

Race and Anti-Racism Anthropology Undergraduate Courses, Spring 2021

ANT 2410 Cultural Anthropology (Various Faculty)

Cultural anthropology explores how our socially constructed world shapes human behavior. In this course students learn that race is a social construct, that race is a concept used to divide people, and that this has significant impacts on the ways people live. Further, students are equipped with the tools to recognize how change in their social world is possible

ANT 2511 Biological Anthropology (Various Faculty)

Biological anthropology explores human variation. One such way is through the concept of “race”. This course deconstructs the “race concept”, the biological implications of “race” and discusses how the “biological” concept of race came to be, and what students can do to share accurate information.

ANT 4304 Theories of Culture (Dr. Heather O’Leary Section)

This section of the course will decolonize the roots of anthropological theory by illuminating the brilliant and diverse voices of anthropologists beyond the traditional cannon. Students will work towards increased understanding, a heightened sense of intercultural and international solidarity, confronting the traditions of exploitation, hegemony, epistemic violence.

ANT 4312 North American Indians (Dr. John Arthur)

North American Indians focuses on topics affecting Native Americans today, such as repatriation, environmental pollution, land rights, gaming, and more, and also reviews how the Indigenous Nations have been affected by the past and present-day US and Canadian governmental policies of assimilation and removal.

ANT 4352 Peoples of Africa (Dr. Sibel Kusimba)

Africa is the cradle of humanity and has throughout history been a font of innovation, wisdom, artistry and problem-solving in spite of centuries of colonialism, slave trade and their legacies. This course will examine the diversity of African cultures and explore classic and contemporary anthropological works about religion and belief systems, environmental challenges and stewardship, financial and digital innovation, and gender and family life.

ANT 4401 Exploring Cross-Cultural Diversity (Various Faculty)

This course will explore contemporary issues and inequalities in American life related to cross-cultural diversity from a holistic perspective and teach students tools to address them. We will engage with topics including the social construction of “race” and gender from a critical anthropological perspective, incorporating critical race and feminist theories to examine interrelated issues also grounded in the history of the United States. Assumptions will be challenged, and mutual respect for each other will always be required throughout the semester.

ANT 4462 Health, Illness, and Culture (Dr. Roberta Baer)

This course is an overview of the field of medical anthropology. The focus is on the influence of culture on beliefs and behaviors about health and illness in American and other cultures, as well as the contributions of anthropologists to health care. We will also evaluate the role of larger

political economic factors on provision of health care, as well as the creation and elimination of race-based health disparities, and how COVID-19 illustrates these issues.

ANT 4516 Human Variation (Dr. Lorena Madrigal)

In this class we will talk about the distribution of human genetic diversity and about common folk notions of human diversity such as attempts to classify humans in biological “race”. We will discuss how structural inequality is embodied in gender, class, race, age and other structures which differ cross-culturally.

ANT 4930 Prejudice, Stigma, and Race (Dr. Alexis Mootoo)

The course focuses on the idea of race, and traces the ways in which the concept of race has evolved over time impacting moral, social, political and emotional aspects of our society. Prejudice and racism affect individuals and groups, and one’s identity within a group can be stigmatizing. The goal of this class is to promote students’ awareness and understanding of race, racism, prejudice and stigma while identifying ways to illuminate and promote race consciousness.

ANT 4930 The Archaeology of the Caribbean (Dr. Diane Wallman)

This course provides an overview of the archaeology of the Caribbean Islands, focusing on themes of Indigeneity, migration, social complexity, landscape, power, colonialism, and slavery as manifested through material culture. The course follows the development of racialized chattel slavery, specifically focusing on the lives, perseverance and resilience of enslaved Africans and their descendants. We explore the long-term and enduring consequences of these histories on Black and Latinx communities in the Caribbean and Caribbean Diaspora.