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
- Bhumika Chauhan, Visiting Lecturer in Sociology
- David B. Edwards, James N. Lambert ’39 Professor of Anthropology
- Antonia E. Foias, Preston S. Parish ’41 Third Century Professor of Anthropology; on leave Spring 2024
- Kim Gutschow, Senior Lecturer in Religion and Anthropology/Sociology; affiliated with: Religion, Anthropology & Sociology
- Nicolas C. Howe, Professor of Environmental Studies and Faculty Affiliate in Anthropology and Sociology; affiliated with: Center for Environmental Studies, Anthropology & Sociology; on leave Spring 2024
- Peter Just, Professor of Anthropology
- Kamal A. Kariem, Gaius Charles Bolin Fellow in the Department of German and Russian and Faculty Affiliate in Anthropology and Sociology; affiliated with: German and Russian, Anthropology & Sociology
- Joel Lee, Associate Professor of Anthropology; on leave 2023-2024
- James A. Manigault-Bryant, Chair and Professor of Africana Studies and Faculty Affiliate in Anthropology and Sociology and Religion; affiliated with: Africana Studies, Religion, Anthropology & Sociology
- Gregory C. Mitchell, Professor of Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies and Faculty Affiliate in Anthropology/Sociology; affiliated with: Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies, Anthropology & Sociology; on leave 2023-2024
- James L. Nolan, 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 2023
- 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 2024
SEM Section: 01    W 1:10 pm - 3:50 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. What is modern about modern social theory? 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 major 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 2023

SEM Section: 01  TF 1:10 pm - 2:25 pm  Christina E. Simko

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 2024

SEM Section: 01  TR 9:55 am - 11:10 am  James L. Nolan

Winter Study ---------------------------------------------------------

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, 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)
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 a freelance writer and editor who was a reporter and OpEd 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: $94

Attributes: EXPE Experiential Education Courses  STUX Winter Study Student Exploration  WELL Winter Study Wellness

Winter 2024
LEC Section: 01  TBA  Christopher Marcisz

ANSO 20  (W) The Ayn Rand Cult and the Libertarian Mind

The broad, "underground" influence of publicist-novelist Ayn Rand stands as one of the more curious sociocultural phenomena to have emerged out of post-War America. Examples: A youthful Alan Greenspan was a dedicated disciple of Rand's in the 1940s and 50s; Michael Milken was reported to have kept twenty-six copies of Atlas Shrugged in his jail cell while serving time for securities fraud; former Congressman Paul Ryan and Exxon CEO (and then- Secretary of State) Rex Tillerson both are avowed fans of Ayn Rand; each year to this day, Rand's books sell hundreds of thousands of copies; and, in a crowning instance of "canonization," the U.S. Postal Service issued a commemorative stamp in Rand's honor (as part of its "Great American Authors" series) in April 1999. This course will examine the nature and origins of the Rand phenomenon through reading of relevant works of journalism, fiction, and philosophy. Titles to be studied: Jeffrey Walker, The Ayn Rand Cult; Mary Gaitskill, Two Girls: Fat and Thin; Gene H. Bell-Villada, The Pianist Who Liked Ayn Rand (selections) and On Nabokov, Ayn Rand and the Libertarian Mind; and John Locke, Second Treatise of Government. We will also view two films: the movie version of The Fountainhead (1949) and the 1996 documentary Ayn Rand: A Sense of Life. Note: No books by Rand will be read in this class! It is a course not "about" Rand but rather about the cultural sociology and anthropology of Randism.

Requirements/Evaluation: class attendance and participation, readings, short weekly journal entries, and a final 10-page paper

Prerequisites: some previous acquaintance with Rand's work

Enrollment Limit: 30

Enrollment Preferences: by seniority (i.e. first seniors, then juniors, then sophomores, etc.)

Expected Class Size: NA

Grading: pass/fail only

Attributes: STUX Winter Study Student Exploration

Winter 2024
LEC Section: 01  TBA  Gene H. Bell-Villada