

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTH 103 Apes, Archaeology, Evolution 4 CREDITS

Students explore how the archeological record informs us about different evolved morphology and behaviors of early human types and prehistoric humans through the study of paleoanthropology. Students also learn about biocultural variation in present-day primates, including humans. (WCore: WCSBS and RE)

ANTH 203 How We Die in America 4 CREDITS

This course takes a light-hearted, yet in-depth look at what it means in American culture to die and how it is part of an integrated system of meanings and behaviors within a larger socio-cultural environment. Students examine this life experience through visits to places associated with death throughout the Salt Lake Valley. (WCore: WCSBS and RE)

ANTH 204 Studying the Supernatural 4 CREDITS

An introduction to the study of new religious movements and non-ecclesiastical religions from an anthropological perspective. Sometimes religion is specific to certain groups and reflects an integrated system of meanings and behaviors to reflect broader cultural features in a specific social environment. But often when viewed cross-culturally, religions also exhibit some interesting common characteristics with religions from other social environments. (WCore: WCSBS and WE)

ANTH 209 Anthropology of Tourism 4 CREDITS

An in-depth look at tourism and how it generates social, economic and environmental changes, both positive and negative for localities and regions, while at the same time creating transformative experiences for tourists. (WCore: WCSBS and RE)

ANTH 252 Cultural Anthropology 4 CREDITS

Focuses on the different ways cultures adapt to the conditions of the environment. Examines holistically and contextually subsistence strategies, economic and political systems, religious beliefs and behaviors, gender distinctions, ethnographic field methods, marriage and kinship, communication systems, to name some interrelated topics. (WCore: WCSBS, RE)

ANTH 300 Special Topics in Anthropology 1 to 4 CREDITS

Illustrates the importance of a holistic, cross-cultural approach to the study of human behavior. Highlights a specific topic and then makes use of all the sub-fields of anthropology in the study of this topic.

ANTH 311 Human Evolution and Archaeology 4 CREDITS

This class combines two of the four sub-fields that make up the discipline of anthropology. It helps students explore prehistory and the evolutionary development of our species through the study of paleoanthropology, primatology, and archaeology, or the study of material remains. Students learn about variation in past and present humans, human types, and non-human primates, both biological and cultural. In the process, they learn how different evolved forms and behaviors are the product of physical, biotic, and social environments. Open to students in all majors. One of the requirements in the anthropology minor.

ANTH 322 Myth, Magic, and the Supernatural 4 CREDITS

The study of religion from an anthropological perspective with an emphasis on non-ecclesiastical religions and new religious movements found in simple societies. Similarities and differences are identified and discussed within the context of such components as myth, ritual, belief, symbolism, magic, ancestor worship, healing, religious specialists, revitalization movements, and alternative states of consciousness. Open to all students in all majors. (WCore: DE)

ANTH 325 The Paranormal in the Mountain West 4 CREDITS

This course looks at paranormal phenomena through the lens of anthropology within the western United States, with an emphasis on Utah. It includes the study of how beliefs function in society to reduce conflict, explain the unexplainable, promote the status quo, and demonize "the other". Students learn about various scientific investigations into paranormal activity. Field trips are organized and speakers are brought in including paranormal investigators, psychics, and those who practice magic. Students also learn ethnographic research skills when they interview and observe people in

the community who are interested in the paranormal. The paranormal in this course covers a wide array of topics including ghosts, demonology, extraterrestrials, psychic abilities, cryptids, and magic, to name a few. Open to students from all majors.

ANTH 350 Anthropology of Food 4 CREDITS

This course combines research and field trips to understand different food-getting strategies. It studies changing food preferences and taboos in different parts of the world, as well as regionally, and how they differ based on ethnicity, class, gender, and age. Major focus is on how food subsistence patterns transform physical, biotic, and social environments. Discussion includes globalization and the industrialization of food and its damage to biodiversity. Students learn about long-term sustainability through alternative food networks, most often associated with idea of food sovereignty and a return to home grown culinary traditions. Many of the multiple interconnected ideas generated from this classroom research are observable through fieldwork when students learn about the production, marketing, and distribution of food in the Salt Lake Valley. Those who host the students are directly involved with new creative networks of local/regional food networks on an almost weekly basis. Open to students from all majors.

ANTH 366 Anthropology of Death and Dying 4 CREDITS

A light-hearted, cross-cultural look at death and dying. Looks at how these universal cultural concerns are part of integrated systems of meanings and behaviors within larger socio-cultural environments. Take part in field trips to examine institutions in the community related to death and dying and then conduct individual research on a topic related to something of particular interest. Open to all students in all majors.

ANTH 377 Environmental Anthropology 4 CREDITS

Looks at the environment from a bio-cultural perspective, exploring the interconnections of the social, biotic and natural environments. Prehistoric, historic and present day cross-cultural evidence is examined to understand how social categories such as class, ethnicity, gender and religion shape human activity, which in turn affects other species and the physical environment. These relationships cause environmental change leading to a further shaping of human society. Specific issues are addressed such as how ideas about how different cultures relate to their environments in different ways. For example, the displacement of people due to the designation of national parks or game preserves is a topic of interest, as well as the impact of the changing environment on human diseases, ecotourism, and environmental social movements. Students work in groups to learn about policy solutions to environmental problems and then identify and carry out projects on particular areas of interest. Open to all students in all majors.

ANTH 391 Exploratory Ethnographic Research 4 CREDITS

This hands-on course teaches students how to construct their own community-based project which makes use of a type of qualitative research method called exploratory ethnography. This research strategy is the preliminary stage for in-depth, longitudinal studies that collect and analyze empirical evidence from extensive interviews and observations to form explanations about human behavior. Students first learn about different types of qualitative research such as analysis of archival records, interviews, direct observation, participant observation, and analysis of cultural artifacts. They then choose a particular set of related questions about something of interest for their individual research project. Open to students in all majors.

ANTH 399 Anthropology of Tourism 4 CREDITS

This course looks at tourism from a holistic, anthropological perspective. This study of tourism allows for the investigation of many interrelated areas of human behavior, some of which are acculturation, authenticity, identity construction and consumption. It explores incentives and impacts for both the tourist and the local populations who come in contact with the tourists. For example, tourism generates social, economic and environmental changes in communities, religions, and nations, both positive and negative, while at the same time it also creates transformative experiences for tourists. Many different types of tourism have been identified including slum, sex, nautical, sacred, disaster, archaeological, wildlife, war, heritage, to name just a few, all of which act as mediums of cultural exchange which both affect and construct the worlds of those involved. Students who are concerned with globalization, environmental sustainability, and social stratification will find this course of particular interest. Open to all students in all majors.

ANTH 401 Directed Studies 1 to 4 CREDITS

This tutorial-based course is used only for student-initiated proposals for intensive individual study of topics not otherwise offered in the Anthropology Program. This course is repeatable for credit.

ANTH 440 Internship 1 to 8 CREDITS

Offers students the opportunity to integrate classroom knowledge with practical experience. This course is repeatable for credit. REGISTRATION NOTE: Registration for internships is initiated through the Career Center website and is finalized upon completion of required paperwork and approvals. More info: 801-832-2590 https://westminstercollege.edu/internships