Colby

ANTHROPOLOGY

Chair, *Professor Mary Beth Mills*
Professors Catherine Besteman and Mary Beth Mills; Assistant Professors Chandra Bhimull and Winifred Tate; Visiting Assistant Professors Britt Halvorson and William Hope

Anthropology is the scientific and humanistic study of cultural, physical, historical, and linguistic differences and similarities among humans. The discipline also seeks to understand and explain contexts of social inequalities by investigating power dynamics and identity constructions such as nationality, class, race, gender, and ethnicity. The program at Colby offers an introduction to cultural anthropology's field methods, scope, and critical comparative analysis. Students receive training in anthropological theory and methodology and in the discipline's engagement in solving social problems; firsthand experiences and participation in field programs investigating cultural diversity are encouraged. The department offers a major and a minor in anthropology.

Requirements for the Major in Anthropology

Eleven courses, including: Anthropology 112, 313, 333, and one advanced seminar taken in the second semester of the senior year and chosen from courses at the 400 level; one culture area course normally selected from Anthropology 211, 231, 235, 237, 239, 261, 264, 297; one topics course normally selected from Anthropology 213, 236, 256, 258, 297; five elective courses, including at least two at the 300 level or equivalent. In addition to Anthropology 112, a maximum of one other anthropology course taught at the 100 level may be counted toward the major. A maximum of one course selected from the list of electives (see "Other Applicable Courses" below) cross-listed with or offered by other departments may be counted toward the major.

The point scale for retention of the major applies to all courses offered toward the major. No courses for the major may be taken satisfactory/unsatisfactory.

Honors in Anthropology

Seniors majoring in anthropology may apply for the honors program during the first two weeks of the fall semester. In addition to securing a faculty sponsor and department approval, the student must have a 3.25 overall grade point average and a 3.60 grade point average in the major. The program involves independent research conducted in Anthropology 483, 484. Honors normally will be taken for six to eight credits over two semesters, and the final product will be a thesis of 50 to 70 pages of superior quality.

Requirements for the Minor in Anthropology

Six courses, including Anthropology 112; one culture area course normally selected from Anthropology 211, 231, 235, 237, 239, 261, 264, 297; one topical course normally selected from Anthropology 213, 236, 256, 258, 297; and three additional courses in anthropology, two of which must be at the 300 or 400 level. In addition to Anthropology 112, a maximum of one other anthropology course taught at the 100 level may be counted toward the minor.

The point scale for retention of the minor applies to all courses offered toward the minor. No courses for the minor may be taken satisfactory/unsatisfactory.

Attention is called to the major in classical civilization-anthropology (requirements are listed in the "Classics" section of the catalogue). *Note:* Anthropology 112 fulfills both the social sciences area (S) and the diversity (I) requirements. Subsequent courses, requiring 112 as prerequisite, do not carry those designations.

Courses from other departments, of which one course may be elected toward the Anthropology major or minor:

- *American Studies*
  - 275 Gender and Popular Culture
  - 276 African-American Culture in the United States
  - 282 American Popular Culture
- *English*
  - 348 Postcolonial Literatures
- *History*
  - 473 Research Seminar: Historical Roots of Violence in Modern Latin America
- *Philosophy*
  - 213 Philosophical Inquiries into Race
  - 314 Karl Marx and Marxist Philosophical Thought
- *Sociology*
  - 355 African-American Women and Social Change

Course Offerings

AY112fs Cultural Anthropology Introduction to the study of human societies and cultures through the concepts and methods of anthropology. Course material will (a) explore the great diversity of human social and cultural arrangements through the investigation of cultural communities around the world and the distinct ways their members experience and understand their lives; and (b) investigate the larger historical, political, economic, and symbolic frameworks that shape contemporary human societies and cross-cultural interactions worldwide. Assignments emphasize clarity, concision, and coherence of written and oral arguments, as well as control over and understanding of course content. *Four credit hours.* **S, I** FACULTY

