NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Department of Anthropology

Stevens Building Room 190

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
Spring 2019

http://www.niu.edu/anthropology/

FACULTY AND STAFF

GIOVANNI BENNARDO, Professor, received his Ph.D. from The University of Illinois.

KRISTEN BORRE, Instructor, received her M.PH. and Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

DANIEL L. GEBO, Professor, received his Ph.D. degree from Duke University.

MITCHELL IRWIN, Associate Professor, received his Ph.D. from Stony Brook University.

JUDY L. LEDGERWOOD, Professor, received her Ph.D. degree from Cornell University. She is the Interim Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

EMILY MCKEE, Assistant Professor, received her Ph.D. from University of Michigan.

ANDREA MOLNAR, Professor, received her Ph.D. degree from the Australian National University.

LEILA PORTER, Associate Professor and Assistant Chair, received her Ph.D. degree from Stony Brook University.

ROBERT B. RIDINGER, Subject Specialist, Sociology/Anthropology/Geography, University Libraries, NIU, received his M.A. degree from Case Western Reserve University.

THARAPHI THAN, Associate Professor, received her Ph.D. from School of Oriental and African Studies.

KERRY SAGEBIEL, Visiting Assistant Professor, received her Ph.D. from University of Arizona.

MARK SCHULLER, Associate Professor, received his Ph.D. degree from University of California, Santa Barbara.
LAURA STEELE, Instructor, received her MA from University of California, Berkeley.

KENDALL THU, Professor and Chair, received his Ph.D. degree from The University of Iowa, Iowa City.

STAFF
Ruthann Yeaton, Office Manager, Graduate Secretary 815-753-0247
April Law, Office Support Specialist, Undergraduate Secretary 815-753-0248

COURSES:

ANTH 103 H– The Great Apes, Our Closest Relatives
Section Honors MW 2:00 – SB 178
This course will offer an in-depth look at the Great Apes (chimpanzees, bonobos, gorillas and orangutans) from the perspective of biological anthropology. We will briefly review the anatomy, evolution and taxonomy of the Great Apes, and more extensively cover their social organization, feeding ecology, evidence of culture and tool use, language skills, and conservation status. In addition, we will consider how apes should be treated both in captivity and the wild.
INSTRUCTOR: Professor Leila Porter

ANTH 104 ONLINE Pop Culture: Making the Familiar Strange
Section ONLINE
This is an online class: there is one required synchronous class session on January 22, 2019 from 6 to 9 PM. All other classes will be asynchronous. This means that aside from the one mandatory virtual class meeting, the rest of the weekly assignments can completed on your own schedule. Everyday life is boring…mundane. Not so when you explore everyday experiences through the anthropological lens. Popular culture frames anthropology as the social science that studies strange people from lands afar. In truth, anthropology provides an empowering toolset for learning about and understanding our own relationships and behaviors as we examine those of others. This introduction to anthropology addresses contemporary ideas and issues in our society and challenges students to explore why things appear a certain way, when, in fact, they are not, depending on one’s position in society. We will seek explanations of simple things such as why jokes are funny and to some complex problems such as why are an increasing number of people are going hungry when there actually is an abundance of food in the world. Readings, interactive classes, and short writing assignments are required.
INSTRUCTOR: Professor Kristen Borre

ANTH 120 - Anthropology and Human Diversity
Section 1 MWF 9:00 – 9:50am DU 340
This course introduces students to anthropological approaches to human diversity through time and around the world. Students are challenged to critically understand their own cultures by exploring the diversity of human adaptation. Grades for the course are based on three major examinations (75%) and two quizzes (25%). There are also two extra credit assignments.
INSTRUCTOR: Professor Kendall Thu
ANTH 210 Exploring Archaeology  
Section 1 TTH 9:30 – 10:45 DU 204  
This is an introductory course for students with no background in anthropological archaeology—the study of past human culture and behavior through artifacts, architecture, and landscapes. Archaeology takes an adventurous spirit, an inquisitive mind, and lots of imagination to transport oneself to a time and place completely different from one’s own. But archaeology is also a science as it involves rigorous inquiry. This class focuses on archaeological method and theory through archaeological case studies from around the world.  
INSTRUCTOR: Professor Kerry Sagebiel

