

ANTHROPOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY (Div II)

Chair: Professor James Nolan

- Zaid Adhami, Assistant Professor of Religion and Faculty Affiliate in Anthropology & Sociology; affiliated with: Religion, Anthropology & Sociology; on leave 2024-2025
- David B. Edwards, James N. Lambert '39 Professor of Anthropology
- Antonia E. Foias, Preston S. Parish '41 Third Century Professor of Anthropology
- Venus M. Green, Gaius Charles Bolin Fellow in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology
- Kim Gutschow, Senior Lecturer in Religion and Anthropology/Sociology; affiliated with: Religion, Anthropology & Sociology; on leave 2024-2025
- Nicolas C. Howe, Professor of Environmental Studies and Faculty Affiliate in Anthropology and Sociology; affiliated with: Environmental Studies, Anthropology & Sociology
- Peter Just, Professor of Anthropology
- Kamal A. Kariem, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in Anthropology
- Joel Lee, Associate Professor of Anthropology
- James A. Manigault-Bryant, Professor of Africana Studies; affiliated with: Africana Studies, Anthropology & Sociology, Religion; on leave 2024-2025
- Gregory C. Mitchell, Chair and Dennis Meenan '54 Third Century Professor of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies and Faculty Affiliate in Anthropology/Sociology; affiliated with: Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies, Anthropology & Sociology; on leave Fall 2024
- James L. Nolan Jr., Washington Gladden 1859 Professor of Sociology
- Marketa Rulikova, Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology
- Olga Shevchenko, Paul H. Hunn '55 Professor in Social Studies; on leave Fall 2024
- Christina E. Simko, Chair and Associate Professor of Sociology; affiliated with: Anthropology & Sociology, American Studies
- Ben Snyder, Associate Professor of Sociology
- Phi H. Su, Assistant Professor of Sociology; affiliated with: Anthropology & Sociology, Science & Technology Studies

The disciplines of anthropology and sociology aim to teach students how to enter into the social/cultural worlds of others, how to grasp those worlds from the viewpoints of their inhabitants, and how to articulate those denizens' habits of mind, worldviews, and values to broader audiences.

Anthropology critically analyzes social forms and practices in all their local and global diversity, illuminating the cultural grounding of the ideologies, narratives, and structures in which we are all implicated. **Archaeology** extends this analysis to social formations of the historical and prehistorical past. **Sociology** studies the nature and trajectories of modernity, examining the intricacies of industrial and post-industrial societies and the dilemmas that confront individuals in modern social systems. These disciplines introduce students to classical and contemporary theories that illuminate the contours and contradictions of social experience. The Anthropology & Sociology program promotes a critical engagement with these theories while at the same time bringing evidence and case studies into conversation with theory.

The Department emphasizes qualitative fieldwork in its many forms. We teach students how to formulate, frame, and address intellectual problems. We also teach students the empirical methods widely used in anthropology, sociology, and other related disciplines, including, but not limited to ethnography, participant observation, interviewing, discourse and visual analysis, archival research, oral history, and archaeological methods.

Because the program emphasizes critical thinking skills to assess social claims made by others, and the application of anthropological and sociological skills to present day concerns, undergraduate training in Anthropology or Sociology has proven invaluable to majors pursuing a range of careers, including public policy, diplomacy, international development, marketing, social media development, K-12 education, journalism, medicine, and law.

MAJORS

The department offers separate majors in both Anthropology and Sociology, with a broad and diverse array of courses in both disciplines. The department is committed, however, to the unity of the social sciences. To this end, Anthropology and Sociology offer joint core courses in methodology

and theory, as well as several elective courses in common. All joint courses are designated "ANSO."

Requirements

For the degree in Anthropology or Sociology, students must complete a minimum of nine courses as outlined below:

Core Courses

Majors in both disciplines must take a sequence of four core courses. Three of these are joint (ANSO) courses. The sequences are:

Anthropology

ANTH 101 How to Be Human

Sociology

SOC 101 Invitation to Sociology

Joint Courses

ANSO 205 Ways of Knowing

ANSO 305 Social Theory

ANSO 402 Senior Seminar

Elective Courses

Majors in Anthropology or Sociology must take five elective courses from the course listings of their respective disciplines or from the joint ANSO listings. Two of the courses chosen are normally at the 300 level or above. In close consultation with their departmental advisors, students may take some selected courses from other disciplines to fulfill major requirements in either Anthropology or Sociology.

Majors in each wing of the department are allowed to count up to two courses in the other wing towards fulfillment of their major requirements.

STATISTICS AND DATA ANALYSIS

In addition to the nine total courses required for the major, it is recommended that Anthropology and Sociology majors take Statistics 101 or a comparable course in statistics and data analysis.

