Anthropology

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Courses


U69 Anthro 100 Introduction to Anthropology
Anthropology is a field that seeks to synthesize and integrate all aspects of what it means to be human, including the study of human diversity across time and space. Anthropologists are collectively interested in studying humans from a holistic perspective, including cultural, linguistic, and biological anthropology and archaeology. This course aims to introduce students to basic concepts within anthropology, integrating the perspectives and methods of each of the subfields into the approach. We will examine how culture, environment, and biology are intertwined in the variation seen within humans both past and present. Topics addressed will include aspects of human evolution and variation, non-human primates, Paleolithic cultures, subsistence strategies, kinship, political organization, the rise and fall of complex societies, religion, language, globalization, and anthropology in the present and future.
Credit 3 units. UColl: OLI

U69 Anthro 150 Introduction to Human Evolution
The fossil evidence for human evolution, the genetics of human variation and evolution, the study of living nonhuman primates, and the fossil record and its interpretation. An evolutionary perspective is used in an attempt to understand modern humans from the naturalistic point of view.
Credit 3 units. UColl: OLI

U69 Anthro 150M Introduction to Human Evolution
Online version of the course U69 150. This course is a survey of the fossil evidence for human evolution. The course includes discussion of the genetics of human variation and evolution, the study of living nonhuman primates, and the fossil record and its interpretation. An evolutionary perspective is used in an attempt to understand modern humans from the naturalistic point of view.
Credit 3 units. UColl: OLI

U69 Anthro 160 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
Equality, hierarchy, and stratification in tribal, peasant, and industrializing societies from past and present cultures. Comparison of the ways in which different cultures legitimize social difference; myth and ritual in relation to the social order and social process; patterns of authority and protest; theories of sociocultural change and evolution.
Credit 3 units. UColl: CD

U69 Anthro 190 Introduction to Archaeology
Archaeology plays a critical and unique role in understanding the human past. Through study of the methods and theories of archaeology, and a survey of important firsts in the human past, this course introduces students to the way archaeologists use material culture to reconstruct and understand human behavior.

U69 Anthro 190M Introduction to Archaeology
Archaeology plays a critical and unique role in understanding the human past. Through study of the methods and theories of archaeology, and a survey of important firsts in the human past, this course introduces students to the way archaeologists use material culture to reconstruct and understand human behavior.

U69 Anthro 280 Introduction to Anthropological Genetics
Anthropology is the study of humans, past and present. In the post-genomic era, we now have the capability to uncover the genetic basis of being human. This course will examine the intersection of genetics and anthropology. Students will be taught the basic principles of molecular evolutionary analysis and population genetics that are applied to the study of humans and other primates. In addition, students will learn how genetic data can supplement the archaeological, linguistic, cultural, paleoanthropological, and comparative primate research of traditional anthropology. Specifically, we will survey (1) methods of measuring and drawing inferences from human genetic variation, (2) theories of modern human origins and peopling of the world, and (3) recent advances in studying the genetic underpinnings for human disease. The first portion of every class will be devoted to lecture while the latter half will be a discussion of the assigned articles. There will be one in-class laboratory in which we explore some of the electronic resources available to anthropological geneticists. Finally, we will spend part of one class engaged in lively scientific debate over the question: are modern humans still evolving? Students should leave this class with a basic understanding of the contribution of genetics to the field of anthropology and how anthropological knowledge can illuminate genetic findings.
Credit 3 units.

U69 Anthro 300 Independent Study
Credit variable, maximum 3 units.

U69 Anthro 3004 Second Sight: Topics in Visual Anthropology
Visual anthropology is as old as the camera, and, like North Atlantic anthropology, it shares a long history with colonial exploitation and expansion. This course examines the history of both ethnographic film and photography and considers the ethics of visual anthropology in the 21st century. This survey of ethnographic film and photography aims to familiarize students with the concepts of visual anthropology and to introduce a variety of ethnographic and media studies concepts, theories, methods, and ethical considerations. Drawing from a broad spectrum of materials, we will focus on analyzing film and photography in class, discussing ethics, challenging the boundaries of ethnographic conventions, and inviting filmmakers and photographers into conversation via Skype.
Credit 3 units.

