ANTHROPOLOGY AND
SOCIOPY (ANSO)

ANSO 100 - People, Culture and Society (4 Credit Hours)
An examination of fundamental questions concerning the nature and
dependencies of sociocultural behavior. The course presents a variety of
sociocultural approaches for understanding human nature and hominin
evolution, cross-cultural similarities and differences, the sources of
inequality, and the enormity of recent social change. This course is
required of all majors and minors in Anthropology/Sociology.

ANSO 199 - Introductory Topics in Anthropology and Sociology (1-4
Credit Hours)
A general category used only in the evaluation of transfer credit.

ANSO 210 - Sex and Gender in Society (4 Credit Hours)
This course compares and evaluates a variety of theories which attempt
to explain the origins, persistence and effects of gender in American
society. In particular, it explores a number of settings that may include:
the family, the work place, the political arena, religious activity, violence
against women, and face-to-face interactional contexts. Special attention
is given to the ways in which race, ethnicity, class and sexual orientation
shape gender experiences. Although its primary focus is American
society, the course compares problems of sexual inequality in American
society with other, quite different, societies in order to gain a comparative
understanding of how discrimination, prejudice, and structural inequality,
wherever they are found, create special problems for women. Throughout,
the focus is on learning to use structural, historical, and theoretical
information as guides to understanding social change and the choices
facing women and men.


ANSO 212 - Race and Ethnicity (4 Credit Hours)
Contrary to the expectations of many modern social theorists, race and
ethnicity continue to be important elements in the lives of contemporary
people, serving as frameworks through which individual identities,
community actions, and cultural meanings are interpreted. This course
will introduce students to the sociocultural analysis of racial and ethnic
identities. How did ethnic and racial identities and communities develop
over time? Why does race, though now understood to be a social rather
than a biological category, continue to be (mis)understood as a biological
category? How do aspects of political, class, gender, and sexual identities
influence racial and ethnic identities? We will use a global perspective
to understand the conception of race and ethnicity. We will explore
these topics among others including cultural and historical variability of
ethnic and racial categories, the dialectical formation of identity, and the
persistence of certain forms of racial and ethnic prejudice. Students will
be expected to examine critically their own common assumptions and
presuppositions about race and ethnicity, and to begin developing the
theoretical tools for interpreting life in an ethnically diverse world.

Crosslisting: BLST 212.

ANSO 217 - Religion and Society (4 Credit Hours)
This course investigates the relationship between religion and society,
and the social dimension of religious truth-claims. The central theme
entails a cross-cultural study of religious influences on both social
stability and change or revolution. In exploring this tension between
religion and existing socioeconomic and political orders, we will consider
examples such as religious movements, as well as the ritual life of both
the individual’s life cycle and wider social and political institutions.

ANSO 221 - Contemporary Japan (4 Credit Hours)
Japan often conjures images steeped in tradition such as samurai
warriors, sumo wrestlers, and geisha clad in kimono. At the same
time, however, contemporary Japan is just as easily associated with
businessmen, anime, automobiles, and high technology. How have
"tradition" and "change" fueled competing visions of Japan what it
means to be "Japanese"? How does one go about reconciling these
conflicting views? How have these debates evolved over time? How have
variously situated individuals and groups in society negotiated shifting
circumstances? These questions will be at the heart of this seminar as
we consider case studies from different segments of Japanese society.
A range of material will be treated as "texts" for analysis and discussion
including anime, manga, literary works, and films as well as ethnographic
scholarship on Japanese society.

Crosslisting: EAST 221.

ANSO 224 - Human Origins and Prehistory (4 Credit Hours)
This course begins with a review of biological anthropology’s view of
humanity. How do humans appear when studied with the tools biologists
have developed to understand other species? We then explore what we
know about the lives of our earliest ancestors and the clusters of new
human-like species emerging over the next few million years, including
our own about 200,000 years ago. The last part of the class turns to
archaeological views of humanity. We survey the diversity of human
experiences as our ancestors spread around the globe, creating art,
starting farms, and building cities. Throughout, our emphasis will be on
how researchers know what they know and what assumptions are built
into different narratives of human origins.

ANSO 245 - Studies in Anthropology and Sociology (4 Credit Hours)
Special topics in Anthropology and Sociology.

ANSO 290 - The Development of Social Thought (4 Credit Hours)
An investigation of the classical foundations of social thought and
sociocultural theory in sociology/anthropology. The course will
concentrate on the original works of authors such as Marx, Nietzsche,
Freud, Weber, Durkheim, Martineau, DuBois and other significant authors
of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This course is required
of all majors and minors in anthropology and sociology. No First Year
students.

