

ANTHC 22500

ETHNICITY AND NATIONALISM

Prof. Creed
Mondays &
Wednesdays
4:00-5:15



Ethnic and national categories are among the primary ways that contemporary people identify themselves and others. This course challenges the assumption that such identifications (and associated conflicts) are "natural" and examines the political, economic, symbolic and affective forces that promote and privilege such identities. To do so it addresses numerous questions: What distinguishes ethnicity, race and nationality? How might new genetic testing affect these identifications? What is the relationship between nationality and citizenship? Is nationalism the same as patriotism? And ultimately, why are people willing to die/kill for the nation? Without promising definitive answers, the course offers insights from theoretical, historical and comparative examinations of ethnic and national (trans)formations.



! Register for Fall 2025 !

POLITICS OF MIGRATION

ANTHC32016

Instructor: Léa Coffineau

Time: Tue-Fri 10:00-11:15AM **Location:** HN717



A migrant youth demonstration in Paris, November 2024.

What is a state? What is a nation-state? Why is the world divided this way? What are the consequences of borders and citizenships? Who is allowed to move through the world? And who is not?

This course provides students with the opportunity to develop **critical thinking** on **urgent political and social questions**. Ethnographic case studies and theoretical interventions will prompt us to discuss concepts of borders, citizenship, (il)legality, (im)mobility, and **topics such as coloniality, race and gender**.

At the end of the semester, students will have gained an **inclusive understanding of the migration experience**, reaching beyond the figure of the refugee and that of the illegal, undocumented migrant.

Assignments will include readings, viewings, and field experiments.

Fall 2025

Anthropologies of the Middle East and North Africa

ANTHC 32022

Monday & Thursday, 717 Hunter North

2:30 PM - 3:45 PM



Walking on Hands, Beirut, Lebanon, 2005 by Rania Matar

Instructor: Noor A. Dughri

Course Description: This course will foster a critical understanding of the historical and ongoing forces that shape the lives of people from across the Middle East and North Africa through engagement with anthropological texts. Our exploration of ethnographic texts, film, art, and archival materials will play a critical role in adding nuance and complicating our understanding of the region: geographically, demographically, politically, and religiously. Students will be encouraged to connect theoretical concepts, themes, and readings to their own lived experiences. No prior knowledge of the Middle East or North Africa is necessary.

Key Topics: art and media, queerness, race, and medicine.

Ethics, Morality and Culture

ANTHC 32023

Mondays and Thursdays, 11:30am-12:45pm

Department of Anthropology

Hunter North 717

Instructor: Nathan Shearn



Untitled, Thomas Nozkowski (1994)

This course is an introduction to the study of moral and ethical life from a cross-cultural perspective. In this course, “ethics” and “morality” are understood as situated, relational, and embedded within systems of power and inequality. Part I introduces students to theoretical and methodological issues within the anthropology of ethics and morality, such as the difference between “ethics” and “morality,” the tension between moral and cultural relativism, and the ethics of anthropological research. Part II explores some of the ways in which anthropologists have approached contemporary moral and ethical issues, including human rights and humanitarianism, religious life and secular law, debt and reparations, war and trauma, interspecies relations, and artificial intelligence, among others. Part III explores the relationship between critique and the imagination across academic, political, and artistic realms. If every political project has an ethical horizon—a vision of what ought to be—what might an anthropology of ethics and morality contribute to the creation of more just, responsible, and livable futures?

Ethnobotany: Plants, Medicine, People

ANTHC 32122

Eva Steinberg

Tuesday and Friday, 1-2:15pm



Course Description:

This is a course about people, plants, and the ways they are connected through health and medicine. Throughout the semester, we will read across anthropology, history, geography, and literature to explore the myriad ways that humans have formed and continue to be embedded in various types of relationships to plants: whether as food, medicine, infrastructure, kin, or other. We will interrogate how humans and plants are connected through reciprocal relationships and ask how these relationships are sometimes tipped in one way or another--and to what ends or consequences.