AY119j The Anthropology of Utopias Examines classic utopic and dystopic literature, philosophy, anthropology, art, and film from Plato to the present. Utopian literature involves anthropological reflection about the range of possibilities for human community and related anthropological themes of human social and cultural variability, conflict, and cooperation. Critically explores different utopian and dystopian discourses as vehicles for thinking about a world in crisis and its possible futures, as well as the effects these have on contemporary debates about politics and governance, citizenship, new technologies, media, family, and more. *Three credit hours.* **S** HRISKOS

[AY141] The Changing Faces of Religion in New China During the Communist period, religion and spirituality were criticized and suppressed. More open policies were instituted after the death of Mao. Soon there was an explosion of spiritual practices and practitioners, traditional and nontraditional forms of religion throughout China. An exploration of the new spaces of worship and practice that have opened up within China's new market economy, the reasons that various peoples are drawn to them, and the problems and challenges they may pose for the Chinese state. *Prerequisite:* Concurrent enrollment in East Asian Studies 141. *Four credit hours.* **S, I**

AY175f Ordering the Cosmos Ancient Greece provided many foundations of Western cultural and intellectual history. We will ask how Greeks understood their world as we explore the "cosmos" (which is Greek for "order" or "arrangement") of their making. Grounding an inquiry in literary texts and taking into account domains from the theological to the social and ethnographic, we ask how various systems of thought worked to produce order in their world. Topics include cosmology, religion and magic, sexuality, culinary practices, and the Greeks' interest in cultural difference. Part of the three-course Integrated Studies 175 cluster, "Ancient Greece: Nature and Culture in Classical Athens." *Prerequisite:* Concurrent enrollment in Philosophy 175 and Science, Technology, and Society 175. (elect IS175.) *Four credit hours.* **L** BARRETT

AY176j Greece: Ancient Sites and Their Visitors The sites (and sights) of ancient Greece have held enormous significance for visitors, from ancient times through the modern era. Explores the range of meanings that Greek antiquity has held for different groups historically and up to the present. Through an intensive, month-long study, students will consider a variety of sites in Athens and nearby centers such as Delphi, Olympia, Epidauros, and Mycenae. Includes travel to Greece. Examines a variety of questions related to the experience and representation of classical Greek sites. Part of the Integrated Studies Program. *Prerequisite:* Integrated Studies 175 or permission of the instructor. *Three credit hours.* **H** BARRETT, MILLS

[AY211] Indigenous Peoples and Cultures of North America An ethnographic survey of the sociocultural systems developed by indigenous Americans north of Mexico. Examines relationships among ecological factors, subsistence practices, social organizations, and belief systems, along with contemporary issues of change, contact, and cultural survival. *Prerequisite:* Anthropology 112. *Four credit hours.* **U**

AY212j Human Rights and Social Struggles in Global Perspective Listed as Global Studies 211. *Three credit hours.* FRIEDERIC

[AY217] Race, Class, Ethnicity Explores race, class, and ethnicity through comparative study of the diverse experiences, histories, and life conditions of indigenous peoples, immigrant groups, diasporas, religious minorities, and oppressed classes in various local and global contexts. Analysis of social, cultural, economic, and political forces that developed historically and function at present to maintain racialized, ethnic, and class inequalities. Also examines modes used for seeking political empowerment, economic justice, cultural survival, integrity of identity, and recognition of human rights. *Prerequisite:* Anthropology 112. *Four credit hours.* **S, I**

AY231s Caribbean Cultures Considers Caribbean people, places, products, and the webs of domination and resistance that formed and transformed the region and its diasporas. Ethnographies, films, food, music, memoir, and other texts tackle topics like empire building and dismantling; colonialism and postcolonialism; decolonization and displacement; development and underdevelopment; commodification and consumption; labor, revolution, and liberation. Cross-cultural and cross-temporal navigations develop an anthro-historical sensibility about the Caribbean's pivotal place in the world. Also listed as African-American Studies 231. *Prerequisite:* Anthropology 112 or American Studies 276. *Four credit hours.* **I** HOPE

