



**Department of Anthropology  
Course Booklet  
Spring 2024**



Dear students-

It is with great pleasure that we present the selection of Anthropology courses available in Spring 2024. Alongside some old favorites, there are several new classes on offer this Spring that I'd like to highlight:

APY 313/611: Data Science of Culture and Language- Taught our newest faculty member, Dr. Steve Moran, this course will introduce students to the fundamentals of Data Science in Anthropology and beyond.

APY 359/628: The Archaeology of Plastics- A course that explores, through the lenses of archaeology, environmental sciences, health, and public policy the defining material culture of our age, the Age of Plastics. Designed and taught by Dr. Pamela Geller.

APY 435: Anthropology of Nature and Environment- Taught by M. Jesse Schneider, a Ph.D. candidate in UM's Abess Center for Ecosystem Science and Policy, this course will focus on how Anthropologists understand and study the complex interactions between human culture (in the past and present) and the natural world.

As always, if you have any questions, feel free to reach out to the faculty members listed for each course or to me.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'W. Pestle'.

-Dr. P (William J. Pestle)  
Associate Professor and Chair  
[w.pestle@miami.edu](mailto:w.pestle@miami.edu)

# Undergraduate Course Offerings

## **APY 101: Introduction to Anthropology**

Section HI, MW 3:35pm – 4:50pm

Instructor: Benjamin Augustyn

A broad overview of archaeology, cultural anthropology, biological anthropology, and linguistics.

## **APY 109: Anthropology of Religion**

Section, J, MW 5:05pm-6:20pm

Instructor: Benjamin Augustyn

Through themes such as myth, word and text, symbol, gender, pilgrimage, embodiment, and ritual, students learn about lived religion through anthropological research and field methods. The course also exposes introductory-level students to diverse world religious traditions: Korean folk religion, Indonesian Islam, Hinduism in diaspora, Judaism across cultures, Japanese temple Shinto traditions, and more.

## **APY 201: Principles of Archaeology**

Section EF, MW 12:20pm-1:35pm

Instructor: Pamela Geller

History, methods, and theory of archaeology with an outline of the main characteristics of the prehistoric record throughout the world.

## **APY 202: Principles of Cultural Anthropology**

Section CD, MW 10:10am – 11:25am

Instructor: Louis HERNs, Marcelin

Cultural anthropology, including such topics as economics, politics, kinship and families, health systems, religion, and personality.

## **APY 203: Principles of Physical Anthropology**

Section P, TuTh 11:00am – 12:15pm

Instructor: William Pestle

The origin and biological development of the human species; human evolution explored by means of the fossil record of prehistoric population; differentiation and adaptation of contemporary populations in various world environments; the comparison of humans and other primates with respect to biological and behavioral variability.

## **APY 205: Medicine and Health Care in Society**

Section Y, ONLINE

Instructor: Toni Cela

A sociohistorical analysis of the intersection between medicine, health care and society, using examples throughout the world. It will reflect on 'taking-for-granted' concepts such as the 'body, risk, illness and healing' and their relationships to culture, power, and society, as well as the plurality of narratives and discourses on health and healing practices.

## **APY 230: Sounds of the World Languages**

Section S, ONLINE

Instructor: Nicholas Lester

The range of sounds produced by the speakers of the world's languages. An introduction to phonetics, with a focus on acoustically-oriented methods used in contemporary phonetics.

### **APY 309: Evolution of Human Behavior**

Section O, TuTh 9:30am – 10:45am

Instructor: Staff

Origins and evolution of human behaviors as determined by fossil and archaeological evidence, primate research, and the cross-cultural analysis of behavioral variations in contemporary societies. The interaction of human biological and behavioral evolution.

### **APY 313: Data Science of Culture and Language**

Section P, TuTh 11:00am – 12:15pm

Instructor: Steve Moran

The basic principles and methods of data science will be presented. A central theme is the assessment of scientific claims, and subsequent data collection, transformation, quantitative analysis, and reporting of scientific results. Specific topics include for example data wrangling, visualization, and modeling.