Historically, ethnobotany (like anthropology and many other academic disciplines) is rooted in colonial ways of knowing and organizing the world: plants are things to be moved, extracted, collected, and used for human benefit. This course seeks to provide a different perspective, by reading authors from different backgrounds and by paying attention to the ways in which plants are and can be taken seriously as living beings.

Key topics: Science studies, environments, plant-human relations, medicine

Medical Anthropology

ANTHC 33200, Undergraduate

Tuesdays, 5:30—7:20, RM 710 North

Instructor: Sanaullah Khan



This image is in the public domain and thus free of any copyright restrictions. Credits: Rebecca Hall

Course Description

Join us in the exciting journey as we explore how cultural practices, economic life, family ties, politics and law, and religious beliefs shape medical practices around the world. This course explores the social life of diagnosis and treatment as well as the networks of caregiving in times of poverty, disease, social suffering. By employing a comparative perspective, the course trains students to appreciate the complexities of medical systems, their biases, and cultural nuances around the world.

FALL 2025

Grassroots Movements and Social Change

Prof. Marc Edelman

Anthropology 33100 - Thursdays 5:30-7:20pm

Mass mobilizations have been significant engines of historical transformation. Social movements — progressive and regressive, local and transnational — have changed the world or aspire to do so. Students in the course will hear the music of people on the march; read primary documents of historical and contemporary movements; debate the movements that are in the news; and analyze scholarly and personal accounts of struggles for economic, racial, gender and environmental justice; human rights, indigenous peoples, labor, agrarian, student, LGBTQIA+, countercultural and peace movements. We will also examine contemporary nationalist and right-wing authoritarian movements, in the United States and elsewhere.



Algeria, 2019

The course will introduce and assess the usefulness of concepts that social scientists have used to study collective action, such as the repression-protest paradox, “primitive” or “pre-political” movements, “old” and “new” social movements, “free riders” and “collective action problems,” framing, protest repertoires, and repertoires of repression.



Chicago, 2016

ANTHP401.01

Field Methods in Primatology

Fall 2025



Course description: This course will provide an overview of the field methods involved in behavioral ecology & field biology studies. Focus will be on primates, though methods are broadly applicable. Some of the major topics that will be covered include how to ID wild individuals, monitoring ecology & climate, behavioral observations, & how to integrate new technologies into fieldwork (e.g., genetics, energetics, nutrition, hormones). Classes will be seminar style involving lots of discussion & class participation, as well as field exercises in Central Park & the Central Park Zoo. Regular guest lectures will be given by experts in the field. Students will be given the opportunity develop their own projects.

Instructor: Prof. Andrea Baden

Email: andrea.baden@hunter.cuny.edu

Class time: Mon, 4:00-6:50pm



History of Anthropological Theory

ANTHC 31800
M/TH 4:00-5:15 PM
Hunter College Fall 2025
Tierney Brown

Theories are the analytical tools that make sense of our data. They offer compelling arguments to explain the patterns of culture and allow our observations and conversations to resonate with a wider audience. With theory, we amplify the insights of our interlocutors and reflect on our findings.

But what drives advances in theory itself? Why do anthropologists jump through theory hoops? The history of anthropology begins with questions about human relationships to the world around them. This course takes a look at the lively exchanges and debates over the past 150 years. Follow major developments across continents and between methods to consider what drove the discipline—and what insights from the field illuminated about anthropology itself.

To inform current anthropology's use of the exciting and wild theory, this course offers a reflection on the culture of anthropologists themselves. We will build perspective on how we engage with these foundational questions today: How do we explain similarity, difference, and change? What are our politics of representation? What do we see as the role of the anthropologist today? We'll follow topics in Magic, Religion, Science, and Personhood across the distinct schools of thought to consider how each generation has approached core questions.

Image: Franz Boas poses for a diorama of a Kwakwaka'wakw Hamatsa ritual circa 1894.



Museum Methodology and Intro to Curation

ANTHC 38900

W 5:30-7:20

Tierney Brown

Ethnography gives us a chance to think about how we represent cultures in our writing, but how do we work with cultural objects? How do we animate the voices within collections? Who takes care of those collections, and who has authority over them?