ANTH 220 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology  
Section 1 MW 2:00 – 3:15pm SB 173  
The concept of culture; its origin, development, and diversity. Cultures as an adaptive mechanism. Theory and method of cultural anthropology applied to the analysis of selected cultures.  
INSTRUCTOR: Professor Andrea Molnar

ANTH 240 – General Physical Anthropology  
Section 1/H2 TTH 11:00 – 12:15pm DU 204  
This course is an introduction to physical/biological anthropology. The first part of this class is devoted to evolutionary theory and human genetics. The second part discusses modern human variation and the biology and behavior of primates, our closest living relatives. The last part of this class discusses the fossil record of human and primate ancestors, beginning with early primates but with an emphasis on the morphological and behavioral adaptations in hominids over the past 5 million years.  
INSTRUCTOR: Professor Mitchell Irwin

ANTH 301 H – American Culture  
Section Honors – TTH 9:30 – 10:45am SB 173  
Has our culture become a disaster? What does it mean to “know how to live” and to live as Americans in today's world? We will address how American worldview and popular culture shapes our health, work, consumption, and social behaviors. Is there a common set of values and beliefs that create a unique American Culture even though we have multi-cultural roots? We will examine what it means to be multicultural nation using food as a medium. Anthropological concepts and theories will guide our exploration of American beliefs and behaviors; of what equality means when Americans talk about and express ethnicity, class, gender, and race. Readings, videos, short essays/discussions, and a community exploration paper are required.  
INSTRUCTOR: Professor Kristen Borre

ANTH 343/ENVS 343 Where the Wild Things Were  
Section 1 – TTH 2:00 – 3:15pm SB 178  
This course is about extinction. In this class we will examine how the processes of environmental change, natural selection, and genetic drift can lead to the formation of new species or extinction. We will review natural extinction events as well as human-induced extinctions on prehistoric, historic, and modern species.  
INSTRUCTOR: Professors Leila Porter and Dan Gebo
ANTH 361 Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Women  
Section 1 - TTH 11:00 – 12:15pm SB 173  
This course examines the diversity of women's lives cross-culturally through ethnographic evidence. Readings focus on the daily lives and cultural contexts of women in four different cultural areas: Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Native Americans and the Americas. We explore the interlocking dimensions of women's experiences including nationality, ethnicity, class, religion and sexuality. The last segment of the course focuses on the US, drawing comparisons and contrasts with our own lives and encouraging us to rethink how gender relations are shaped here as well as in other cultures.  
INSTRUCTOR: Professor Kristen Borre

ANTH 408/508 Peoples and Cultures of Mainland Southeast Asia  
Section 1 T 6:00 – 8:40pm SB 173  
This course is a general introduction to the peoples and cultures of Mainland Southeast Asia. The primary aim of the course is to discuss the similarities and differences amongst groups, arguing that Southeast Asia is a distinctive culture area. The course begins with an overview of the physical and cultural geography of the region, followed by a review of early Southeast Asian history. This review will include the rise of Indianized states and the introduction of Buddhism. The second section of the course approaches life in Southeast Asia through the lens of ethnography. We will focus first on the peoples of the uplands, then descending to the plains, we focus on kinship and village social organization. The course includes material on urbanization and the transition to market economies in post-war Vietnam and Burma/Myanmar. Course requirements include midterm and final examinations and a research project.  
INSTRUCTOR: Professor Tharaphi Than

ANTH 409/509 Cultures and Societies of the Middle East  
Section 1 TTH 3:30 – 4:45pm SB 173  
Studies the peoples and societies of the Middle East and North Africa from an anthropological perspective. Explores problems of cross-cultural examination and the role of anthropology in the formation of the idea of the Middle East as an area of study. To this end, the course examines and problematizes key themes commonly linked with the region, including tribe and state, family and kinship, gender and sexuality, honor and shame, tradition and modernity, and religion and secularism. Course materials will include ethnographies based on field work in the region, contemporary news reports, and films.  
INSTRUCTOR: Professor Emily McKee