U69 Anthro 3030 Introduction to Human Ecology
Human ecology investigates the complex relationships between humans and their environment. The discipline is typically divided into two primary fields of research: cultural ecology (the study of cultural solutions to environmental challenges) and human biological ecology (the study of physical changes that occur in response to environmental stressors). This course examines both biological and cultural human adaptation to the earth’s major ecosystems and surveys human subsistence strategies within these environments. Students will investigate the consequences of population growth, modernization, nutritional disparities, medical ethics, and environmental stewardship in a globalized world. The final section of the course will focus on world globalization, modernization, inequality, and health.
Credit 3 units. UColl: ML

Chronologically ordered case studies from around the globe are used to look at social, ecological, and cultural issues facing humans from the earliest times to the present. Students gain practice reconstructing the past through hands-on participation in two 1-hour labs focusing on lithics and animal bones. By the end of the course, students are expected to be able to think critically about how the past is presented, and why, and the importance of the past as it relates to the present and future.
U69 Anthro 308M Race Matters! How Race and Racism Affect Health and Medicine
This course grapples with the relationships among race, racism, health, and medicine, both in the United States and abroad. It examines the historical roots of medical racism, the role of medical and genetic research in constructing and deconstructing race as a biological concept, and the ways that systemic racism harms health. This course will also consider how race operates with other intersecting social and political identities (e.g., ethnicity, age, sex, gender, sexual orientation, class, disability) to influence health outcomes. Although anthropological and critical race theories will frame our learning, we will read broadly across other disciplines, including (but not limited to) sociology, the history of medicine, law, public health, and science and technology studies.
Credit 3 units. UColl: OLI

U69 Anthro 3093 Anthropology of Modern Latin America
A survey of current issues in the anthropological study of culture, politics, and change across contemporary Latin American and the Caribbean. Topics include machismo and feminism, the drug war, race and mestizaje, yuppies and revolutionary, ethnic movements, pop culture, violence, multinational business, and the cultural politics of U.S.-Latin American relations. Attention will be given to the ways that anthropology is used to understand complex cultural and social processes in a region thoroughly shaped by globalization.
Same as L48 Anthro 3093
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: LCD, SSC Arch: SSC Art: SSC BU: BA, IS: EN: S

U69 Anthro 3137 The Pandemic: Science and Society Follow-up
This course is an extension of The Pandemic: Science and Society (Anthro L48 3515/U69 3136). Drawing from topics covered in the first course, this course will provide further examination of the societal and environmental impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic now and in the future. This course will offer students the opportunity to reflect on and apply the knowledge and critical-thinking skills acquired in Anthro L48 3515/U69 3136 to current events as well as their own experiences regarding the global pandemic. A core component of this course is its focus on the interconnectedness of the COVID-19 pandemic to health and racial disparities, education, climate change, and the human-animal-environment interface.
Credit 1 unit. UCcoll: OLI

U69 Anthro 3151 Evolution of the Human Diet
Many researchers and health enthusiasts believe that the abandonment of our “Paleolithic” diet and lifestyle with the onset of agriculture some 10,000 years ago has lead to a rapid decline in health and perpetuated countless “diseases of civilization.” While diet fads come and go, it seems this new enthusiasm for “Paleo diets” is here to stay. But what is a “Paleo diet” anyway? Through a comparative evolutionary and anthropological approach we will examine the diets of extinct hominins, our extant primate relatives, ethnohistoric and contemporary periods, and to think critically about health systems and problems, especially health disparities and health care delivery to diverse populations. No prior knowledge of anthropology is required.
Same as L48 Anthro 3151
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Arch: SSC Art: SSC BU: SCI EN: S

U69 Anthro 3206 Global Gender Issues
This course compares the life experiences of women and men in societies throughout the world. We will discuss the evidence regarding the universal subordination of women, and we will examine explanations that propose to situate women’s and men’s personality attributes, roles, and responsibilities in the biological or cultural domains. In general, through readings, films, and lectures, the class will provide a cross-cultural perspective on issues regarding gender and how gendered meanings, practices, and performances serve as structuring principles in society.
Credit 3 units.

