

Anthropology and Sociology

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The related disciplines of anthropology and sociology seek to understand the nature of communities, organizations, institutions, the systems of cultural meanings that form and inform them, and the interplay between individuals' lives and the societies in which they live. Such understanding requires critical analysis of the interactions among societies and the political, economic, and cultural dimensions of power embodied in structures of class, gender, ethnicity, and race operating on both a local and global level.

Our goal is to provide courses that integrate the two disciplines into a common curriculum from which students derive the multiple perspectives, patterns of evidence, and methodological skills that will engender a broad yet nuanced understanding of the local and global dimensions of contemporary issues. This awareness, gained through reading, discussion, and active engagement both in the local and national community, as well as through participation in international programs and projects— is consistent with and thus directly serves the overall mission of the college: "to better understand, live successfully within, and provided enlightened leadership to a richly diverse and increasingly complex world."

Students graduating with a major in Anthropology and Sociology will find this major relevant for careers not only in anthropology and sociology, but also for such related fields as human services, journalism, law, medicine, public health, urban affairs, international development, government, business, and education.

Requirements for the Major in Anthropology and Sociology

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A minimum of ten courses, comprised of three core courses and seven other ANSO courses of the student's choosing, of which at least two must be at the 200-level, two at the 300-level and two at the 400-level. One of the seven elective courses may be taken off-campus.

The Core (required)

ANSO 103 Introduction to Society and Culture
ANSO 212 Quantitative Research Methods
ANSO 245 Qualitative Research Methods

Requirements for the Minor in Anthropology and Sociology

Number of Units

A minimum of six courses.

Required Courses

ANSO 103 Introduction to Society and Culture

Select the remaining five from all other courses, *of which at least two must be 300- or 400-level courses.*

Anthropology and Sociology courses

ANSO 120 The Family

This course examines the institution of The Family, primarily from a critical perspective. After situating The Family in cultural and historical structures of race/ethnicity, class, and gender, we explore the institution as a site for the production and reproduction of femininity, masculinity, and (hetero)sexuality. We also examine the implications of the institution and the dynamics of power embedded in it for individuals and groups working against the dominant script.

ANSO 140 Language, Culture and Society

This course examines the relationship among language, culture and society with a special emphasis on the social and cultural factors that affect our use of and attitudes towards language. By examining how language is used in different socio-cultural contexts from an anthropological perspective, we will explore not only how language use varies according to social contexts and social groups, but also the roles that different varieties of language play in the expression of social identity and the production and reproduction of stereotypes and power relationships.

Prerequisite: ANSO-103

ANSO 210 Medicine and Society

Cross-cultural analysis of the relationship of society to health and the disease process through the examination of the evolution of knowledge about disease; views of disease by different societies, ethnic groups, and social classes; and alternative national health care systems.

Prerequisite: ANSO-103 or CGHL-120

ANSO 212 Quantitative Research Methods

An introduction to the use of quantitative analysis and statistical reasoning in the fields of sociology, anthropology, and human development and social relations. The course will emphasize understanding and critiquing data and conclusions, and students will produce data sets as well. Students will develop skill in using SPSS.

Prerequisite: ANSO-103

ANSO 220 Special Topics: Anthropology & Sociology

This course will focus upon a topic in Anthropology and Sociology that is not addressed in the department's regular offerings. The course can be repeated with a different topic.

Prerequisite: Take ANSO-103

ANSO 225 Sex and Sexualities

This course provides students with an overview of influential theories about the social aspects of sex and sexuality, as well as some direct engagement with ethnographic representations of sexual worlds and their politics. It examines the diversity of human sexual identities and activities in their historical, philosophical, legal, and social contexts. This course will consider sex and sexualities in an intersectional way, that is, in and through their intersections with issues of race, class, gender, nationality, and globality.

Prerequisite: ANSO-103 or CGHL-120

ANSO 232 Nature & Society: Intro Pol. Ecology

This course will introduce students to the sub-discipline of political ecology, a field broadly concerned with the relationships between nature and social power. In other words, this course will focus on developing an understanding of how social relations and politico-economic systems produce environmental problems, structure access to natural resources, the resulting struggles over 'nature' and how and in whose interests these may or may not be resolved. Because the field is broad, the course has been structured into themes that we will explore each week.

ANSO 234 Latin America in Global Context

This course will primarily examine contemporary Latin American history from an anthropological perspective. The first part of the course will explore the role of colonialism and imperialism in the making of Latin America. In the second part of the course, the role of U.S. foreign policy will be discussed, particularly the specific policies the U.S. deployed in Latin America to "contain" alternative economic models deemed dangerous to U.S. capitalism. We also will examine the underlying assumptions of Western-centered development models imposed in Latin America and their relation to neo-colonialism and globalization. The final part of the course will explore revolutionary movements as they respond to the encroaching forces of capitalism.

Prerequisite: ANSO-103

ANSO 236 Race and Racism

This course equips students with a comprehensive understanding of "race" as a socio-political construct, and of racism as a structural and institutional process. Focusing primarily on the twentieth and twenty-first century United States, the course explores how race operates as an organizing principle of American life. It examines the historical development of notions of racial difference and the creation of racial inequality through science, philosophy, the law, and public policy; analyzes how contemporary social institutions perpetuate racial inequality; and considers the landscape of modern racial politics.