### **APY 359: The Archaeology of Plastics**

Section GH, MW 2:30pm – 3:45pm

Instructor: Pamela Geller

Stone, bronze, and iron. The changing frequency of these materials in ancient contexts indicates technological innovation and cultural transformations. For this reason, archaeologists have traditionally divided human history into the Stone, Bronze, and Iron Ages. In the 21st century, the material that defines human existence is not reaped from fertile soils, extracted from natural deposits, or melted from sand. Rather, the invention of synthetic polymers occurred in 1907, in the Yonkers lab of a chemist named Leo Baekeland. Since this time, humans have come to live in a fourth age: the Plastic Age. There is, however, something unique about this substance's Anthropocenic impact on the planet that distinguishes it from prior periods. In this class, we use archaeology as a means for exploring that impact, for better and worse.

### **APY 384: Caribbean Archaeology**

Section Q, TuTh 12:30pm-1:45pm

Instructor: Jorge Ulloa Hung

An examination of human lifeways in the Antillean archipelago from first settlement through the development of complex socio-political structures in the Late Ceramic Age and ultimately the arrival of European and African migrants.

### **APY 385: Caribbean Cultures**

Section S, TuTh 3:30pm – 4:45pm

Instructor: Jorge Ulloa Hung

Caribbean societies, including ethnic diversity, production and exchange, domestic organization, and

belief systems.

### **APY 392: Sex and Culture**

Section B, MWF 9:05am – 9:55am

Instructor: Claire Oueslati-Porter

A cross-cultural examination of sex roles and sexuality; gender identity, division of labor, functions of marriage, sexual practices, reproductive control, and political relationships between the sexes.

### **APY 413: Medical Anthropology**

Section T, TuTh 5:05pm – 6:20pm

Instructor: David Forrest

Cross-cultural and historical perspectives on health and illness in human evolution. Effects of heredity, environment, and culture upon human disease ecology. Biological and behavioral adaptations to disease.

### **APY 416: Bioarchaeology**

Section J, Online MW 5:05pm-6:20PM

Instructor: Tony Chamoun

Contextualization of bodies in space, cultural milieu and time are the primary focus of this course. Students will explore bioarchaeology's history, development and major topical concerns.

### **APY 435: Environmental Archaeology**

Section EF, Online MW 12:20pm-1:35pm

Instructor: M. Jesse Schneider

This course is an introduction to the anthropological investigation of nature, biology, and environment. Taking examples from cultural anthropology and the subfields of environmental anthropology, political ecology, and the anthropology of science, the course builds an understanding of the various ways in which ideas about nature and human nature making practices shape our contemporary world: its places, space, life forms, and forms of life.

### **APY 484: Anthropological Theory**

Section HI, MW 3:35pm – 4:50pm

Instructor: Louis HERNs-Marcelin

Theoretical frameworks directing data collection and research methodology in anthropology.

### **APY 502: Field Studies in Anthropology**

Section K, MW 6:35pm – 7:50pm

Instructor: Traci Ardren

Field research in advanced topics in Cultural, Archaeological, Linguistic and/or Biological Anthropology. Preparation of data for professional presentation and publication is stressed.

## **APY 512: Advanced Medical Anthropology**

Section T, TuTh 5:05pm – 6:20pm

Instructor: David Forrest

Applications of theories and methods of medical anthropology to problems in human health and disease.

# Graduate course offerings

## **APY 601: Graduate Seminar - Principles of Archaeology**

Section EF, MW 12:20pm – 1:35pm

Instructor: Pamela Geller

History and theoretical foundation of modern archaeology; ethics, professional standards, and best practices in archaeology; cultural heritage management with special emphasis on NAGPRA; compliance with Secretary of the Interior standards, Section 106 regulatory knowledge and skills for compliance with government regulations, and current topical literature on archaeology.

