, politics, and region in people's everyday lives. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Lamb

ANTH 135a Paradoxes of Peoplehood in Contemporary Israel

[ss]

Prerequisite: ANTH 1a or permission of the instructor.

Explores a wide range of materials about social experience in Israel, with a particular focus on marginalized or frequently overlooked social groups. Topics include women in Israeli society, critical perspectives on ethnicity and religion, the relationship between gender and citizenship, disability and identity, and nationalism and sexuality. Usually offered every fourth year.

Staff

ANTH 135b Modern South Asia: Society and Politics

[nw ss]

Examines the intricate relationship between politics and society in modern South Asia. Topics include colonial-era British institutional development, the role of religion in South Asian politics, the emergence of ethnic conflict, and the performance of post-colonial government. Usually offered every fourth year.

Staff

ANTH 136a State Formation in Comparative Perspective

[ss]

Prerequisite: One course dealing with ancient societies.

Comparative and multidisciplinary understanding of the development of complex societies in the ancient world. Archaeological, ethnographic, and textual data from exemplary case studies (Uruk, Hawaii, Bali, Teotihuacan, Minos, Angkor, Inca) are used to evaluate theoretical models of state formation. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Golden

ANTH 138a Social Relations in Cyberspace

[ss]

Provides an introduction to various forms of computer-mediated communication (e.g., email, newsgroups, bulletin boards, and virtual communities) and the ways in which people interact in these different contexts of cyberspace. Students are expected to do online research. Usually offered every year.

Mr. Jacobson

ANTH 139b Language, Ethnicity, and Nationalism

[ss]

It is often assumed that language differences divide people, while a common language unites them. To what extent is this true? Taking cross-cultural and historical approaches, we examine concepts of "speech community," tribe, ethnicity, and nation. Explores what kinds of social groupings these terms might label; some ideologies connected with their use; and their relationship with communication systems. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. McIntosh

ANTH 141b Engendering Archaeology: Exploring Women's and Men's Lives in the Past

[ss]

Prerequisite: ANTH 5a, 60a, or 110a recommended.

Explores people's pasts through archaeology. Topics include theoretical foundations of creating engendered pasts, methodological aspects of "doing" engendered archaeology, and intersections between political feminism, knowledge production, and the politics of engendered archaeology. Usually offered every third year.

Staff

ANTH 142a AIDS in Anthropological Perspective

[ss]

An examination of the AIDS pandemic from cross-cultural and anthropological perspectives; topics include biosocial approaches to disease, epidemiology of transmission, national and international institutions, prevention and treatment, and ethical issues; case studies from the Americas, Asia, and Africa. Usually offered every third year.

Ms. Kammerer

ANTH 144a The Anthropology of Gender

[nw ss wi]

An examination of gender constructs, sexuality, and cultural systems from a comparative perspective. Topics include the division of labor, rituals of masculinity and femininity, the vexing question of the universality of women's subordination, cross-cultural perspectives on homosexuality and transsexuality, the impact of globalization on women's lives, and the history of feminist anthropology. Usually offered every year.

Ms. Lamb and Ms. Schattschneider

ANTH 145a Anthropology of the Body

[ss]

Explores a range of theories that use the body to understand society, culture, and gender. Topics include how social values and hierarchies are written in, on, and through the body; the relationship between body and gender identity; and experiences and images of the body cross-culturally. Usually offered every third year.

Ms. Lamb and Ms. Schattschneider

ANTH 147b The Rise of Mesoamerican Civilization

[nw ss]

Traces the development of social complexity in pre-Columbian Mesoamerica, from initial colonization in the Late Pleistocene to the Spanish conquest in the 16th century. Review of major societal transformations like agriculture, the inception of village life, and the rise of civilizations. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Urcid

ANTH 149a Archaeology of Egypt and Canaan in Ancient Times

[ss]

Surveys the major archaeological sites in Egypt and Asia from 2200 BCE to 600 BCE. Some 20 sites in modern day Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria form the focus of lectures and discussions. Particular attention is given to interpreting the cultural remains in the light of historical and literary evidence. Usually offered third year.

Mr. Cohen

ANTH 152b From Birth to Death: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Human Demography

[ss]

Vital demographic events impact all facets of society, from when and who we marry to how natural resources are utilized through the production process. Interdisciplinary perspectives on human demography are explored, with special emphasis on micro demographic approaches in anthropological research. Special two-time offering; will be offered in spring 2005.