U69 Anthro 3217 Food, Nation, Place: The Social Life of Food in Italy and Beyond
Using Italy as a case study, we will explore topics such as the social history of food and the influence of cuisine on the development of national identity. Although the primary focus of this course is on the anthropology of food culture in Italy, we will incorporate perspectives from a range of different academic disciplines and geographic locations to explore larger theoretical questions about identity, politics of place, nationalism, and globalization.
Credit 3 units. Arch: SSC Art: SSC BU: BA, IS: EN: S UColl: OLI

U69 Anthro 3226 Seeking Refuge
What does it mean to be a refugee? Where do refugees reside, and from where do they originate? How are they distinguished, legally and in the public imagination, from other migrants? What challenges do they face? This course will address these questions and many more, giving students a detailed and nuanced understanding of asylum and international protection in the contemporary world. Topics to be covered include: refugee camps, refugee resettlement, asylum seekers, Palestinian refugees, women refugees, LGBTQ+ refugees, climate refugees, mental health, refugee integration and adaptation, and public response to refugees. Additionally, we will discuss different career paths for working with refugees and asylum seekers, and we will welcome several guest speakers with experience in this field, including a psychologist, a documentary filmmaker, a journalist, and a social worker. In lieu of a traditional term paper, students will have the option to complete a migrant interview project, in which they will interview a friend, family member, or other close acquaintance who is a migrant with the guidance of the instructor, culminating in a final paper.
Credit 3 units. UColl: CD

U69 Anthro 3281 Introduction to Global Health
This course provides a general introduction to the field of public health. It examines the philosophy, history, organization, functions, activities, and results of public health research and practice. Case studies include infectious and chronic diseases, mental health, maternal and reproductive health, food safety and nutrition, environmental health, and global public health. Students are encouraged to look at health issues from a systemic and population level perspective, and to think critically about health systems and problems, especially health disparities and health care delivery to diverse populations. No background in anthropology or public health is required.
Credit 3 units. BU: SCI

U69 Anthro 3283 Introduction to Public Health
This course provides a general introduction to the field of public health. It examines the philosophy, history, organization, functions, activities, and results of public health research and practice. Case studies include infectious and chronic diseases, maternal and reproductive health, food safety and nutrition, environmental health, and global public health. Students are encouraged to look...
at health issues from a systemic and population level perspective, and to think critically about health systems and problems, especially health disparities and health care delivery to diverse populations. No background in anthropology or public health is required.

Credit 3 units. BU: SCI

U69 Anthro 3306 Introduction to Forensic Anthropology
This course is an introduction to the field of forensic anthropology, which involves the analysis of human skeletal remains within the context of a legal investigation. We will explore how forensic anthropologists use their knowledge of human osteology, dentition, skeletal variation, and pathology to identify human remains. Specifically, students will learn how to attribute sex, age, ancestry, and stature to skeletal material as well as how to establish the forensic context, estimate time since death, crime scene investigation, trauma identification, and recovery scene methods. A number of invited guest speakers will expose students to the multidisciplinary nature of this field. We will also discuss the application of forensic anthropology to human rights issues. This course will involve both lecture and hands-on labs during which students will be working with skeletal materials.
Credit 3 units. UColl: OLI

U69 Anthro 3310 Health, Healing, and Ethics: Intro to Medical Anthropology
A cross-cultural exploration of cultures and social organizations of medical systems, the global exportation of biomedicine, and ethical dilemmas associated with medical technologies and global disparities in health.
Credit 3 units. UColl: CD, ML, OLI

U69 Anthro 333 Culture and Health
A survey of cultural dimension in health, disease, wellness, illness, healing, curing, as seen in selected alternative medical traditions. Shamanism, Ayurveda, Traditional Chinese medicine, homeopathy, chiropractic, and others surveyed and compared with conventional biomedical. Lectures, video case studies, approximately eight textbooks.
Credit 3 units. UColl: CD

U69 Anthro 3381 Media, Politics and Religion
What are media and mass media? How are we to understand mass media in relation to politics and religion? With the emergence of mass media, political and religious movements have been consolidated among increasingly diverse and larger populations. This course will address the origins and development of these media, movements, and populations in both local and global contexts. Specifically, we will investigate how information technologies -- from books and newspapers to radio, television and the internet -- engage with democracy, nationalism, and a wide range of political and religious movements around the world. We will discuss the current dynamics of these phenomena as well as what to expect in the coming years.
Credit 3 units.

