



Participant

Observer

Anthropology Department Overhauls Curriculum

The Anthropology Department here at the University of Rochester has issued a dramatic overhaul of the Undergraduate Anthropology curriculum. The changes go into effect at the start of the Fall '08 semester. While students already enrolled in the University on the Anthropology major track are encouraged to slightly adjust their programs in order to take a few of the new classes, they are not required to; students entering in the Class of 2012 and beyond will be subject to all of the new changes. The new program involves restructuring the core requirements. For instance, ANT 291, the previously-required Research Practicum, is to be replaced with a new required core class, ANT 201, Theory and Method in Anthropology, which will usually be taken by Sophomores. New anthropology students will also be required to take a restructured version of ANT 101, a class which will be taught every semester

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Anthro Dept. Overhauls Curriculum

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and will feature two advanced Undergraduate Anthropology majors as Teaching Assistants. The TA positions will be filled based on a semi-formal application process. Next year's TA's will be Devin Opotzner ('09) and Rachel Odhner ('10) in the Fall Semester, followed by Jesse Bia ('09) and Amy Carvalho ('09) in the Spring. The addition of the TA positions is seen as a very positive step by Undergraduate Anthropology students, who have long been requesting more possible teaching opportunities within the Department. The various requirements needed for an Honors degree have also been adjusted accordingly to fit with the new curriculum.

When asked about the impetus behind the changes, Professor Reichman offered the following reasons: "The changes to the curriculum are intended to expose students to core ideas in anthropology earlier in their educational careers. The new curriculum gives students a solid foundation in anthropology before the junior year, when many of our majors study abroad. Also, the new TA program for advanced majors will give them a leg up in graduate school admissions."

The new curriculum represents the first major changes in roughly ten years, and was under discussion for this past year. Reprinted below is a Q and A issued by the Department in order to answer any questions students may have about the changes:

Many students have already heard that the department has changed the requirements for the major. However, as we implement the new requirements next year, some members of the Classes of 2009-2011 will be affected. We have tried to anticipate potential problems for current students who are trying to complete the major, and the questions below should address the most common concerns.

Q: What are the new requirements?

A: TEN courses are required for a concentration in anthropology of which at least EIGHT must be beyond 200. These TEN courses must include the following:

- a. ANT 101 Cultural Anthropology, normally taken in the freshman year or fall of the sophomore year
- b. ANT 201 Theory and Method in Anthropology (Beginning in 2010, ANT 101 will be a prerequisite)
- c. At least two of the core courses in anthropology: ANT 202 -205
- d. One course that fulfills the Senior Requirement:

ANT 301-310 Advanced Topics
 ANT 390 Supervised Teaching (For ANT 101 Cultural Anthropology only)
 ANT 393 Honors Research in Anthropology.

Q: To whom do the new requirements apply?

A: The Class of 2012 will follow the new requirements in full. Special considerations will be made for the Classes of 2011, 2010 and 2009 as follows:

Class of 2011: ANT 101 is recommended but not required.

Class of 2010: ANT 101 is not required. Students who wish to take the class can do so with permission of the instructor.

Class of 2009: All of the old requirements apply, except for those students who have not yet taken ANT 291 Research Methods.

Q: I am in the Class of '09 and I have not taken ANT 291. It won't be offered next year and I need it to graduate. What do I do?

A: Enroll in ANT 201 "Theory and Method in Anthropology" in Spring '09. This will fill the old ANT 291 requirement. This course will only be offered in the Spring so leave room in your schedule.

Q: What is the "Senior Requirement" for the class of 2009?

A: The old rules for seniors still apply in 2009. All seniors must take ANT 292 Senior Seminar in the Spring '09 semester. This is the last time it will be offered.

Q: I made my plans to major in Anthropology underneath the old system. I have not taken ANT 101. Do I have to take it?

A: ANT 101 is not required for students in the classes of 2009-2011. Members of the class of 2011 who want to major in anthropology are encouraged but not required to take ANT 101 as sophomores.

Q: What is the undergraduate TA program?

A: Each semester, several advanced anthropology majors will be chosen to work as teaching assistants in ANT 101 Cultural Anthropology. The course will be taught by a faculty member. TAs, working in

pairs, will lead a weekly discussion section. The selection process for the 2008-2009 teaching assistants was completed this spring.

Q: The new requirements mention "Advanced Topics" classes for seniors. Why aren't they being offered this year?

A: ANT 292 Senior Seminar will be offered this year for the last time. The "Advanced Topics" option will begin in the 2009-2010 academic year.

Q: Are research methods still going to be taught? Is there a class where we can do fieldwork?

A: ANT 291 will not be taught in the near future. ANT 101 and 201 will spend considerable time on research methods. Many other classes in the department will give students the opportunity to conduct some form of fieldwork. The new major is designed to give students experience in research methods before their junior year. This is to the advantage of students who go abroad as juniors and want to write a thesis when they return.

Please contact Professor Reichman or Professor Gibson if you have specific questions about your plan of study.