Ms. Joseph

ANTH 153a Writing Systems and Scribal Traditions

[nw ss]

Compares graphic forms of communication, ranging from semasiographic to alphabetic systems, from archaeological and ethnographic perspectives. Explores the social functions of early writing systems, the linkage of literacy and political power, and the production of historical memory. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Urcid

ANTH 155b Psychological Anthropology

[ss]

An examination of the relationship between sociocultural systems and individual psychological processes with a critical evaluation of selected theories and studies bearing on this problem. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. McIntosh

ANTH 156a Power and Violence: The Anthropology of Political Systems

[nw ss]

Political orders are established and maintained by varying combinations of overt violence and the more subtle workings of ideas. The course examines the relationship of coercion and consensus, and forms of resistance, in historical and in contemporary settings. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Ferry

ANTH 157a Families and Households

[ss]

Describes and analyzes several family types and households in contemporary American life, interpreting them in their cultural contexts and comparing them with similar arrangements in other cultures. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Jacobson

ANTH 158a Urban Anthropology

[ss]

Comparative study of strategies used in coping with the complexity of urban life. Attention will be given to analyzing and evaluating the theories, methods, and data anthropologists and others use in their studies of urban social organization. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Jacobson

ANTH 161b Culture and Cognition

[ss]

Explores the relationship between cognitive processes and cultural systems, cultural differences involving people's perception, classification process, memory or modes of problem solving, and their effect on the course of cognitive development. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. McIntosh

ANTH 163b Production, Consumption, and Exchange

[nw ss]

Prerequisite: ANTH 1a, or ECON 2a, or permission of the instructor.

We read in newspapers, books, and hear in everyday discussion about "the economy," an identifiably separate sphere of human life with its own rules and principles and its own scholarly discipline (economics). Class starts with the premise that this "common sense" idea of the economy is only one among a number of possible perspectives on the ways people use resources to meet their basic and not-so-basic human needs. Using extensive cross-cultural case studies, looks at the satisfaction of these needs (which we might call economic activity) as they interact with other aspects of life: gender, kinship, ideas of morality and taste, spirit possession, politics, and so on. Usually offered every year.

Ms. Ferry

ANTH 174b Virtual Communities

[ss]

Prerequisite: ANTH 138a, or permission of the instructor.

A research seminar dealing with a selected problem in the social organization of online communities. Possible topics include impression formation in cyberspace, social control in virtual communities, the concept of presence in computer-mediated communication, and the transition between online and offline relationships. Students will do online fieldwork. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Jacobson

ANTH 178b Culture, Gender, and Power in East Asia

[ss]

Explores the relevance of social theory to the dynamics of culture, gender, and power in East Asia. Topics include exchange, personhood, ideology, and historical consciousness. Students will read detailed ethnographic studies set in urban and rural East Asia and view several contemporary films. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Schattschneider

ANTH 182b Designing Ethnographic Research

[ss]

Survey of principal methodological issues in anthropological fieldwork and analysis, including research design, technologies of data collection, household surveys and genealogies, comparative methods, and ethnographic representation. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Jacobson

ANTH 184b Cross-Cultural Art and Aesthetics

[nw ss]

This course may not be repeated for credit by students who have taken ANTH 84b in previous years.

A cross-cultural and diachronic exploration of art, focusing on the communicative aspects of visual aesthetics. The survey takes a broad view of how human societies deploy images to foster identities, lure into consumption, generate political propaganda, engage in ritual, render sacred propositions tangible, and chart the character of the cosmos. Usually offered every second year.

Messrs. Auslander and Urcid

ANTH 185a Archaeological Science

Prerequisites: One year of college-level chemistry, biology, and physics, or the equivalent. Signature of Mr. Urcid, the Brandeis coordinator, required.

A lecture course in which leading experts from the faculty of the seven major Boston-area universities and the Museum of Fine Arts that comprise the Center for Materials Research in Archaeology and Ethnology (CMRAE) consortium discuss how they apply scientific technology and engineering methods to archaeological analysis. Deals with topics such as radioactive and other methods of age determination, archaeological site formation and soil micromorphology, and the study of materials used in ancient building construction. Usually offered every second year.

Staff

ANTH 186b Linguistic Anthropology

Prerequisite: ANTH 61b or LING 100a.

Advanced topics in linguistic anthropology, including the study of linguistic meaning in context; pragmatics; the construction of social relationships through language; language and authority; language and religion; and linguistic ideologies. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. McIntosh

ANTH 187a Materials Research in Archaeology, I

[ss]

Enrollment limited to advanced undergraduate and graduate students. Signature of Mr. Urcid, the Brandeis coordinator, required. Topics vary from year to year, and the course may be repeated for credit.

A series of courses, each focusing on a specific topic, such as archaeological analysis of animal or plant remains; the analysis of lithic materials, pottery, or metals; GPS; and statistical analysis. Courses are offered each semester, taught by faculty from the Center for Materials Research in Archaeology and Ethnology, a consortium including Brandeis, Boston University, Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Museum of Fine Arts, Tufts, University of Massachusetts, Boston, and Wellesley. Usually offered every year.
Staff

ANTH 188b Materials Research in Archaeology, II

[ss]

Enrollment limited to advanced undergraduate and graduate students. Signature of Mr. Urcid, the Brandeis coordinator, required. Topics vary from year to year, and the course may be repeated for credit.

See ANTH 187a for course description. Usually offered every year.
Staff

ANTH 190a History of Anthropological Thought

[ss]

A historical examination of major ideas and perennial problems in social thought that have led to the development of modern theory and method in anthropology. Usually offered every year.
Mr. Parmentier

ANTH 191a Field School in Archaeology

[ss]

Training in methods of archaeological fieldwork and analysis through participation in the excavation of an archaeological site. Students will normally assist in excavation, artifact analysis, and attend lectures. Offered on an irregular basis in the summer.
Staff

ANTH 193b Contemporary Anthropological Theory

[ss]

Prerequisite: ANTH 83a for undergraduate students and ANTH 190a for graduate students.

