Summer 2011 Courses

- SSH 100/ASB 100 Introduction to Global Health
- ASB 101 Introduction to Anthropology: Understanding Human Diversity
- SSH/ASB 200 Food and Culture
- ASB 210 Human Sexuality: Anthropological Perspectives
- ASB 222 Buried Cities and Lost Tribes: Our Human Heritage
- ASB 321 Indians of the Southwest
- ASB 326 Human Impacts on Ancient Environments
- ASB 335 Prehistory of the Southwest
- ASB 353 Death & Dying: Cross-Cultural Perspective
- SSH 400/ASB 410 Poverty, Justice and Global Health
- SSH 404/ASB 462 Medical Anthropology: Culture and Health
- ASM 104 Bones, Stones & Human Evolution
- ASM 275 Forensic Anthropology
- ASM 345 Disease and Human Evolution

SSH/ASB 100 Introduction to Global Health

General Studies: SB & G; and fulfills CLAS Science and Society requirements.

Magdalena Hurtado
Online, Session I

Hans Nesse & Gerardo Chowell-Puente
Online, Session II

Global health is the study of human health differences and similarities in past and present environments, and the ways in which the complex human and animal networks and activities that exist across the planet influence them. Within a framework that brings together anthropological, evolutionary and public health sciences, we explore a variety of topics, including the ongoing wars between pathogens and human hosts. These wars over nutrients have (1) existed since ancient times and are unlikely to ever end; (2) shaped not only human biology, but also the culture, institutions, built environments and division of labor we inherited from our ancestors; (3) influenced, and have been influenced by, the emergence of novel and diverse cultural, social and biological phenomena; and (4) shaped present-day health-related institutional and technological innovations.

Dr. Hurtado infuses into the course over 20 years of transdisciplinary work in anthropology, evolutionary behavioral ecology, life history theory, demography,
epidemiology, surveillance and community-based research among Ache, Hiwi and Machiguenga indigenous groups of Paraguay, Venezuela – her country of origin – and Peru, and Hispanics and Native Americans in the U.S.

Past Student Comments:

“Everything was done perfectly! It is the best online class I have taken so far!!”

“I appreciated how all instructors extended themselves in being accessible and gave rapid responses to any questions and/or concerns.”

“I think this is an excellent course; I don’t see any need for improvement.”

ASB 101 Introduction to Anthropology: Understanding Human Diversity

General Studies: SB & G; and fulfills CLAS Science and Society requirements.

Kim Hill
Online, Session I

Anthropology is the study of human diversity and the flip-side of diversity, human universals. This course provides an integrated scientific understanding of biological, historical and cultural evolutionary processes that account for human variation through time and space, and provides basic explanatory models of cross-cultural variation. Specifically, the course examines how humans evolved and how they obtained the characteristics that make us a unique species. The course then traces human cultural history through the archaeological record to historic times and explores the ethnographic record in order to illustrate the astounding world of cultural diversity. Using information derived from societies that range from Bushmen hunting bands to Amazonian tribes to Pacific Island chiefdoms, from ancient empires to modern nation states, students explore kinship systems and social norms and the behaviors that they regulate. Cultural and biological models of cooperation, resource acquisition and distribution, marriage, parenting, conflict and warfare, political structures, power and status, sex roles, ritual, religion and language are considered.

Prerequisites: None; the course is intended for majors and non-majors alike.

SSH/ASB 200 Food and Culture

General Studies: (L or SB) & C.
Jonathan Maupin
Online, Session I

Food represents the most basic of human needs, and yet its very pervasiveness in our everyday lives often prevents us from seeing how extensively it defines us socially and culturally. This course examines the relationships between humans and food across cultures and through time using perspectives from both anthropology and related fields. Topics to be addressed include evolution and nutrition; food and ethnicity; and food production/distribution. This cross-cultural and historical focus provides a framework for understanding current national and global issues, including obesity and food insecurity.

Course Format: Online lectures, written assignments, outside-class activities.

Prerequisites: None; the course is intended for majors and non-majors alike.

Dr. Maupin’s research focuses on issues of community participation in health programs, variation in illness concepts and cultural competency among the Kaqchikel Maya in Guatemala, Purépecha groups in Western Mexico and Hispanic migrants in the U.S.

ASB 210 Human Sexuality: Anthropological Perspectives

General Studies: SB & G; and fulfills CLAS Science and Society requirements.

Abigail York
Online, Session I
Online, Session II

This course examines the sexual nature and behavior of humans from both a biological and an anthropological point of view. Students will study how sexuality and human uniqueness and human variation are connected to each other, with particular emphasis on the cross-cultural record. Furthermore, students will explore how sex research is situated within and beyond anthropology and be able to explain how anthropological approaches can contribute to contemporary debates about sexuality and sexual behavior.

Prerequisites: None; the course is intended for majors and non-majors alike.