The Participant Observer is brought to you by the Undergraduate Anthropology Council

President - Colette Carmouche ('08)
Vice President - Brynn Champney ('10)
Business Manager - Amy Carvalho ('09)
PO Editor - Jesse Bia ('09)



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SPOTLIGHT ON: Faculty Updates

Robert J. Foster, Professor of Anthropology and Visual & Cultural Studies, Mercer Brugler Distinguished Teaching Professor, was awarded a National Endowment for Humanities Summer Stipend Fellowship for Summer 2008. Below is the Abstract for his research:

"A Cultural History of the P.G. Black Collection of Pacific Artifacts"

The Buffalo Museum of Science's P.G. Black collection is the oldest collection in North America of Pacific Islands artifacts put together by a single person. Objects in the collection provide important clues about early encounters between Pacific Islanders and European traders, missionaries, colonial officials, and tourists. The story of the collection's overseas sale, moreover, provides entrée into debates about safeguarding cultural property and national heritage in Australia during the 1920s and 1930s. Display of objects from the collection at museum exhibits in the 1940s promoted acceptance of the idea of primitive art in the U.S. I propose to write a book that puts the Black collection in the economic, political, and cultural contexts of its creation, purchase, and display; that is, in the context of the specific historical relations of power and agency through which the work of acquisition and exhibition has been performed. The project will contribute to scholarly discussions of several topics of comparative and interdisciplinary interest: the production and transformation of material culture in the context of intercultural encounters and EuroAmerican colonialism; the politics of museum displays and national

cultural property; and the contested distinction between art and artifacts. In addition, I aim to accomplish the basic research necessary for traveling museum exhibits that highlight the Black collection and for print and electronic publications that interpret the collection for the general public, most importantly, the general public in the Pacific Islands where the collection originated. The overall goal of my proposed research is to make the Black collection an accessible, usable resource for the largest possible audience.

Professor Foster gave a talk in February to launch his semester as a Bridging Fellow with the Department of Art and Art History. The talk was titled, "Native Curios, National Patrimony, Primitive Art: Three Moments in the Biography of the P. G. Black Collection." **Professor Foster** was also invited by the Macleay Museum and the Department of Archaeology to give the talk in March at the University of Sydney. He used this opportunity to do some preliminary research at the Australian Museum, where he will return this summer.

Thomas P. Gibson, Professor of Anthropology and Editor of the Lewis Henry Morgan Lecture Series has been awarded an ACLS/SSRC/NEH International and Area Studies Fellowship for the Fall Semester of 2008 for the following project:

"Ritual Knowledge and Social Movements in Islamic Southeast Asia"

Professor Gibson will complete a monograph on contemporary political and religious movements in Islamic Southeast Asia. It will begin with the Makassar people of South Sulawesi, Indonesia and proceed by a series of comparative and historical analyses to construct a general theoretical argument about the relationship between the small-scale models of the ideal self inculcated through ritual and the large-scale models of the ideal state that have inspired social movements throughout the Islamic world in the modern era.

Congratulation to the Class of 2008!

EMILY K. BANGO

Double Major Anthropology and
African American Studies
Take Five Scholar
Study Abroad – Santiago, Chile

PATRICK L. BRAUN

Double Major Anthropology and History
Take Five Scholar
Study Abroad, Buenos Aires, Argentina

MARIE COLETTE CARMOUCHE

Double Major Anthropology and
African American Studies
Study Abroad – Dakar, Senegal

ABIGAIL CONRAD

Honors in Anthropology
“Immigration, Religion, and Agency”
Study Abroad - Malawi

MADELEINE CUTRONA

Double Major Anthropology and Studio Art
Study Abroad - Kenya

GRANT A. DAUBER

Double Major Anthropology and Spanish
Study Abroad – Barcelona, Spain

STEPHEN DILK

Double Major Anthropology and History
Study Abroad – Arezzo, Italy

KELSEY FERRANTI

Anthropology Major; Minor in Art History

MOLLIE ALICE FOUST

Double Major Anthropology and History
Kauffman Entrepreneurial Scholar
Study Abroad – Kenya

ARIEL BETH GROS-WERTER

Double Major Anthropology and
Political Science
Study Abroad – Brussels, Belgium

SARAH MICHELLE HARVEY

Double Major Anthropology and
Religion and Classics; Philosophy Minor
Honors in Anthropology
“School Without Walls:
An Alternative Public School”
Study Abroad – Legon, Ghana

DANIEL JAY MUELLER

Double Major Anthropology and History
Take Five Scholar
Phi Beta Kappa
Study Abroad – Accra, Ghana

AMY MARIE NGUYEN

Minor in Biology
Study Abroad – London, England

KIRK M. SIMPSON

Anthropology Major

KAYLIN VERSTRATEN

Anthropology Major

JONATHAN E. WETHERBEE

Double Major Anthropology and English

Alumni Updates... What are Those UR Anthro Grads Up To...?