Prerequisite(s): ANSO 100 or consent.

ANSO 299 - Intermediate Topics in Anthropology/Sociology (1-4 Credit
Hours)
A general category used only in the evaluation of transfer credit.

ANSO 316 - Contemporary Sociocultural Theory (4 Credit Hours)
Analyses of central theoretical questions in anthropology and sociology.
Historical developments and major paradigms within the two disciplines
are explored. The process of theory construction is examined and a
critical perspective developed. Required of majors.

Prerequisite(s): ANSO 100 and ANSO 290.

ANSO 320 - Contemporary African Peoples in Historical Perspective (4
Credit Hours)
This course is an examination of the historical, ethnic and socio-cultural
diversity of sub-Saharan Africa societies. Central to this overview is
an emphasis on the pre-colonial, colonial and postcolonial eras. It
considers questions of economic development, urbanization, agricultural
production and the relationship of the contemporary African state to rural
communities. This course also explores symbolic systems in the context
of rituals, witchcraft, indigenous churches, and new forms of Christianity
currently spreading in Africa.

Prerequisite(s): ANSO 100 or by consent.
ANSO 321 - Anthropology of Human Rights (4 Credit Hours)
This seminar interrogates the social life of rights by situating human rights within critical analyses of law, society, and culture. A brief examination of key human rights documents and institutions will be followed by an analysis of topics and case studies selected to juxtapose Asian and Western contexts. A primary concern of this seminar will be to scrutinize how human rights get reworked and refashioned in a range of local settings by various actors on the ground pursuing social justice.
Prerequisite(s): ANSO 100 or consent.

ANSO 331 - Culture, Society and the Individual (4 Credit Hours)
This course examines the relationship between individuals, their society and culture. This involves looking at differing cultural conceptions of "human nature", and the way in which both "intelligence" and the emotions are "cultural performances." The nature of the "self", indeed, the structure of perception and cognition, are not separable from specific patterns of sociocultural life. Finally, Western and cross-cultural examples will be used to assess different models of social determinism and the cultural impact of human decisions and action.
Prerequisite(s): ANSO 100 or consent.

ANSO 333 - Social Structure and Popular Culture (4 Credit Hours)
Under study here are the production and distribution, form and content, and artists and audiences of popular culture internationally. We will consider prominent social theories, from the Frankfort School's critique of popular culture, through the writings on mass culture in the United States, to the recent rehabilitation of popular culture by British writers like Stuart Hall and Paul Gilroy. Some of the major questions addressed will include: How do the social arrangements and the technologies of production shape the messages conveyed in popular media? What is the relationship between popular culture and "high" culture? Under what conditions does popular culture distract people from the struggles for equality and social justice, lulling them to passivity, and when can it inspire protest, or even transform people's behavior?
Prerequisite(s): ANSO 100 or consent.

ANSO 339 - Culture, Identity and Politics in Caribbean Society (4 Credit Hours)
This course will cover the basic aspects of semiotic theory focusing on the social, cultural and political life of the Caribbean area, especially the English and French speaking areas. A fragmented group of nations decidedly on the periphery of the global economy, the Caribbean was once one of the richest areas of the world. Its riches then depended on the labor of enslaved Africans; the fruits of the plantation economy were enjoyed mainly by European planters. What is the legacy of such a history? We review the variety of Caribbean policies, from the strong democratic traditions of Jamaica to the autocratic rulers of Haiti, and explore how the Caribbean's unique combination of cultural influences affect the political processes, ways of life, class divisions and ethnic stratification evident in the Caribbean today.
Prerequisite(s): ANSO 100 or consent.

ANSO 340 - Social Movements (4 Credit Hours)
In this course we explore social movements as a primary means of social change. We attempt to understand the conditions which precede, accompany and follow collective action. Particular case studies for analysis will be drawn from the United States and cross-cultural contexts to illustrate that social movements are human products that have both intended and unintended consequences.
Prerequisite(s): ANSO 100 or consent.