Prerequisite: ANSO-103 and Sophomore Standing

ANSO 245 Qualitative Research Methods

This course provides students with the methodological tools and concepts that provide the foundation of sound, ethical,

qualitative, ethnographic research. Using a project-based approach, students learn about and gain experience with conceptualizing, designing, implementing, and writing up the results of a qualitative research project.

Prerequisite: ANSO-103 and Sophomore Standing

ANSO 252 Political Ecology of Waste

This course introduces students to the realities and constructions of waste as a complex economic, political, environmental, public health and cultural 'problem' in diverse global settings. Drawing upon a diverse set of literatures in social sciences, humanities, engineering, and economics, the course encourages students to gain an appreciation of inter- and trans-disciplinary knowledge forms, each of which constructs, problematizes, and proposes solutions for the issue of waste.

Prerequisite: Take ANSO-103

ANSO/SEM 255 You Are What You Eat: Food and Identity in a Global Perspective

The goal of this course is to examine the social, symbolic, and political-economic roles of what and how we eat. While eating is essential to our survival, we rarely pay attention to what we eat and why. We will look at the significance of food and eating with particular attention to how people define themselves differently through their foodways. We will also study food's role in maintaining economic and social relations, cultural conceptions of health, and religion. Finally, the class examines the complex economic and political changes in food systems and the persistence of food's role as an expression of identity, social and ethnic markers. This course is a Shared Passages Sophomore Seminar.

Prerequisite: Sophomores Only

ANSO 262 Real and Imagined Cities

This course explores the city as an idea, as material reality and the interconnections between the two. As an interdisciplinary field, urban geography draws from theories and frameworks in urban planning, anthropology, sociology and economics. This course introduces students to that field. Because the field is broad, the course has been structured into themes that we will explore each week.

Prerequisite: Take ANSO-103

ANSO 270 Communities and Schools

Drawing on anthropological theories, this course will explore the role of schooling and other educational practices in the production of knowledge and the reproduction of hierarchies both in the United States and abroad. Through their participation in the service-learning component of the course, students will be able to examine firsthand how reproduction occurs in the local educational system.

Prerequisite: ANSO-103

ANSO 290 Africa in Global Context

An examination of contemporary African societies. Particular emphasis is given to the ways that people and places on the African continent have been and continue to be connected to global dynamics and the implications of these past and present connections for people's lives as they are lived today.

Prerequisite: ANSO-103

ANSO/SEM 292 Development and Dispossession

This course takes a critical approach to the study of development, focusing particular attention on the displacement and dispossession of local populations. Using contemporary case studies, we examine how neoliberal policies and practices play out in various development sectors, including agriculture, infrastructure, and the extractive industry, in both rural and urban spaces in the U.S. and around the world.

ANSO 295 Special Topics

Special Topics offerings focus upon topics not addressed in the department's regular offerings. The course can be repeated with a different topic. Check the course schedule to see when Special Topics courses are being offered.

Prerequisite: ANSO-103

ANSO 310 Social Research for Social Change

Drawing primarily from applied sociology and applied anthropology, the course examines the types of approaches taken in applied research as well as ethical issues that commonly arise in the context of doing applied work. Examples from a variety of areas of applied research will be considered.

Prerequisite: ANSO-245 or Instructor permission

ANSO/MUSC 315 Sound & Culture in the Middle East

An introduction to the popular culture and cultural politics of the modern Middle East, as heard through the medium of sound. Exploring the varied soundscapes and musical cultures of the region, we will examine how sound shapes, reinforces, critiques, and transforms social life, from the local to the international level. Listening to music as both an aesthetic object and a site for the contestation of ideas, we will learn about the ways in which music is used to articulate an array of competing visions: of the nation, colony and post-colony; religion, gender, and sexuality; globalization, hybridity, and modernity.

Prerequisite: MUSC-103, ANSO-103 or Instructor Permission

ANSO 320 Advanced Seminar: Special Topics in Anthropology and Sociology

A seminar for students who wish to explore significant issues in sociology or anthropology at a more advanced level. Topics may vary from year to year.

Prerequisite: Must take one 200-level ANSO course

ANSO 320 Globalization & Consumption Anthropology and Sociology

The course description for this course is: This course explores anthropological engagements with and critical approaches to the concept of globalization and globalizing processes. We will theoretically and empirically analyze the meanings, consequences and experiences of globalization by exploring key themes, including: the emergence and expansion of capitalism; the role of the nation-state; histories, processes and structures of global inequalities; the rise of modernization, post-colonialism, and development; experiences of migration and diaspora; tourism and the commodification of "culture"; patterns of global consumption; anti-globalization and anti-capitalist social movements.

Prerequisite: One 200-level ANSO course

ANSO 320 Action Research: Gov. & Public Services

The class will focus on public policy connected to the provision of public services (water, roads, education, health, etc.), the role of local government, the way that role has simultaneously expanded and become limited through decentralization, and how communities mobilize to demand that the system become more effective. While we will discuss the way these issues are playing out around the world, we will also be working with data from a Ugandan public policy research and advocacy organization to undertake policy- and program-relevant analyses of these issues.