U69 Anthro 339 Culture Goes Online: An Introduction to Digital Anthropology
How do online phenomena like QAnon and “cancel culture” become salient cultural forces in “real life”? Can new apps, intelligent algorithms, and cryptocurrencies solve longstanding social and economic problems? What happens to the data produced by “smart” homes and appliances? Did memes decide the 2016 presidential election? Over the past three decades, digital technologies have become powerfully present in social and political life. They offer dazzling possibilities: connecting people and communities across distance and time, expanding our abilities to perceive the world and record our experiences, and producing and processing astonishingly huge quantities of data. They also raise important questions about privacy, ethics, and governance. Proponents of digital technologies celebrate them as great equalizers that create more opportunities for democratic engagement, while critics express concern that they open the door for new forms of inequality and exploitation. This course will examine these and other problems through an anthropological lens, asking how we can think analytically about culture and politics in the digital age. We’ll engage with scholarship, journalism, and artistic productions, from the first digital ethnographies to recent, interdisciplinary and methodologically innovative multimedia works. Topics will include social media, the political uses (and abuses) of digital technology, “big data” and digital surveillance, digital technology and sustainability, and internet infrastructure, access, and inequality.
Credit 3 units. UColl: OLI

U69 Anthro 3391 Economies as Cultural Systems
Many contemporary approaches to economics downplay or bracket the importance of culture in the workings of economic systems. In this class we will focus on approaches to distribution and exchange in which culture and social institutions figure prominently, if not pre-eminently. We will sample a diverse array of economies, from gift exchange to the ceremonial destruction of wealth, from Melanesia to Wall Street, in order to evaluate some of the assumptions that undergird market capitalism. These assumptions include the perception of market actors exclusively as calculative, maximizing individuals. Topics to be covered include the Industrial Revolution; utilitarianism; economic anthropology; the formal vs. substantivist debates; ethnography of finance, and Marxist sociology.
Credit 3 units.

U69 Anthro 3422 American Indian Art, Symbol and Meaning
An introduction to the arts among a broad range of native peoples who inhabited North, Middle, and South America. Course begins with basic concepts of art and anthropology. Emphasis is on the iconography found in various art styles, particularly the prehistoric rock carvings and paintings left by Native Americans throughout the New World. Oral traditions and myths found in the ethnographic record provide fascinating associations and interpretations.
Credit 3 units. UColl: CD

U69 Anthro 3423 Body Art/Body Modification Across Cultures
All cultures practice one form or another of body modification. It can be in the form of face or body painting, piercing, tattooing, scarifying, or re-shaping. Body modification is usually done to indicate social position, family, marital status, identity with a particular ethnic, age, or gender group, perform a rite of passage such as puberty, ward off or invoke the spirits, or send a message. This course explores body art and body modification in several world cultures -- including our own.
Credit 3 units. UColl: CD

U69 Anthro 3471 Archaeology of the St. Louis Region
This course introduces students to archaeology of the St. Louis region and explores the cultures of its early inhabitants, from 12,000 years ago through the 19th century. We study a number of very important archaeological sites in the region, including Mastodon State Park, where artifacts of human manufacture were found in direct association with extinct mastodons dating to about 12,000 years ago, and Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site (a World Heritage Site) in Illinois, dating to the Mississippian period AD 1050-1350. We also examine methods and theories used by archaeologists to understand archaeological remains.
Credit 3 units.
U69 Anthro 3476 Archeologies of Graffiti from Antiquity to the Present

The modern story of graffiti — revolving around social, economic, and political contexts such as bathroom stalls, subways and alleys, and the vandalism of public and private property. However, some people consider graffiti as a legitimate form of art, communication, and a somewhat anonymous expression of current social climates. The disparity between these two perspectives has provided a great deal to study for social scientists. However, a consideration of graffiti’s simple definition — words or drawings etched or painted on some surface in a public place — leads us to recognize that feats of graffiti originate way before the inner-city movements of the 1970s. In this class we will draw upon a range of studies from archaeology, anthropology, sociology, art, and history to broadly explore the creation and meaning of graffiti from antiquity to the present. Our goal is to learn how to examine the form, function, and context of graffiti across cultures and through time, with regard to the circumstances of its creation. In doing so, we aspire to better understand what lies behind the human urge to leave a mark.

Prerequisite: Introduction to Archaeology.
Credit 3 units.