ASB 222 Buried Cities & Lost Tribes: Our Human Heritage

General Studies: (HU or SB) G & H.
This course is an introduction to archaeology through a dozen of the greatest discoveries and the researchers who conducted the work. Emphasis will be on the methods of archaeological fieldwork and what these discoveries have revealed about world prehistory. Subjects covered will include Pompeii, Troy, Crete, cities and civilizations, the origin of agriculture, the Mediterranean Basin, Mesopotamia, Egypt and the Holyland.

Course Format: Online lectures, videos, 3 exams.

Prerequisites: None; the course is intended for majors and non-majors alike.

Dr. Falconer has directed ground-breaking archaeological investigations of the causes and consequences of early cities and states four and five thousand years ago at a variety of locales in the Middle East (along the Jordan Rift) and the eastern Mediterranean (on the island of Cyprus). His work illuminates the nexus of prehistory and history and displays a special flair for applying the legacies of the deep past to the formation of the modern world, as seen in the rise of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Past Student Comments:

“This class was one of the best online course experience that I have ever had.”

“I have taken a lot of online courses. This was the first one that I feel I gained sufficiently from the lectures. Also, the choice of textbook was phenomenal; I enjoyed the reading assignments thoroughly and did not find them tedious or boring as I do with most textbooks.”

“I think Dr. Falconer should teach more courses. I really enjoyed the teaching style and set up of this course.”

“Very good videos and presentations. Professor really knows the material.”

“Best online class I have taken thus far.”

“The commentary on the PowerPoint presentations was excellent. This is the first time this type of information was available in an online class that I have taken, and it was much like being in the classroom.”

ASB 321  Indians of the Southwest

General Studies: (L or SB), H & C.
Betsy Brandt
Online, Session I
Online, Session II

This course is a survey of the family life, economics, political organizations and religions of Southwestern Indians from the time of contact to the present day. Special attention is paid to the development of the reservations and reservation life today.

Course Format: Lectures, discussions, research paper, exams.

Prerequisites: ASB 102 or instructor approval.

ASB 326 Human Impacts on Ancient Environments

General Studies: SB & H.

Steven Falconer
Online, Session I
Online, Session II

This course reviews archaeological evidence on how humans have affected their surroundings from early prehistoric times until 300 years before the present. A global perspective will be taken with examples drawn from diverse regions. The archaeological record will be reviewed for early evidence of animal extinctions, deforestation and soil degradation. The special relationships that have developed based on the introduction of agriculture and the growth of early complex societies are also examined. Examples of successful human adaptations will be presented, as well as evidence of negative impacts.

Course Format: Online lectures illustrated with slides and class discussion of key points, 2 exams, 2 short papers.

Prerequisites: None; however, it is assumed that students have (or are willing to do the extra reading to acquire) a basic knowledge of the operation of archaeology and world prehistory.

Dr. Falconer has directed ground-breaking archaeological investigations of the causes and consequences of early cities and states four and five thousand years ago at a variety of locales in the Middle East (along the Jordan Rift) and the eastern Mediterranean (on the island of Cyprus). His work illuminates the nexus of prehistory and history and displays a special flair for applying the legacies of the deep past to the formation of the modern world, as seen in the rise of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.
ASB 335 Prehistory of the Southwest

General Studies: SB & H & G.

Melissa Kruse
Online, Session I

This course presents an anthropological overview of the prehistoric cultures of the American Southwest, and their connection, with discussion of some historic and modern Southwest Indian groups. The emphasis is on understanding current evidence and archaeological arguments concerning major processes and events in the prehistory of the Southwest, including the adaptation of a culture to its environment; the adoption of agriculture; population aggregation and the development of social complexity; regional abandonment; the rise and fall of Chaco Canyon in New Mexico’s San Juan Basin; and the development and collapse of the Hohokam ballcourt and platform mound systems of central Arizona.

ASB 353 Death & Dying: Cross-Cultural Perspective (4 credits)

General Studies: (HU or SB) & G.

Kelly Knudson
Online, Session I
Online, Session II

This course introduces the student to some responses to dying and death found in other cultures, and the reasons for them. Both theoretical and compassionate approaches are taken. It is hoped that through learning about the death ways of other cultures, the student will find a greater range of choices for interpreting the possible meanings of his or her own death and death in general, and also a means for accepting these. Some topics considered in this course include world views and beliefs about death and the human spirit, care for the aged, preparing to die, the moment of death, funeral practices, grief, suicide, death and time, and death beliefs as ecological regulators – each considered in nonwestern societies compared to the United States. Some peoples and geographic areas that are discussed include Australian Aborigines, Eskimos, American Indians, Southern Blacks, New Guinea, Madagascar, India, Tibet, China, Yugoslavia, Medieval Europe and Colonial America.

Prerequisites: None; the course is intended for majors and non-majors alike.

Past Student Comments:

"The professor likes what she does, and it shows!"
"Dr. Knudson made my first online class a wonderful experience. I will certainly recommend her class."

"She presented very interested and stimulating info in a very organized fashion. I'm also grateful that she responded promptly to e-mail."