Prerequisite: Take a ANSO-245 and be sophomore standing.

ANSO 322 Prisoners and Detainees

Prisoners and Detainees: Race, Citizenship, and Imprisonment: This course examines the ways laws and imprisonment have become means to discipline bodies imagined as dangerous, disposable, and detrimental to the state, in short, non-citizens. It specifically merges two social processes that define non-citizenship -the prison industrial complex and deportability- as mechanisms that actively prohibit entry into the space of belonging for those who are illegalized and strips citizenship from those who are criminalized. We will analyze illegalization and criminalization as social, political, and cultural processes that function to police, discipline, distinguish, and re/form the "other".

Prerequisite: Take one 200-level ANSO course

ANSO 325 States, Bodies & Epidemics

This course examines epidemics as social events. Students will become familiarized with major anthropological and sociological works on contagion and social responses to epidemic disease. This course explore epidemics through the frames of national security discourse, migration and diaspora studies, and social justice activism and scholarship. This course analyzes the historical and philosophical genealogy of social and state responses to epidemics and the politicized representations of such epidemics. Students engage with key works in theories of the state, theories of the body and embodiment, and social analyses of communicable disease through the framework of critical medical anthropology.

Prerequisite: One 200-level ANSO course

ANSO 335 Money, Technology and Material Culture

This course will examine the relationship among money, material culture and technology. Human culture revolves around "things." We use money to buy things and we use things to tell the world that about our relationship with money. Recent technological advancements, i.e., credit cards, internet banking and mobile banking, threaten to render money (currency) obsolete. Throughout the quarter we will look at the ways that things, money and technology create and maintain relationships, identities and cultures.

Prerequisite: One 200-level ANSO course

ANSO/ENVS 350 Political Histories of Western Environment

This course explores a partial (Western) history of how humans have understood themselves in relation to nature. To do so, this course relies on a landmark text in the field along with a series of primary texts, tracing the continuities and ruptures in thought during different historical periods have engaged with the idea of nature and the place of the human within it. Although, the course relies mostly on a broadly defined Western thought tradition in this course but students are encouraged to undertake research on other traditions and bring those into the classroom. The readings for this course are organized temporally, starting with the oldest.

Prerequisite: One 200-level ANSO course

ANSO 357 Immigrants and Exiles

From its classical reference to displaced communities as a result of wars of conquests or natural disasters to current movements of population across borders as a result of global capitalism, the concept of diaspora has accumulated an archive of academic and imaginative literature. This course, a comparative introduction to the study of diaspora, focuses on the development of diverse diasporic communities and their role on the current global stage. Our specific focus will be on how members of these communities stake their claims both to their home countries and to the countries in which they reside.

Prerequisite: One 200-level ANSO course

ANSO 412 Capitalism and Its Discontents

This course aims to get students to read and explore the contemporary relevance of Marx's writings. In addition to classroom discussions on the texts' relevance to contemporary issues during the first eight weeks of the course, we will spend the final two weeks discussing the idea of "community capitalism in Kalamazoo" set of community development programs such as the Kalamazoo Promise, the Foundation for Excellence, and the establishment of community-based venture funds that are designed to create jobs and grow the local economy.

Prerequisite: Take a 300-level ANSO course.

ANSO 420 Border Epistemologies

Border Epistemologies offers a framework for thinking about thinking the border. Through the analysis of theories and ethnographies of the border, this course responds to the theoretical challenges presented by Border Studies to Anthropology and Sociology. This course engages questions about solidarity work and border gnosis in relation to scholarship. Focused on critical questions of mobility, difference, exclusion, production, reproduction, and resistance, this course offers students the opportunity to consider the relationship between nationalism, capitalism, and social theory; center the praxis of migrants; and interrogate the epistemological and ontological bases of social science practice.

Prerequisite: ANSO-212, ANSO-245, and one 300-level ANSO course.

ANSO 422 Anticolonial & Antiracist Theory

What is the "anti" in Anti-Colonial theory and Antiracism? How have communities across the globe theorized their experience as colonial subjects both in their lands as well as in the heart of empire? This course serves as a platform to collectively review key writings in both of these tomes of literature. Students will look at the basic tenets for each theory as well as ways they have been utilized to examine social structures and institutions.

Prerequisite: Must take a 300-level ANSO course.

ANSO 490 Senior Seminar: Current Dialogues in Anthropology and Sociology

Study of contemporary debates in sociology and anthropology, with particular attention to ways of knowing about and representing the social world.

Prerequisite: Senior ANSO majors only

ANSO 593 Senior Individualized Project

Each program or department sets its own requirements for Senior Individualized Projects done in that department, including the range of acceptable projects, the required background of students doing projects, the format of the SIP, and the expected scope and depth of projects. See the Kalamazoo Curriculum & Senior Individualized Project section of the Academic Catalog for more details.

Prerequisite: Permission of department and SIP supervisor required.

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