ANTH 415/H/515 Archaeology of the American Southwest  
Section 1 TTH 2:00 – 3:15pm SB 186  
The history of research in the American Southwest will be reviewed along with the known culture history of the region. The bulk of the class will focus on specific developments over time and the controversies associated with them. Topics will include the pre-Clovis horizon, the origins of agriculture, the beginning of sedentism, development of architectural and other artifact traditions, aggregation, demographic change, abandonment, political and social organization, and the impact of European contact. PRQ: ANTH 210  
INSTRUCTOR: Professor Kerry Sagebiel
ANTH 418/518 Applied Archaeology  
Section 1 TTH 12:30 – 1:45pm SB 186  
This course covers the methods, theory, and laws that are critical for cultural resource management (CRM) in the United States. Field methods (survey and excavation) and laboratory techniques (e.g. ceramic, lithic, and faunal analysis) will be covered along with CRM laws, ethics, related theory, research design, proposal writing, report writing, public outreach, artifact and document curation, and other aspects of CRM practice.  
INSTRUCTOR: Professor Kerry Sagebiel

ANTH 426/526 Political Anthropology  
Section 1 MW 3:30 – 4:45pm SB 173  
The course focuses on the anthropological approaches to the study of politics. This course provides a thorough grounding in the theoretical and interpretative frameworks in political anthropology. There are a number of topics covered in the course, including, politics and religion, politics and gender, political activities and how they articulate with other institutions, concepts of power, authority, and power relations, evolution of the state, role of civil society (particularly the role of NGOs). The course takes an anthropological approach to understand politics from a global perspective. A focal theme of the covers concerns the dynamics of power relations. Given the socio-cultural diversity of Southeast Asia, the course will utilize a wide range of Southeast Asian case studies. PRQ: ANTH 220.  
INSTRUCTOR: Professor Andrea Molnar

ANTH 440/540 Fossil Humans  
Section 1 TTH 11:00 – 12:15pm SB 178  
Fossil Humans is a course that examines the human fossil record from our earliest origins to the appearance of fully modern humans. This course will review the morphology of human fossils and their close living relatives (the great apes). It will also consider human phylogeny and hominid lifestyles through time. PRQ: ANTH 240 or consent of department.  
INSTRUCTOR: Professor Dan Gebo

ANTH 444/544 Primate Ecology and Conservation  
Section 1 TTH 9:30 – 10:45am SB 178  
This course will provide an in depth view of the influence of the environment on a primate species’ behavior. We will address how diet, resource distribution and predation influence ranging patterns, life history traits and social behavior. We will also consider how primates’ behavioral ecology influences their distribution, density and geographic distribution. Finally, we will consider how all these factors influence a species’ risk of extinction, the impact of human activities on primates and what strategies are appropriate for protecting primate species. PRQ: 240 or consent of department.  
INSTRUCTOR: Professor Mitchell Irwin
ANTH 460/560 Methods in Ethnography  
Section 1 M 6:00 – 8:40pm SB 173  
This course examines a range of research methods used in ethnography such as participant observation, interviewing techniques, visual research, writing field notes and others, and the transformation of these data into written ethnographic documents. This course also focuses on comprehensive methodology and ethnographic analysis strategies. Ethical, pragmatic, and applied dimensions will be explored. Assignments will include analysis of ethnographies for their methodological approaches, contemporary issues in ethnography, the hand-on application of methods through student projects, and a research proposal. PRQ: ANTH 220 or consent of instructor.  
INSTRUCTOR: Professor Mark Schuller

ANTH 480/ANTH 680 Internship in Anthropology  
Supervised internship in anthropology-related field. Minimum of 120 work hours per semester plus final paper/project. Complete proposals must be submitted for departmental approval a minimum of two weeks before beginning of the semester. May be repeated to a maximum of 6 semester hours. S/U grading. PRQ: Consent of Department Required  
Please contact Dr. Emily McKee at emckee@niu.edu for more information.