[AY235] Ethnographies of Latin America: Violence and Democracy in the Andes An introduction to anthropological research on Latin America. Particular focus on the Andes and issues shaping Latin American participation in political life, including political, criminal, or structural violence; war; indigenous and other social movements; state strengthening and institutional evolution; transitions to democracy from military dictatorships; and social memory. Goals include learning to apply an

anthropological lens to discussions of violence and democracy and gaining a basic knowledge of political issues facing the contemporary Andean region. Students will gain critical reading and discussion facilitation skills while refining their writing skills through the production of review essays. *Prerequisite:* Anthropology 112. *Four credit hours.*

[AY236] Illegal Drugs, Law, and the State Drawing on legal and political anthropology, we will examine the legal regimes and cultures of control that target the commerce and consumption of illegal drugs. We will consider the evolution of these policies, their role in the construction of the state, and their impact in a variety of historical moments and social worlds. Case studies will include Prohibition, cocaine, medical and recreational use of marijuana, and alternative forms of political power facilitated by the drug trade, with a special focus on Latin America. Students will gain critical reading and presentation skills and will refine their writing and research skills through the production of an original case-study research project. *Prerequisite:* Anthropology 112. *Four credit hours.*

AY237f Ethnographies of Africa An introduction to the continent of Africa, its peoples, and its many social worlds, beginning with a survey of the place (geography) and the ways in which Africa's inhabitants have been defined (classifications of language, race, and culture). Social and cultural diversity within the continent are examined through ethnographic case studies. Issues include experiences of economic change, political conflict, the creation of new identities and cultural forms in contemporary African societies, and perceptions of Africa in Western thought and history. *Prerequisite:* Anthropology 112. *Four credit hours.* **I** BESTEMAN

AY238s Religions of Africa and the African Diaspora Examines African religions in Africa and their movement to and history in the New World. Ethnographic and historical sources investigate the legacy of slavery and its effects on African diaspora religions. Cases may include Cuban Santeria, Haitian Vodou, Candomble in Brazil, and Rastafarianism in Jamaica. Debates about syncretism, creolization, and related diasporic processes will be addressed. Emphasis on continuity, change, and the creative role of religious practice in the articulation of African identities in the New World. Students engage these topics through group and individual work, including both oral and written assignments. *Prerequisite:* American Studies 276 or Anthropology 112. *Four credit hours.* **I** HRISKOS

[AY239] Southeast Asian Cultures and Societies Southeast Asia is a region of great diversity and has long been a focus of anthropological interest; in recent years dramatic political and economic changes have often made the region a focus of international as well as scholarly attention. An examination of the diverse social and cultural contexts that make up the region, exploring both historical roots and contemporary experiences of Southeast Asian peoples. The impact of European colonial regimes on indigenous societies, religious and ethnic diversity, peasant social organization and political resistance, and the effects of economic change and industrialization. *Prerequisite:* Anthropology 112. *Four credit hours.* **I**

[AY242] Anthropology of Latin America: City Life An introduction to anthropological research on Latin America, with a particular focus on contemporary urban life. Cities attract migrants seeking new forms of communal life, educational, and economic opportunities and escaping war. We will examine the transformation of gender roles, political participation, and cultural production. Goals include learning to apply an anthropological lens to discussions of and gaining a basic knowledge of issues facing contemporary Latin America. Students will gain critical reading and discussion-facilitation skills and will refine writing skills through the production of review essays. *Prerequisite:* Anthropology 112. *Four credit hours.*