Intensive survey of the major theoretical models in contemporary anthropology. Comparison of materialist, comparative, semiotic, feminist, cognitive, linguistic, reflexive, poststructuralist, and Marxist approaches. Evaluation of theories in terms of philosophical coherence and empirical adequacy. Usually offered every second year.
Ms. Lamb

ANTH 196a Comparative Social Institutions

[ss]

Introduces students to key anthropological conceptions of social institutions and their role in cross-cultural comparison. Included are examples such as status and role, household and family, lineage and descent group, network and alliance, and class and stratification. Usually offered every third year.
Staff

(200 and above) Primarily for Graduate Students**ANTH 225a Readings and Research in Cultural Analysis**

Mr. Parmentier

ANTH 225b Readings and Research in Cultural Analysis

Mr. Parmentier

ANTH 226a Readings and Research in Archaeology

Mr. Urcid

ANTH 226b Readings and Research in Archaeology

Mr. Urcid

ANTH 227a Readings and Research in Linguistic Anthropology

Ms. McIntosh

ANTH 227b Readings and Research in Linguistic Anthropology

Ms. McIntosh

ANTH 228a Advanced Readings in Method and Theory

Staff

ANTH 228b Advanced Readings in Archaeological Method and Theory

Mr. Urcid

ANTH 231a Readings in Cognitive Culture

Ms. McIntosh

ANTH 231b Readings in Cognitive Culture

Ms. McIntosh

ANTH 232a Readings in Development

Ms. Ferry

ANTH 234b Readings and Research in Anthropology of Law

Staff

ANTH 235a Readings and Research in Latin American Cultures

Staff

ANTH 235b Readings and Research in Latin American Cultures

Staff

ANTH 238a Readings and Research in Urban Anthropology

Mr. Jacobson

ANTH 238b Readings and Research in Urban Anthropology

Mr. Jacobson

ANTH 241a Readings and Research in New World Ethnohistory

Mr. Urcid

ANTH 241b Readings and Research in New World Ethnohistory

Mr. Urcid

ANTH 243a Readings and Research in Anthropology of Body

Ms. Lamb and Ms. Schattschneider

ANTH 243b Readings and Research in Anthropology of Body

Ms. Lamb and Ms. Schattschneider

ANTH 247b Readings and Research in Human Development

Ms. Lamb

ANTH 252a Readings and Research in Anthropology of Art

Mr. Urcid

ANTH 252b Readings and Research in Anthropology of Art

Mr. Urcid

ANTH 253a Readings and Research in Economic Anthropology

Ms. Ferry

ANTH 253b Readings and Research in Economic Anthropology

Ms. Ferry

ANTH 254a Readings and Research in Southeast Asian Ethnography

Mr. Appell

ANTH 254b Readings and Research in Southeast Asian Ethnography

Mr. Appell

ANTH 256a Readings and Research in Religion

Ms. Schattschneider

ANTH 256b Readings and Research in Religion

Ms. Schattschneider

ANTH 257a Readings and Research in Families and Households

Mr. Jacobson

ANTH 257b Readings and Research in Families and Households

Mr. Jacobson

ANTH 258a Readings and Research in Computer-Mediated Communication

Mr. Jacobson

ANTH 258b Readings and Research in Computer-Mediated Communication

Mr. Jacobson

ANTH 283a Readings and Research in Fieldwork

Mr. Jacobson

ANTH 283b Readings and Research in Fieldwork

Mr. Jacobson

ANTH 284a Readings and Research in Archaeological Methods

Mr. Urcid

ANTH 284b Readings and Research in Archaeological Methods

Mr. Urcid

ANTH 285a Readings and Research in Gender and Sexuality

Ms. Lamb

ANTH 285b Readings and Research in Gender and Sexuality

Ms. Lamb

ANTH 286a Readings and Research in South Asia

Ms. Lamb

ANTH 286b Readings and Research in South Asia

Ms. Lamb

ANTH 287a Readings and Research in Medical Anthropology

Mr. Jacobson or Ms. Lamb

ANTH 287b Readings and Research in Medical Anthropology

Mr. Jacobson or Ms. Lamb

ANTH 288a Readings and Research in Immigrant and Transnational Communities

Ms. Lamb

ANTH 288b Readings and Research in Immigrant and Transnational Communities

Ms. Lamb

ANTH 289a Readings and Research in Biological Anthropology

Mr. Urcid

ANTH 289b Readings and Research in Biological Anthropology

Mr. Urcid

ANTH 300a Master's Thesis Research

Staff

ANTH 304a Readings and Research in Anthropological Field Methods

Staff

ANTH 304b Readings and Research in Anthropological Field Methods

Staff

ANTH 305d Anthropology Colloquium

Staff

ANTH 400d Dissertation Research

Specific sections for individual faculty member as requested.

Staff