AREA STUDIES CONCENTRATION

Students who wish to combine a major in Anthropology or Sociology with an Area Studies concentration are encouraged to do so. Courses taken to satisfy an Area Studies requirement may be counted toward the major with prior approval of a student's departmental advisor. The only exception to this rule is the Area Studies senior seminar, which cannot ordinarily be counted toward the Anthropology or Sociology degree.

LANGUAGE STUDY, STUDY ABROAD, AND WINTER STUDY

Departmental advisors will help interested students integrate a major with study abroad, foreign language study, or field research during the winter study period. The department encourages Williams students to take advantage of established foreign study programs in Egypt, Japan, India, Hong Kong, and other countries. Because some foreign study programs do not offer courses that can be counted toward the Anthropology or Sociology degrees, however, sophomores planning to study abroad in junior year must consult with the departmental advisor before declaring a major.

FAQ

Students MUST contact departments/programs BEFORE assuming study away credit will be granted toward the major or concentration.

Can your department or program typically pre-approve courses for major/concentration credit?

Yes. In some cases, provisional approval can be granted (students should be sure to contact the department for details). We welcome discussions of curricular plans for those major who travel abroad in their junior year. However, typically, students don't have access to all the salient information until AFTER they have taken the course.

What criteria will typically be used/required to determine whether a student may receive major/concentration credit for a course taken while on study away?

Course title and description, and complete syllabus including readings/assignments. The syllabus and readings/assignment information is required in cases when the course title and description are not sufficient to ascertain whether a course should count towards the major. We also request information on course hours.

Does your department/program place restrictions on the number of major/concentration credits that a student might earn through study away?

Yes. We credit two, and in special cases three courses.

Does your department/program place restrictions on the types of courses that can be awarded credit towards your major?

Yes. The expectation is for an intellectually rigorous semester-long course with a paper/exam component.

Are there specific major requirements that cannot be fulfilled while on study away?

Yes. ANSO 205, ANSO 305 and ANSO 402 are almost always taken in the department.

Are there specific major requirements in your department/program that students should be particularly aware of when weighing study away options? (Some examples might include a required course that is always taught in one semester, laboratory requirements.)

Yes. ANSO 305 is offered in the fall and ANSO 205 and ANSO 402 only in the spring. We advise our majors to be aware if they plan to spend all or part of their junior year abroad.

Give examples in which students thought or assumed that courses taken away would count toward the major or concentration and then learned they wouldn't:

In one case, a student had assumed that he could take the equivalent of ANSO 205 abroad, and was disappointed to discover that was not the case. He ended up taking ANSO 205 his senior year.

THE DEGREE WITH HONORS IN ANTHROPOLOGY OR SOCIOLOGY

Honors and highest honors are normally awarded for the completion of a year-long research project that has resulted in an original thesis of high quality. Students wishing to write an honors thesis should engage a member of the department faculty as a Thesis Advisor as soon as possible and must submit a proposal for the thesis for department approval no later than the end of spring reading period of the junior year. If the proposal is approved, they will be permitted to register for Anthropology and Sociology 493-W31-494, during which they will write and defend a thesis. If their overall work in the major continues to be of high quality and the thesis is deemed of a similar quality, they may be awarded honors or highest honors in Anthropology or Sociology.

ANSO 205 (S) Ways of Knowing

An applied exploration of how one makes sense of the social world through fieldwork. Some of the key questions of the course are: What are the philosophical and epistemological underpinnings of social inquiry? How does one frame intellectual problems and go about collecting, sifting, and assessing field materials? How do qualitative and quantitative approaches to social inquiry differ? How are they similar? What is the importance of history to sociological and anthropological research? How do social researchers use archival and other documentary materials to interpret society? What is the relationship between empirical data and the generation of social theory? What are the ethical dilemmas of fieldwork and of other kinds of social research? How do researchers' personal biographies and values shape their work? We will approach these problems both abstractly and concretely, through readings in epistemology as well as a series of case studies, drawing upon the field experiences of departmental faculty and guest speakers. The course will also feature hands-on training in field methods, in which students design and undertake their own pilot field projects.