AY256f Land, Food, Culture, and Power An examination of cultural and political aspects of land and other resource use in contexts of culture contact and/or social change, drawing from a variety of ethnographic examples in different parts of the world. A focus on varied subsistence and resource management systems explores how local forms of livelihood have been incorporated into and challenged by national and global economic relations and structures through processes of colonization and the growth of transnational capitalism. *Prerequisite:* Anthropology 112. *Four credit hours.* **U** MILLS

[AY257] From Communism to Consumerism Listed as East Asian Studies 257. *Four credit hours.* **S**

[AY258] Anthropology, History, Memory Anthropologists have depicted cultural systems as timeless, paying limited attention to how historical experiences produce, and how they are shaped by, everyday beliefs and actions. Examines the significance of history for anthropological understanding and vice versa. Investigates how different cultures construct the past and how the past shapes everyday lives, our own and others. Explores sites such as myths, monuments, bodies, and archives. Questions what is the past? How is it present? How do societies remember? How do they forget? Topics include technology, time, travel, commemoration, war. Formerly offered as Anthropology 298B. *Prerequisite:* Anthropology 112 or a 100-level history course. *Four credit hours.*

[AY261] Japanese Language and Culture Listed as East Asian Studies 261. *Four credit hours.* **S, I**

AY264s China in Transition: An Anthropological Account An exploration of cultural, historical, and social elements that were China in the past, and their transformation in the present, with a focus on the impact of China's socialist revolution upon both rural and urban family and social life and the new directions China has taken since the economic reforms of the 1980s. *Four credit hours.* **S, I** HRISKOS

AY297Af Music and Culture in the Americas Presents ways of thinking about music making and dance as creative social activities and as powerfully affective expressive cultural practices that people invest with social value and meaning. We will study

a series of conceptual frameworks for analyzing the special potentials of music in social life as well as some basic music terminology for thinking about, listening to, and discussing musical style, setting our analyses and interpretations within broader socio-historical processes. Selected case studies consider musical traditions from Cuba, Mexico, Peru, Brazil, Argentina, and North America (Waterville included), among other regional examples. Designed for non-music majors (though music majors are welcome). *Four credit hours.* HOPE

AY297Bf Language in Culture and Society Language is a social and cultural material through which we apprehend and interpret social life, enact subjectivities, and struggle to forge relationships with others. To make sense of these complexities, this course draws upon ethnographic studies that document social variation in linguistic practice cross-culturally. Emphasis will be placed on exploring the basic, yet multifaceted, notion of language as culture. Topics include the relationship of language to human populations (e.g., "speech communities"); language socialization; linguistic variation and subjectivities of race, class, and gender; nationalism and standardization; language and political economy; and religious language. *Prerequisite:* Anthropology 112. *Four credit hours.* HALVORSON

AY297Cf Anthropological Perspective on Science and Religion Use of cross-cultural research—from contemporary ethnographies of in vitro fertilization in Israel and Ecuador to religious healing in Madagascar to creation science, fetal personhood, and organ donation in the United States—to posit new perspectives of the science-religion relationship. Paradoxes of religious and scientific forms of knowledge, inquiry, personhood, and agency are examined. Rather than adopt morally polarized approaches to religion-science relationships, we will consider them cultural bodies of practice known by actors in distinctive ways, working toward understanding the European Enlightenment opposition between science and religion as only one cultural view, while attending to its continued relevance in contemporary societies. *Prerequisite:* Anthropology 112. *Four credit hours.* HALVORSON

AY297Jj Environmental Issues in Latin America Listed as Global Studies 297J. *Three credit hours.* BURKE

AY298As All in the Family? Rethinking Kinship and Social Relations Kinship, marriage, and reproduction are culturally shaped practices through which human life takes shape. Combines foundational studies of kinship in anthropology with more recent approaches grounded in feminist scholarship. Such research examines social variability in the most seemingly "natural" life processes as conception, birth, and death. Topics include reproductive technologies, inheritance, ancestry, marriage, house-based societies, gendered labor, and memory. Drawing on cross-cultural ethnographic research, we will work toward a deeper understanding of how individual persons differentially recognize, maintain, and sever significant ties with others. *Prerequisite:* Anthropology 112. *Four credit hours.* HALVORSON