ANTH 491/HIST 300 – Archaeology of Ancient Egypt  
Section 1 Online W 3 F2F Meetings FEB 6, MAR 20, APR 10, 6:00 – 8:40 SB 186  
Early Neolithic times to the Greco-Roman period, including the transition to Neolithic agriculture, society, and burial ritual; political formation and unification under the early Pharaohs; the building and use of monumental, burial, and civic architecture; societal collapse and reformation; and interconnections with the broader eastern Mediterranean world in antiquity.  
INSTRUCTOR: Instructor Laura Steele

ANTH 498-1/ANTH 690 Independent Study in Anthropology: Library Research in Anthropology - 1 Credit Hour (8 week course) W 8:30am (FO 237)  
This topics class, designed for all majors and graduate students, will be a seven-week exploration of the paper and electronic resources available in sub disciplines of anthropology, emphasizing hands-on practice as well as gaining skill in searching for relevant materials. The extensive holdings of Founders Library relating to archaeology, physical anthropology, linguistics and cultural anthropology will be utilized to equip students with familiarity with possible research tools as well as training them in how to think about doing literature searches so much a part of our field. Evaluation will be done via weekly worksheets and a take-home final. No prerequisites. See April in Stevens Building 190 for enrollment.  
INSTRUCTOR: R. B. Ridinger

ANTH 490 - Anthropological Research Training:  
PRQ: Consent of Department Required  
A – Cultural Anthropology  
B – Ethnology  
C – Archaeology  
D – Physical Anthropology  
E – Ethnohistory  
J – Linguistics  

ANTH 493 Anthropology Field Study:  
PRQ: Consent of Department  
Required  
A – Cultural Anthropology  
B – Ethnology  
C – Archaeology  
D – Physical Anthropology  
E – Ethnohistory  
J – Linguistics  

ANTH 498 Independent Study in Anthropology  
PRQ: Consent of Department Required.  
ANTH 498H Independent Study in Anthropology  
PRQ: Consent of Department Required.  
ANTH 499H Senior Thesis -  
PRQ: Consent of Department Required.
ANTH 590 Anthropological Research Training  PRQ: Consent of Department Required.
A – Cultural Anthropology   B – Ethnology   C – Archaeology
D – Physical Anthropology   E – Ethnohistory   J – Linguistics

ANTH 593-A Anthropology Field Study:  PRQ: Consent of Department Required.
A – Cultural Anthropology   B – Ethnology   C – Archaeology
D – Physical Anthropology   E – Ethnohistory   J – Linguistics

ANTH 690: Independent Study  PRQ: Consent of Department Required.
A – Cultural Anthropology   B – Ethnology   C – Archaeology
D – Physical Anthropology   E – Ethnohistory   J – Linguistics

ANTH 665 Museum Practicum
Work experience in an on-campus (NIU) museum, gallery or collection. With permission it may be another institution that contains related cultural or aesthetic objects and artifacts as long as the work is under the supervision of a member of a professional staff. Requires regular experience in day-to-day museum operations and completion of a major project arranged with the intern’s museum supervisor/museum studies faculty member. Minimum practicum time is 120 clock hours.
PRQ: Completion of ART 565 or equivalent and one museum studies core course.
INSTRUCTOR: Staff

ANTH 693: Museum Internship:
Work experience at an off-campus museum gallery under the supervision of a member of the professional museum staff. Requires regular experience in day-to-day museum operations and completion of a major project arranged with the intern’s museum supervisor and the NIU Museum Studies representative. May be repeated to a maximum of 2 credit hours.
PRQ: ART 565 or equivalent plus the museum studies core courses.
INSTRUCTOR: Staff

ANTH 699 Master's Thesis  PRQ: Consent of Department Required