Requirements/Evaluation: full participation in the seminar, several short written assignments, and a final research essay/proposal

Prerequisites: ANTH 101 or SOC 101 or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: Anthropology and Sociology majors

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: no pass/fail option, yes fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: EXPE Experiential Education Courses

Spring 2025

SEM Section: 01 TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm Ben Snyder

ANSO 305 (F) Social Theory

An introduction to social theory in anthropology and sociology, with strong emphasis on enduring themes that cut across disciplinary divides. How does social theory help us critically analyze the world in which we find ourselves? How do social thinkers construe "society" and "culture," and have these constructions withstood challenges over time? What role does human agency play in the unfolding of social life, and where does that sense of agency come from in the first place? What are the forces that animate social interaction on the level of individuals, social groups and complex units like nation-states? What are the possibilities and limits of systematic approaches to the study of human social experience? The course emphasizes differences between interpretive frameworks as well as the common elements that contribute to a deeper understanding of the social world.

Requirements/Evaluation: full participation in the seminar, regular reading response memos, a class presentation and three papers

Prerequisites: ANTH 101 or SOC 101, ANSO 205, or permission of the instructor

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: Anthropology and Sociology majors

Expected Class Size: 15

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Unit Notes: AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: AMST Critical and Cultural Theory Electives

Fall 2024

SEM Section: 01 TR 9:55 am - 11:10 am Joel Lee

ANSO 402 (S) Senior Seminar

This capstone seminar combines substantive discussion and individual research. Half of the course will be dedicated to discussion of topics of enduring significance to both anthropology and sociology. Through readings and class discussions of selected publications, we will address current debates, dilemmas, and developments in anthropology and sociology. The other half of the course will be devoted to original individual student projects involving qualitative social science methods (such as participant-observation, archival study, discourse analysis, material culture analysis or ethnographic interviews, among other possibilities). At the end of the course, students will present their projects to the seminar.

Requirements/Evaluation: several short response papers, participation, individual research project (resulting in 15 page paper), and class presentation

Prerequisites: only senior majors in Anthropology and Sociology, or permission of instructor

Enrollment Limit: 19

Enrollment Preferences: Anthropology and Sociology majors

Expected Class Size: 19

Grading: no pass/fail option, no fifth course option

Distributions: (D2)

Attributes: EXPE Experiential Education Courses

Spring 2025

SEM Section: 01 W 1:10 pm - 3:50 pm Phi H. Su

Winter Study -----

ANSO 10 (W) Urban Inequality, Policing, and Struggles for Racial Justice

This class explores the connections between policing and struggles for more just and equal cities. Drawing on interdisciplinary approaches from sociology, Black studies, geography, history, and criminology, we will explore how the origins and development of different policing practices are intertwined with the racialization of space as well as how movements for racial, economic, and spatial justice make these connections. We will examine the evolution of these dynamics in the US context, focusing on the origins of policing, gendered and racialized post-Emancipation policing practices in US cities, the Black freedom struggle in the 1960s, struggles for just cities in the 21st century, and the relationship between gentrification and policing. While focusing on US cities, we will also draw on connections with policing and urban inequality in other nations, such as Brazil and South Africa. Students will gain hands-on experience in conducting interdisciplinary and critical research on urban inequality and policing as we explore these topics through collaborative and creative projects that draw on a range of data sources and modes of research communication that span across disciplines. This seminar-style class is focused on group-led discussions of readings and films, which will all be provided on GLOW. The main course requirements are active engagement in course discussions and a creative group project that draws on multiple forms of data (e.g., archival, census records, media sources, and self-exploratory reflections) to explore a contemporary issue or debate related to urban inequality, urban

redevelopment, and policing.

Requirements/Evaluation: Presentation(s); Creative project(s); Other: Engagement with course discussions

Prerequisites: None

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: Students who have taken a previous course in Anthropology and Sociology or Africana Studies; after that, random selection

Expected Class Size: NA

Grading: pass/fail only

Unit Notes: Peter Kent-Stoll is a Ph.D. candidate in sociology at the University of Massachusetts. He has expertise in the sociology of race, urban sociology, political sociology, criminology, and decolonial and postcolonial theory.

Attributes: EXPE Experiential Education Courses STUX Winter Study Student Exploration

Winter 2025

SEM Section: 01 TR 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Peter Kent-Stoll

ANSO 15 (W) "It's a love story, baby, just say yes": Media, messages, and healthy relationships

From the time we're small children, we're inundated with media about romantic relationships: who to have them with, how they unfold, what they should look like. But what makes a relationship "healthy"? Are romantic relationships the pinnacle of what kinds of relationships we can have? How do we end relationships we don't want to be in anymore? Using a range of popular media--reality TV like the Bachelor/ette franchise and Love Is Blind; animated movies; rom-coms; short stories--as a lens to examine healthy relationships (romantic and friend): what stories are we told and do we create about how relationships form and deepen? What are the "right" and "wrong" reasons to be seeking and staying in relationships? How did first reality TV and now social media shape our notions of public and private in relationships? How do we have healthy relationships across identity differences? In addition to exploring the messages we receive, we'll have the opportunity to construct our own answers to these and other questions.