AY298Bs Health as a Human Right: Women's Global Health Listed as Global Studies 298. *Four credit hours.* FRIEDERIC

AY313fs Researching Cultural Diversity Focus on ethnography as both the central research strategy of anthropologists and the written text produced by such research. Examines anthropological methods of data collection and ethnographic writing as these encompass not only the discipline's historical focus on localized communities but also contemporary understandings of connections to global processes, the analysis of complex inequalities, and a reflexive and engaged relationship with the human world. Explores practical strategies for conducting ethnographic research, including interviewing, observation, and other modes of qualitative data collection, the ethical issues presented by such research, and the application of analytical and theoretical models. *Prerequisite:* Anthropology 112 and a 200-level anthropology course and sophomore standing. *Four credit hours.* HALVORSON, HOPE

AY333fs Contemporary Theory An analysis of the contemporary state of cultural anthropology through the investigation of contemporary theoretical approaches of central importance to the discipline. Examination of key theoretical concepts and their relevance for designing research questions, generating ethnographic perspectives, and building anthropological knowledge. Special attention to political economy, symbolic anthropology, poststructuralism, reflexive anthropology, postmodernism, and feminist and postcolonial anthropology. Assignments include both written and oral modes of analysis; strong emphasis on discussion and collaborative debate. *Prerequisite:* Anthropology 112 and a 200-level anthropology course and junior or higher standing. *Four credit hours.* BESTEMAN, BHIMULL

[AY334] Anthropology of Creativity Creativity flows continually through all human cultures and languages with spontaneity, novelty, and unfolding meaning. A survey of various anthropological perspectives on the power of individuality, interpretation, resistance, and imagination in the aesthetic process. Considered are music, poetics, literature, and graphic arts in various historical and contemporary cultural contexts. *Four credit hours.* **A**

[AY339] Asian Pacific Modernities The changing dynamics of contemporary social life in the Asian Pacific with particular emphasis on East and Southeast Asia. Ethnographic case studies of a range of cultural and social phenomena, including commodity consumption, mass media, expanding middle-class identities, religious movements, and popular art forms, examining both lived experiences in the region and the theoretical analysis of processes associated with modernity and globalization. *Prerequisite:* Sophomore or higher standing and Anthropology 112. *Four credit hours.* **S, I**

AY341f Culture, Mobility, Identity: Encounters in the African Diaspora Use of text, film, food, and music to examine how African and African-descended people made and remade the modern world. Surveys how past and present cultural practices dialogically shaped the formation, transformation, and flows of the diaspora. Attention to the dynamics of circulation, contact,

exchange, and estrangement facilitates travels through the Afro-Atlantic world. Inquiry into archives and other sites of memory enables consideration of the scale, scope, and impact of black action and imagination. *Prerequisite:* American Studies 276 or Anthropology 112. *Four credit hours.* **S, I** BHIMULL

[AY348] Postcolonial Literatures Listed as English 348. *Four credit hours.* **L, I**

[AY352] Internationalism: From Socialism to the World Social Forum Listed as Global Studies 352. *Four credit hours.* **S**

[AY353] Globalization and Human Rights in China Listed as East Asian Studies 353. *Four credit hours.* **S**

[AY359] Slavery and Slave Communities in the United States Listed as African-American Studies 359. *Four credit hours.* **S, U**

[AY361] Militaries, Militarization, and War Examines the ways in which military institutions shape and are shaped by cultural, economic, and political forces in contemporary societies, especially in the United States. Topics include the role of military service in creating and reinforcing gender norms, citizenship, and national identities; the ways in which war and militarized violence are commemorated; and ongoing controversy over counterinsurgency, internal defense, and modern forms of warfare. Students will develop their ethnographic research skills through interviews and observation, written and oral presentations. Formerly offered as Anthropology 398B. *Prerequisite:* Anthropology 112. *Four credit hours.* **S**