This course will cover why museums historically gathered cultural objects, how we can use objects to explore cultural questions, and looks at how representing cultures in public spaces and with material culture continues to evolve in collaboration with communities.

Museum Anthropology develops a distinct set of methods from archaeology that allows us to engage with the shifting contexts and ongoing processes of meaning making within institutions. We will think about concepts that take us out of museums, such as the spectacle, digital/material, cultural property, conservation, repatriation, and public humanities.

Images: Collections storage in the National Museum of Natural History Ethnology collection, by Chip Clark. Collections conservation in a South Asian collection. A Quechua repatriation procession in Cuzco 1996. Visitors take photos of the Mona Lisa. Japanese painting conservator, Nishiumi Ryo, working with Cornell Evans and John Marshall in the cabinet shop NMAA 1970's.

Urban Anthropology

ANTHC 32056

Wednesdays 5:30 PM – 7:20 PM

Professor Ida Susser



Five Points, 1827

This course explores perspectives on urban ethnography, with an initial focus on New York City and the changing experiences over time. Questions of citizenship, ethnicity, race and poverty will be discussed within an analysis of increasing inequality precipitated by the ongoing global transformation of work and the restructuring of contemporary cities. We will also pay attention to the emergence of different kinds of social movements in comparative urban contexts in Europe, Africa and elsewhere.

Fall 2025

ANTHC 31400

Research Design in Anthropology Or, Zen and the Art of Fieldwork

Professor Jonathan H. Shannon
Thursdays 5:30-7:20 PM



Photos from Prof. Shannon's field research.

Description

Ethnography is a core research method and one of the defining contributions of anthropology to the modern social sciences. Ethnography or field research is the descriptive analysis of a culture or subculture based on firsthand experience. This course introduces students to the basic methods of ethnographic research, from observation and interviews, to documentation and qualitative analysis, to writing and presenting anthropological research. Students will conduct ethnographic research individually and in teams; learn analog and digital tools for data collection and analysis; and practice writing the results for a variety of audiences. Moreover, students will learn the ethical and political dimensions of field research.

This course is designed for majors in the Department of Anthropology as well as for anyone wishing to acquire field research skills. The skills taught in this course are valuable not just to those planning field work, but also in many of the professions available to students of anthropology and the social sciences, from UX research, consulting, and marketing to outreach, social work, and zoos!



Archaeology of New York City

ANTHC 32547



Faculty: Megan Hicks

Meeting Time: Thursday 5:30-7:30

This course examines the political and environmental history of New York City through the lens of archaeology and materiality. Over the last 400 years, Indigenous Lenapehoking has been profoundly transformed through settler colonialism, mercantilism, mass migration, and the establishment of globalized economic networks.

Archaeological evidence helps us understand the experiences and processes that have defined life in the city especially those of marginalized groups who may not leave behind written histories. We will explore how processes like land privatization and waterfront development have transformed urban terrain. And how commodification, consumerism, and industrialization have shaped and reshaped daily life. We will also will understand how these phenomena intersect with anthropological questions about race, ethnicity, class, gender, health, and politics. Students will learn how archaeological methods and research questions contribute long-term insights, critical perspectives, and scientific grounding to urgent contemporary issues including social inequality, environmental crises, and even climate change.

FALL 2025

ANTHC 320.89
ARCHAEOLOGY OF MESOAMERICA
(MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA)
Tuesday 5:30-7:20 PM

Professor: William J. Parry

This course provides an overview of the pre-Hispanic archaeology of Mesoamerica – a region extending from central Mexico to El Salvador. We will study the lifeways of the ancient native peoples of that region, from their first settlements more than 13,000 years ago, up through Spanish colonization in the 1520s. Special emphasis will be placed on the Olmec and other Formative chiefdoms; the Classic civilizations of Teotihuacan, the Maya, and the Zapotec; the Postclassic Toltec and Aztec states; and the Spanish conquest.

Required Text:

Evans, Susan Toby: *Ancient Mexico and Central America* (Third Edition, 2013). Thames and Hudson, New York. ISBN: 9780500290668