Requirements/Evaluation: Paper(s) or report(s); Presentation(s); Creative project(s); Other: I typically offer a range of creative options, which has included podcast episodes, lit reviews, a course catalog, etc.

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 25

Enrollment Preferences: An interest form

Expected Class Size: NA

Grading: pass/fail only

Unit Notes: Meg Bossong '05 is the Executive Director of MASOC, the MA professional association of clinicians who work with children, youth, and young adults with problem sexual behaviors. She was previously the director of the PEACE Office at Williams.

Materials/Lab Fee: \$105

Attributes: STUX Winter Study Student Exploration WELL Winter Study Wellness

Winter 2025

SEM Section: 01 WF 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Meg Bossong

ANSO 17 (W) Journalism Today

Even as the field is constantly changing and reshaping itself, at the heart of journalism is the desire to thoughtfully report and write stories about the world around us. This course is a bottom-up examination of what that means, from the practical skills of how to hone a story idea and conduct an interview, to the process of crafting a finished work. Throughout the class, we'll do a series of small exercises to work on specific skills, building up to a feature-length work about a subject that matters to you by the end of the month. We'll read classic work from the past, as well as some exemplary pieces from today, and question and consider the ethical, legal, and professional questions that are inherent to nonfiction work. We'll also discuss the real-world applications of these ideas with a busy schedule of guest speakers (in-person and virtual), who will talk about their work and careers in the news business. Past guests, many of them Williams alumni, have included journalists from the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, NPR, ABC News, Politico, Bloomberg, and ProPublica. This course would be quite useful for students with experience in journalism

and are considering it as a career, but also for anyone who wants to understand more about how the media works, or would simply like to experiment with and try out new ways of telling stories that make a difference.

Requirements/Evaluation: Paper(s) or report(s); Presentation(s)

Prerequisites: n/a

Enrollment Limit: 15

Enrollment Preferences: If overenrolled, a statement of interest in journalism would be appreciated.

Expected Class Size: NA

Grading: pass/fail only

Unit Notes: I am an independent journalist who was a reporter and editor at the Berkshire Eagle, and earlier had covered national energy policy in Washington, wrote about sports in Moscow, and worked on the international desk at Newsweek in New York.

Materials/Lab Fee: \$120

Attributes: EXPE Experiential Education Courses STUX Winter Study Student Exploration

Winter 2025

SEM Section: 01 TR 10:00 am - 1:00 pm Christopher Marcisz

ANSO 18 (W) Writing Your Self in Research: An Introduction to Performance Autoethnography

How do you bring your self into your research? You come to the academy with lived experiences and embodied knowledges, but academic research often requires you to leave yourself out of your writing. Sometimes it feels like you have to write with a disembodied academic voice in order to produce research, even when it's research about people like you, about your own communities, or about yourself. So, are you even allowed to bring your self to research? And if so, how? The good news is that qualitative research methodologies offer avenues for embodied ways of knowing to be valued in academic research. In this class we explore performance autoethnography: A cluster of approaches at the intersection of performance studies, ethnography, performative writing, and decolonizing methodologies. We will learn how to entwine our lived experiences with reflexive analyses of the societal structures and power dynamics within/against which we live, love, and labor. We will learn modes of storytelling that weave personal voice with creative ways of quoting/citing academic scholarship, as well as performative writing techniques that transform the printed page into a stage. We will read examples of published scholarship, and we will practice writing exercises drawing from our own research interests. Through sharing among a supportive community of fellow writing selves in class, we will develop ways of listening and learning from each other's stories in/as research. We will also engage in performing our texts together, drawing from theatre-based practices to rehearse and discover and revise our material. At the end of the course, we will collect our final performance texts into an anthology of the course. This Winter Study course is designed to complement performance-based pathways and methodologies in a range of disciplines, including but not limited to: Africana Studies, Anthropology & Sociology, American Studies, English, Music, and Theatre & Dance.

Requirements/Evaluation: Paper(s) or report(s); Presentation(s); Performance(s); Creative project(s)

Prerequisites: none

Enrollment Limit: 12

Enrollment Preferences: If overenrolled, additional students can join with instructor permission.

Expected Class Size: NA

Grading: pass/fail only

Unit Notes: Hari Stephen Kumar is an independent scholar and instructor of performance studies. He has taught courses in performance and critical theory at UMass Amherst and at Amherst College. He teaches Winter Study courses at Williams in storytelling.

Attributes: EXPE Experiential Education Courses STUX Winter Study Student Exploration

Winter 2025

SEM Section: 01 TR 10:00 am - 1:00 pm Hari Stephen Kumar