ANSO 342 - Non-Governmental Organizations, Development and Human Rights (4 Credit Hours)
This course is a critical and inter-disciplinary examination of the role and consequences of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the development industry. The course explores the history, organization and agenda building of NGOs since the 1950's. Power relationships between NGOs and states, particularly in the southern hemisphere, as well as with bilateral and multi-lateral institutions are pivotal to our examination. The ideological, programmatic and conceptual differences among NGOs are examined within the broader context of theories of development. We ask why growing numbers of people see NGOs as the answer to ameliorating poverty, disease, violations of human rights and environmental degradation, among others. Some of the organizations that we examine include Greenpeace, Amnesty International, the Grameen Bank and Working Women's Forum.
Prerequisite(s): ANSO 100 or consent.

ANSO 343 - Demography of Africa (4 Credit Hours)
In this course, we begin by reviewing current literature to clearly define the term, Demography. Next, we examine the demographic processes of population change in the continent of Africa. Demographic processes include mortality, fertility and migration. In addition, we explore patterns of urbanization, economic development and educational attainment.
We analyze survey data from the African Census Analysis Project and Demographic Health Survey. Upon completion, you should be familiar with a variety of demographic processes that allow an examination of interesting demographic, social and anthropological questions.
Prerequisite(s): ANSO 100.

ANSO 345 - Special Topics (4 Credit Hours)
Special topics offered at an advanced level not covered in regular courses.

ANSO 347 - Power in Society (4 Credit Hours)
Using theoretical approaches and methodological tools from anthropology and sociology, this course explores the nature of social power and its distribution in a variety of social settings. Under what conditions do specific types of power distributions emerge, and what consequences do they have for people's social and economic lives? What do political systems change, and why? How do social and cultural factors influence people's participation in political action? A variety of social institutions relevant to politics are examined in this course, including interest groups, political parties, the state and transnational organizations. Processes such as legitimation of authority, social influences on policy formation, political socialization, mobilization and co-optation are analyzed in the contexts of local, national and international politics.
Prerequisite(s): ANSO 100 or consent.

ANSO 348 - Semiotic Anthropology (4 Credit Hours)
This course is an introduction to semiotic anthropology. Semiotic is the study of signs and representation, the study of how meaning works. This course will cover the basic aspects of semiotic theory focusing primarily on the semiotic of Charles Sanders Peirce. As an anthropology course, we will study human meaning and human semiosis in our cultural, empirical world. We will explore issues of meaning and material culture, language and linguistic practices, the boundaries of 'human being', and racial, ethnic and gender identity formations in various communities throughout the world. And we will explore the semiosis of these topics through cultural practices ourselves, including some combination of the following: horseback riding, museum visits and artefact analysis, clothing and fashion, playing soccer, attending a sporting match, and musical performance.
Prerequisite(s): ANSO 100.
ANSO 350 - Field Research Methods (4 Credit Hours)
This course provides experience in the design and implementation of field research. In addition to techniques of collecting, analyzing, interpreting and reporting data, we examine the history of social research, ethical questions involved in field research, and the theoretical assumptions on which various research strategies are based. Students will construct and implement research designs using field research techniques including ethnography, participant observation, and content analysis. Quantitative analysis including descriptive statistics will be included. Required of majors. ANSO 350 and ANSO 351 may be taken in any order.
Prerequisite(s): ANSO 100 or consent.

ANSO 351 - Survey Research Methods (4 Credit Hours)
This course provides experience in the design and implementation of sociocultural research. In addition to techniques of collecting, analyzing, interpreting and reporting data, we examine epistemological issues that underlie social research, ethical questions involved in research, and the theoretical assumptions on which various research strategies are based. Students will construct and implement research designs using survey research and secondary data analysis. Quantitative analysis, including descriptive and inferential statistics, analysis of variance, and simple regression will be included. Required of majors. ANSO 350 and ANSO 351 may be taken in any order.
Prerequisite(s): ANSO 100 or consent.

ANSO 361 - Directed Study (1-4 Credit Hours)
ANSO 362 - Directed Study (1-4 Credit Hours)
ANSO 363 - Independent Study (1-4 Credit Hours)
ANSO 364 - Independent Study (1-4 Credit Hours)
ANSO 399 - Adv topics Anthropology/Soc (1-4 Credit Hours)
A general category used only in the evaluation of transfer credit.

ANSO 451 - Senior Research (4 Credit Hours)
ANSO 452 - Senior Research (4 Credit Hours)
ANSO 460 - Senior Research Seminar (4 Credit Hours)
An integrative course designed to be a culmination of students’ work in the major. This course focuses on the design and completion of semester-long research projects by senior majors. The course will provide the basis for reflection about the nature and importance of anthropology and sociology as disciplines and in relation to our role as researchers and citizens. Required of Senior Majors.