AY373f The Anthropology of Gender and Sexuality Gender and sexuality represent fundamental categories of human social and cultural experience; in every human society, understandings about gender and sexuality constitute powerful aspects of individual identity that shape and are shaped by key aspects of social relations and cultural belief. Yet specific beliefs and social structures vary tremendously across cultures. An investigation of the varied ethnography of gender and sexuality as well as important theoretical concerns: how meanings are attached to the human body, production and reproduction of gender hierarchies, and processes by which gender and sexual meanings (and associated social forms) may be transformed or contested in societies. *Prerequisite:* Anthropology 112 and one other anthropology course. *Four credit hours.* **U** MILLS

AY397f Anthropology of the Senses Explores a basic premise: sensory perception is as much a cultural act as a physical or biological function. As we consider the inter-relations of the senses with historically dynamic human bodily experience, we ask what it means to study the senses. What are the possible relationships among physiological capacities; social, political, and economic organizations; and their corresponding relations of power? How are gender, race, sexuality, and social class embodied through everyday sociality and sensory perceptions? How are food, drink, art, music, dance, and other corporeal practices mediated through personal and collective ideologies and practices around the affective and the sensual? *Four credit hours.* HOPE

AY398s Anthropology of Contemporary Issues Delves into anthropological research on a selection of topics of contemporary relevance, such as the war on terror and counterinsurgency, the Human Genome Project, welfare debates, immigration reform, U.S. military involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan, the debt crisis, health inequities, conservation, natural disasters, and imprisonment. Students will be charged with identifying topics of their choice for further investigation. Our goal is to understand the selected issues from an anthropological perspective and to grasp the particular power, insight, and relevance of anthropological perspectives. *Prerequisite:* Anthropology 112. *Four credit hours.* BESTEMAN

[AY437] Media, Culture, and the Political Imagination Listed as Global Studies 437. *Four credit hours.*

[AY451] Ethnicity, Nationalism, and the State in Europe Listed as Global Studies 451. *Four credit hours.*

AY462s Global Mobilities: Movements, Modernities, Citizenships In today's world, dramatic flows of people, goods, and ideas enable claims to new (and newly imaginable) identities while at the same time challenging familiar norms and social structures. Ethnographic case studies from Asia, the United States, and elsewhere explore the diverse ways in which contemporary modernities, citizenships, and mobilities constitute dynamic fields of social meaning as well as critical arenas of cultural, political, and social struggle. Students will design and carry out a significant independent research project exploring course themes resulting in a substantive analytical paper and an oral presentation. *Prerequisite:* Anthropology 112, one 300-level or two 200-level anthropology courses, and junior or higher standing. *Four credit hours.* MILLS

AY474s Anthropology as Public Engagement An exploration of innovative ways in which anthropology is used for proactive, public engagement in global, national, institutional, and local information networks, program planning, policy implementation, and transformative social action. Examined are past, present, and envisioned future engagements in various social fields spanning several disciplines, including economic development, environmental protection, labor relations, education, tourism, health care, human rights, gender equity, indigenous rights, state polity and law, nongovernmental organizations, popular media, and social movements. *Prerequisite:* Junior or senior standing as an anthropology major. *Four credit hours.* BESTEMAN

AY483f, 484s Honors in Anthropology *Prerequisite:* Senior standing, admission to the honors program, and permission

of the supervising faculty member. *Three or four credit hours.* FACULTY

AY491f, 492s Independent Study Individual topics in areas where the student has demonstrated the interest and competence necessary for independent work. *Prerequisite:* Permission of the instructor. *Two to four credit hours.* FACULTY

AY498s Violence, Development, and Social Justice Listed as Global Studies 498. *Four credit hours.* FRIEDERIC