SSH 400/ASB 410  Poverty, Justice and Global Health

General Studies: (L or SB) & G; and fulfills CLAS Science and Society requirements.

Amber Wutich
Online, Session II

The goal of this 3-credit, 400-level course is to explore social justice and ethical issues related to the health of communities in the U.S. and globally. In Part I, we will explore the relationships between social forces and disease, with a special focus on the complicated interactions between poverty and health disparities at both global and local levels. In Part II, the focus is on debating ethics in health research and intervention, with particular focus on case studies related to indigenous, migrant and other vulnerable populations. In Part III, students take a lead in exploring and defining their own personal and professional values related to global health, particularly related to action and advocacy. To succeed in this course, students must be prepared to engage in critical thinking, self-reflection and oral/written argumentation.

Prerequisites: ASB 100 (or SSH 100) or ASB 102 with a D or better.

Dr. Wutich is a highly qualified cultural anthropologist. Her research examines how people survive in the face of severe food, water and economic scarcity. She has led research projects in Bolivia, Mexico, China and the U.S.

SSH 404/ASB 462  Medical Anthropology: Culture and Health

General Studies: C; and fulfills CLAS Science and Society requirements.

Daniel Hruschka
Online, Session I

Instructor TBD
Online, Session II

This course examines how people from different cultural backgrounds define health and illness; how cultural practices play a role in prevention and treatment; and how culture influences population health at many levels — from the way people seek care for
illnesses to current policy debates about the provision of healthcare. The course focuses on the role that culture plays both at the global level and also in the U.S. in particular.

Course Format: Online lectures, slides and discussions, 3 exams, occasional brief assignments.

Prerequisites: None; the course is intended for majors and non-majors alike.

Dr. Hruschka is a medical anthropologist who studies how cultural and social factors influence health practices and healthcare provision. His current work focuses on maternal and child health in Bangladesh. He has also conducted fieldwork in Mongolia and the U.S.

ASM 104  Bones, Stones and Human Evolution

General Studies: SB or SG.

Chris Stojanowski, Charisse Carver, Kent Johnson
Hybrid (Online Lecture and In-Person Lab), Session I
Hybrid (Online Lecture and In-Person Lab), Session II

This introduction to physical anthropology explores the biological basis of human origins and variation. Through an understanding of genetics and mechanisms of evolution, students are provided with a background to examine primate adaptations, our hominid ancestors and modern human variation. The bones, teeth and tools used by living primates and ancient hominids are keys to unlocking their life ways.

Course Format: Lectures and labs are required components of this course. The lectures introduce key concepts and incorporate slides and videos throughout the semester. Lab exercises provide hands-on application of concepts covered in lectures and reading assignments. Exercises include demonstration of genetic mechanisms and handling of fossil casts and skeletal material.

Prerequisites: None; the course is intended for majors and non-majors alike.

Dr. Stojanowski, an expert in his field, specializes in the human skeleton. His research focuses on colonial period populations from Florida and Georgia, as well as 10,000-year-old human remains from the Sahara Desert.

ASM 275  Forensic Anthropology

General Studies: SB; and fulfills CLAS Science and Society requirements.
Chris Stojanowski
Online, Session I

Kent Johnson
Online, Session II

This course will discuss the application of anthropological techniques for the purposes of crime scene investigation. We will discuss the full range of details about a person that can be gleaned from analyses of human skeletons. We will also discuss different types of trauma, dismemberment, bite marks and animal scavenging. The course presents information from actual cases and how those cases were solved using forensic anthropology. Human rights, genocides, mass disaster accidents and the recovery of MIA soldiers are also detailed. NOTE: Visuals can be mildly disturbing in their graphic content.

Course Format: Online lectures, videos, 4 multiple-choice exams.

Prerequisites: None; the course is intended for majors and non-majors alike.

Dr. Stojanowski, an expert in his field, specializes in the human skeleton. His research focuses on colonial period populations from Florida and Georgia, as well as 10,000-year-old human remains from the Sahara Desert.

ASM 345  Disease and Human Evolution

Fulfills CLAS Science and Society requirements.

Lynn Lucas
Online, Session I

This course examines the role played by disease in human existence, from the beginnings of humanity to the present. Conditions discussed include inherited and congenital abnormalities, infectious diseases, malnutrition, trauma, degenerative problems, etc. Infectious diseases will include those carried by animal parasites (malaria, schistosomiasis), bacteria (bubonic plague, leprosy, tuberculosis, syphilis, lyme disease, typhus), viruses (smallpox, influenza, AIDS), prions (kuru) and fungi (coccidiodomycosis). The course also deals with efforts to understand, define and deal with sickness by different human groups, and with the specific role of medical practitioners in these groups.

Course Format: Lectures, slides, special presentations, films, videotapes, discussion. Three examinations (2 midterms and a final) and a book review.

Prerequisites: ASM 104 or BIO 100 or BIO 187 or BIO 188 with a D or better.