## **APY 602: Graduate Seminar - Principles of Cultural Anthropology**

Section CD, MW 10:10am – 11:25am

Instructor: Louis HERN Marcelin

The application of the anthropological perspective, data collection and analyses methods, and theoretical foundations of traditional cultural anthropology to understanding and working on solving human problems in the modern world. Topics include the design, conduct, and application of modern ethnological methods to research venues in business, governmental/NGO agencies, conflict studies, natural disasters, medical, globalization and financial organizations.

## **APY 603: Graduate Seminar – Biological Anthropology**

Section P, TuTh 11:00am – 12:15pm

Instructor: William Pestle

The historical and theoretical foundations of modern biological anthropology. Topics include ethics and standards for human subjects; applied bioarchaeology, biological anthropology in medical/legal settings, primatology, Human biology and adaptive diversity, modern perspectives on race, and skeletal biology of modern peoples. The development of professional research and writing skills for the discipline is integral to course goals.

## **APY 611: Methods of Anthropological Research**

Section P, TuTh 11:00am – 12:15pm

Instructor: Steven Moran

The basic principles and methods of data science will be presented. A central theme is the assessment of scientific claims, and subsequent data collection, transformation, quantitative analysis, and reporting of scientific results. Specific topics include for example data wrangling, visualization, and modeling.

## **APY 612: Advanced Medical Anthropology**

Section T, TuTh 5:05pm – 6:20pm

Instructor: David Forrest

Applications of Theories and Methods of Medical Anthropology to problems in human health and disease.

### **APY 616: Advanced Anthropology Workshop-The Archaeology of Plastics**

Section GH, MW 2:30pm – 3:45pm

Instructor: Pamela Geller

Stone, bronze, and iron. The changing frequency of these materials in ancient contexts indicates technological innovation and cultural transformations. For this reason, archaeologists have traditionally divided human history into the Stone, Bronze, and Iron Ages. In the 21st century, the material that defines human existence is not reaped from fertile soils, extracted from natural deposits, or melted from sand. Rather, the invention of synthetic polymers occurred in 1907, in the Yonkers lab of a chemist named Leo Baekeland. Since this time, humans have come to live in a fourth age: the Plastic Age. There is, however, something unique about this substance's Anthropocenic impact on the planet that distinguishes it from prior periods. In this class, we use archaeology as a means for exploring that impact, for better and worse.

### **APY 616: Advanced Anthropology Workshop-Evolution of Human Behavior**

Section O, TuTh 9:30am-10:45am

Instructor: Staff

Origins and evolution of human behaviors as determined by fossil and archaeological evidence, primate research, and the cross-cultural analysis of behavioral variations in contemporary societies. The interaction of human biological and behavioral evolution.

### **APY 616: Advanced Anthropology Workshop-Caribbean Archaeology**

Section Q, TuTh 12:30pm-1:45pm

Instructor: Jorge Ulloa Hung

An examination of human lifeways in the Antillean archipelago from first settlement through the development of complex socio-political structures in the Late Ceramic Age and ultimately the arrival of European and African migrants.

### **APY 628: Advanced Graduate Seminar-Sex and Culture**

Section B, MWF 9:05am-9:55am

Instructor: Claire Oueslati-Porter

A cross-cultural examination of sex roles and sexuality; gender identity, division of labor, functions of marriage, sexual practices, reproductive control, and political relationships between the sexes.

### **APY 628: Advanced Graduate Seminar-Anthropological Theory**

Section HI, MW 3:35pm – 4:50pm

Instructor: Louis Hems Marcelin

Theoretical frameworks directing data collection and research methodology in anthropology.



## **APY 628: Advance Graduate Seminar-Caribbean Cultures**

Section S, TuTh 3:30pm-4:45pm

Instructor: Jorge Ulloa Hung

Caribbean societies, including ethnic diversity, production and exchange, domestic organization, and belief systems.

## **APY 702: Field Studies in Anthropology**

Section K, MW 6:35pm – 7:50pm

Instructor: Traci Ardren

Field research in advanced topics in Cultural, Archaeological, Linguistic and/or Biological Anthropology. Preparation of data for professional presentation and publication is stressed.

## Faculty Contact Information

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