MARIANA BOJACA (BA '07)

As you may know, I will be serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Costa Rica until May 2010, and I would love to keep in touch with all of you. You can check my blog for updates at: <http://insidemarianashead.blogspot.com/> <http://insidemarianashead.blogspot.com>. If possible, I will also post pictures at: <http://picasaweb.google.com/Mariana.Bojaca>

I arrive in Costa Rica on February 27. After three months of training, I will be sent to my community to serve as a Micro-Enterprise Advisor. In a nutshell, I will be working with entrepreneurs, especially women and youth, government and NGOs in an effort to promote and improve community economic development.

If you would like to send me anything, my mailing address is:

Mariana Bojaca, PCT
Cuerpo de Paz
Apartado Postal 1266
1000 San Jose, Costa Rica

<http://picasaweb.google.com/Mariana.Bojaca>

Airmail usually takes 1-2 weeks. Otherwise, email will be the best way to reach me. I am not sure how accessible the Internet will be but I will try to post often. And you are more than welcome to visit!!!

JEAN BUCK (BA '99)

Hello! I haven't updated the program since graduating, but here's a brief summary: I am Jean Darlae Buck (BA '99). I married James Yim in September of 2000. I finished an M.A. in Theology at Biola University's Talbot School of Theology in 2002, and upon graduation, worked as an Assistant Editor for a magazine. I will be finishing another M.A. in TESOL in spring 2008, and have been working for over a year as an English teacher in the intensive English program (for international students) at California State University, Los Angeles. My husband and I live east of Los Angeles, although I miss the snow and cold of upstate NY! We are excited to be in the process of becoming certified foster care parents, with the hopes of eventually adopting.

Something new to report?

please contact us...

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Get your pens ready....

Society for Humanistic Anthropology presents

The 2008 Ethnographic Fiction Competition

The Society for Humanistic Anthropology announces our annual fiction competition to encourage anthropologists to use alternative literary genres to explore anthropological concerns. These concerns may be any of those associated with the four fields of anthropology.

Stories should not exceed 20 pages typed double-spaced. There is a limit of one story for each submission. Three hard copies per entry should be submitted.

Winning entries and honorable mentions will be recognized at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association in San Francisco, CA in November 2008. The winning story will be published in the Society's journal, Anthropology and Humanism. The winner(s) will receive a cash award of \$100.

There is no entry fee to enter this competition.

The judging committee consists of: Ayala Emmett (Chair), Ruth Behar and Judy Labensohn.
Submissions and queries should be sent too:

Ayala Emmett
Associate Professor
Department of Anthropology
University of Rochester
P.O. Box 270161
Rochester, NY 14627
Phone: (585) 275-8736
e-mail: ayala.emmett@rochester.edu

The deadline for RECEIPT of submissions is June 1, 2008.

Germaine Tillion: 1907-2008

Anthropologist; feminist; resistance fighter; concentration camp survivor; peace-maker; just days before this publication was to go to print, the world lost all of these things and more in the form of one woman on April 19th, 2008. Germaine Tillion died at her home in Saint-Mande, outside Paris. She was 100.

Born to a prosperous family in mountainous central France on May 30, 1907, Ms. Tillion trained as an anthropologist in the 1930s and cultivated a life-long interest in Algeria. Between 1934 and 1940, she made four trips to Algeria, traveling on horseback and camping with Berber nomads as she gathered her first-hand observations. She was sent in 1943 to the Nazi camp for women and children in Ravensbruck, Germany, for her work with France's underground Resistance network — work which eventually made her a recipient of the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor, one of France's highest distinctions. She was one of only five women to have received such an honor.

After the war, Ms. Tillion returned to Algeria and at the request of the French government mediated during the years of crisis and war. She created social centers for displaced rural Muslims, and in 1957, at the height of the battle of Algiers - which led to the country's independence from France - negotiated a ceasefire during one secret meeting with a regional military commander. Despite working for the French government, she was always explicitly outspoken in her support of Algerian independence. Tillion went on to be a major campaigner against the use of torture and the subjugation of women through the Mediterranean world. She wrote extensively on the nomadic tribes of Algeria, her time in Ravensbruck, and women's suffrage, and founded her own association for the establishment of social justice in the 1980s.

I first became aware of the work of Germaine Tillion through my interest in World War II, and by proxy, the Holocaust; I sought out all the writing on the subject I could find. In the space of her 100 years, Tillion tried to teach the world a number of lessons about social justice. And it is from the example she gave through her practice of the anthropological discipline that anthropology can continue to learn: rather than seeing the world's people as exemplars of social paradigms, she saw them as simply real people. Yes, they were often people with opposing loves, problems, fears, traditions, families, motivations, and dreams, but all people nonetheless.

As anthropologists, we often highlight the differences between the world's cultures in order to make these differences understood, palatable, and (hopefully) accepted. Too often, we can forget to highlight the things that make us the same, the things that bind all of us together. Germaine Tillion dedicated much effort to both concepts. "Anthropology", after all, means the "study of man": a vastly different, yet ultimately bound together, singular entity:

people, all of whom deserve to be treated as such.

- JB

See you all next
year!