U69 Anthro 3531 Love, Courtship, and Marriage in Africa: The Anthropologies of Intimacy and Conjugality

This course is an exploration of past and present anthropological inquiry into love, courtship, and marriage across the African continent. The course explores the various reasons that love on the continent has been of great interest to social scientists in certain historical moments while completely ignored in others. Other key questions in this course revolve around making connections between love and political economies, kinship, gender, health, labor migration, colonization, and the law, among other key topics. The course will begin by introducing students to earlier anthropological assumptions, which presumed that intimacies in African contexts were tied to urbanization or development theory. Early anthropological works often ignored long histories of companionate relationships and love, setting them at odds with kinship involvement. Only since the 1990s has anthropological inquiry begun to consider intimacy and affect in Africa more fully. The bulk of the semester will be spent exploring these recent contributions. Course goals include tracing the history of scholarship on love in Africa, exploring contemporary ethnographies in local and global context, and thinking critically through anthropological inquiry and methodologies. Course materials will include a mix of ethnography, scholarly journal articles, and popular news clips as well as films and novels by African scholars and artists.
Credit 3 units. UColl: CD

U69 Anthro 361 Culture and Environment

An introduction to the ecology of human culture, especially how “traditional” cultural ecosystems are organized and how they change with population density. Topics include foragers, extensive and intensive farming, industrial agriculture, the ecology of conflict, and problems in sustainability.
Credit 3 units. Arch: SSC Art: SSC BU: ETH EN: S

U69 Anthro 3621 Anthropology of Human Birth

This course will examine the interaction between human biology and culture in relation to childbirth. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the cultural challenges posed by the physiology of human reproduction, the ways various cultures have attempted to meet those challenges, and the resultant consequences that this has had for women’s lives. The course will draw on material from human anatomy and embryology, paleoanthropology, clinical obstetrics, public health, social anthropology, the history of medicine, and contemporary bioethics.
Same as L48 Anthro 3621
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: LCD, SSC Arch: SSC Art: SSC BU: ETH EN: S

U69 Anthro 3625 The Female Life Cycle in Cross-Cultural Perspective

This course will examine the biology of the female reproductive cycle — menarche, menstruation, and the menopause — and its cultural interpretation around the world. Topics covered will include the embryology of human sexual differentiation, the biology of the menstrual cycle and how it influences or is influenced by various disease states, contraception, infertility, cultural taboos and beliefs about menstruation and menopause, etc. The course will utilize materials drawn from human biology, clinical gynecology, ethnography, social anthropology, and the history of medicine and will examine the interplay between female reproductive biology and culture around the world.
Same as L48 Anthro 3625
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: LCD, NSM Arch: NSM Art: NSM BU: SCI

U69 Anthro 3665 Observing Animal Behavior at the St. Louis Zoo

This course is an introduction to methods for the collection of behavioral data in studies of animal behavior. Students will be trained in the design of research projects and the analysis and interpretation of behavioral data. Students will learn how different methods are used to answer specific questions in animal behavior research. Research will be conducted at the St. Louis Zoo.
Credit 3 units.

U69 Anthro 3777 Compassion Cultivation Training

Compassion Cultivation Training (CCT) is an 8-week educational program designed to help students cultivate compassion, strengthen their resilience, feel more connected to others, and improve their overall sense of well-being. CCT is a distillation from Tibetan Mahayana Buddhist practices for developing compassion, adapted to a secular setting. Initially developed by Stanford University scholars with support from the Dalai Lama, CCT combines traditional contemplative practices with contemporary psychology and scientific research. The program involves instruction in a series of meditation practices starting with mindfulness-based meditation. The curriculum uses modern concepts of psychology and neuroscience to understand and enhance our ability to be compassionate.
Credit 1 unit.

U69 Anthro 3795 Anthropology and Climate Change: Past, Present, and Future

This course provides an overview for interplay between humanity and global climate change that encompasses three-field anthropological subjects. Course material includes the role of climate change in shaping human evolution, human solutions to climatic challenges through time, the impact of human activities on the climate, and modern sociocultural examinations of how climate change is affecting the lives of people around the world.
Credit 3 units. UColl: OLI

U69 Anthro 3796 Ecocide and Climate Change: The Collapse of Societies

How can we use the past to help solve modern issues of climate change? In the face of modern climate change and environmental degradation, many have turned to examining how past societies successfully or unsuccessfully responded to environmental change. This seminar-style course will survey how academic and public
discourse use historical and archaeological examples of past human response to environmental change to evaluate our best options to thrive in a globally warmer environment. By reading public intellectual works by anthropologists, economists, and geographers, we will first examine current theoretical understandings of why societies collapse and the impacts that future climate change may have on our modern societies. We will then turn our attention to past societies and study how past people responded to past challenges of environmental change. By evaluating discourse between the past and the present, we will examine which methods and theories are the most helpful when using the past to inform future strategies addressing modern issues of environmental degradation and climate change.

Credit 3 units.

U69 Anthro 380 Environmental Justice in the Anthropocene

In recent years, the impacts of the Anthropocene -- the era of human disruption of the global environment -- are becoming increasingly apparent. The news is full of reports of massive wildfires, devastating hurricanes, floods, droughts, extinctions, and more. However, not all humans share the same risks or experience equivalent burdens from hazards associated with the Anthropocene. In this course, we will explore these unequal experiences of environmental hazards through the lens of environmental justice (EJ). EJ is both a field of scholarship and a social movement. It emerged in the 1970s and 1980s in response to the growing realization that poor and marginalized communities often experience disproportionate, harmful impacts from exposure to toxic waste. Since then, EJ scholars and activists have worked to document and understand cases in which environmental hazards compound the burdens of poverty, racism, gender discrimination, and other forms of social inequality. This seminar will focus on environmental hazards that have been caused directly or indirectly by humans, including hurricanes, rising sea levels, and toxic waste exposure. Most of the examples that we explore will come from North America, but we will also discuss ideas and concepts that are applicable elsewhere in the world.

Credit 3 units. UColl: ML, OLI

U69 Anthro 387 Medical Anthropology

This overview of the field of medical anthropology provides a perspective on health, medical systems, disease, and culture. We examine beliefs about illness, healing, and the body across cultures. We learn to distinguish physical "disease" from cultural understandings of "illness" and explore the ways that cultural conceptions shape the experience of illness. We look at the interaction of biology and culture as it affects health and medical systems. Throughout the course, we compare other beliefs and health systems with our own culture’s management of health and illness.

Credit 3 units. UColl: CD

U69 Anthro 3876 Darwin and Doctors: Evolutionary Medicine and Health

Back pain, diabetes, obesity, colds, even morning sickness. These are all common human health problems. But have you ever wondered why we have these and other health conditions? In this class, we will investigate this question — and others — specifically using evolutionary theory to inform current understandings of contemporary health problems.

Credit 3 units. Art: NSM BU: SCI

U69 Anthro 3880 Multispecies World: Animals, Global Health, and Environment

Amid escalating global environmental and health crises that impact all forms of life, this course critically considers the diverse relationships of humans with other forms of life and varied ecological systems. Although the discipline has long studied humans’ use of animals and impact on environments, anthropologists have begun to increasingly pay attention to human-animal cohabitations, engagements, and shared cultures and worlds. This seminar looks at how diverse contemporary contexts -- such as zoos, farms, forests, and laboratories -- involve fascinating human-animal relationships and contentious implications for ethics, health, and ecology. In investigating how animals are central to scientific knowledge production, debates about animal welfare, environmental sustainability issues, companionship and pets, entertainment and sports, and zoonic disease, we will explore the possibility for more richly understanding the world by fully appreciating species diversity and interconnectivity.

Credit 3 units. UColl: ML

U69 Anthro 4022 Transnational Reproductive Health Issues: Meanings, Technologies and Practices

This course covers recent scholarship on gender and reproductive health, including such issues as reproduction and the disciplinary power of the state, contested reproductive relations within families and communities, and the implications of global flows of biotechnology, population, and information for reproductive strategies at the local level. We will also explore how transnational migration and globalization have shaped reproductive health, the diverse meanings associated with reproductive processes, and decisions concerning reproduction. Reproduction will serve as a focus to illuminate the cultural politics of gender, power, and sexuality.

Credit 3 units. Art: SSC BU: BA UColl: OLI

U69 Anthro 4252 Aging in Cross-Cultural Perspective

Population aging, driven by increasing longevity and decreasing fertility, is a worldwide demographic transformation that is changing societies and social relationships at all levels, from family household interactions to national debates on policies and expenditures. This course, run in a seminar format, investigates global aging through the lenses of demography and cultural anthropology. The objectives are for students to gain an empirical understanding of current population trends and an appreciation for how the aging process differs cross-culturally. The first part of the course introduces basic concepts and theories from social gerontology, demography, and anthropology that focus on aging and provide a toolkit for investigating the phenomenon from interdisciplinary perspectives. The second part is devoted to case studies of aging in different societies, while the third part centers mainly on training in research methods and individual student projects.

Credit 3 units. UColl: CD

U69 Anthro 4813 Zooarchaeology: Birds and Fishes

Methods and techniques of the analysis of faunal remains recovered in an archaeological context. Prerequisites: one course in archaeology and permission of instructor.

Credit 3 units.