The anthropology subjects described below are grouped within eight areas: Core Subjects; Culture and Identity; Religion and Belief; Global Health; Environment, Development, and Conflict; Science, Technology, and Media; Cross-cultural Dialog and Investigations; and Independent Study, Special Subjects, and Thesis.

COURSE 21A ANTHROPOLOGY

COURSE 21A ANTHROPOLOGY

The anthropology subjects described below are grouped within eight areas: Core Subjects; Culture and Identity; Religion and Belief; Global Health; Environment, Development, and Conflict; Science, Technology, and Media; Cross-cultural Dialog and Investigations; and Independent Study, Special Subjects, and Thesis.

CORE SUBJECTS

21A.00 Introduction to Anthropology: Comparing Human Cultures
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
3-0-9 HASS-S

Through the comparative study of different cultures, anthropology explores fundamental questions about what it means to be human. Seeks to understand how culture shapes societies, from the smallest island in the South Pacific to the largest Asian metropolis, and affects the way institutions work, from scientific laboratories to Christian mega-churches. Provides a framework for analyzing diverse facets of human experience, such as gender, ethnicity, language, politics, economics, and art.

Staff

21A.01 How Culture Works
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
3-0-9 HASS-S

Introduces diverse meanings and uses of the concept of culture with historical and contemporary examples from scholarship and popular media around the globe. Includes first-hand observations, synthesized histories and ethnographies, quantitative representations, and visual and fictionalized accounts of human experiences. Students conduct empirical research on cultural differences through the systematic observation of human interaction, employ methods of interpretative analysis, and practice convincing others of the accuracy of their findings.

H. Paxson, M. Vidart-Delgado

CULTURE AND IDENTITY

21A.101J Identity and Difference
(Same subject as WGS.170J)
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2014–2015: Not offered
Acad Year 2015–2016: U (Spring)
3-0-9 HASS-S; CI-H

Examines several theoretical perspectives on human identity and focuses on processes of creating categories of acceptable and deviant identities; how identities are formed, how behaviors are labelled, and how people enter deviant roles and worlds; and responses to differences and strategies for coping with these responses. Describes how identity and difference are inescapably linked. Enrollment limited.

J. Jackson

21A.102 Ethnic and National Identity
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2014–2015: Not offered
Acad Year 2015–2016: U (Fall)
3-0-9 HASS-S; CI-H

An introduction to the cross-cultural study of ethnic and national identity. Students explore the history of nationalism, focusing on ideologies about the nation-state, and look at the ways gender, religious and racial identities intersect with ethnic and national ones. Ethnic conflict is examined, along with the emergence of social movements based on identity, in particular indigenous rights movements and the ways culture can become highly politicized. Finally, students discuss the effects of globalization, migration, and transnational institutions. Enrollment limited.

J. Jackson

21A.103J The Science of Race, Sex, and Gender
(Same subject as STS.046J, WGS.225J)
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2014–2015: Not offered
Acad Year 2015–2016: U (Spring)
3-0-9 HASS-S

See description under subject WGS.225J.

A. Sur, S. Helmreich

21A.104 Memory, Culture, and Forgetting
(Subject meets with 21A.119)
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2014–2015: Not offered
Acad Year 2015–2016: U (Spring)
2-0-7 HASS-S

Introduces scholarly debates about the sociocultural practices through which individuals and societies create, sustain, recall, and erase memories. Emphasis is given to the history of knowledge, construction of memory, the role of authorities in shaping memory, and how societies decide on whose versions of memory are more "truthful" and "real." Other topics include how memory works in the human brain, memory and trauma, amnesia, memory practices in the sciences, false memory, sites of memory, and the commodification of memory. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.

M. Buyandelger

21A.111J Rethinking the Family, Sex, and Gender
(Same subject as WGS.172J)
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2014–2015: Not offered
Acad Year 2015–2016: U (Fall)
3-0-9 HASS-S

Cross-cultural case studies introduce students to the anthropological study of the social institutions and symbolic meanings of family, gender, and sexuality. Investigates the different forms families and households take and considers their social, emotional, and economic dynamics. Analyzes how various expectations for, and experiences of, family life are rooted in or challenged by particular conceptions of gender and sexuality. Addresses questions surrounding what it means to be a "man" or a "woman," as well as a family member, in different social contexts.

H. Paxson
21A.119 Memory, Culture, and Forgetting  
(Subject meets with 21A.104)  
Prereq: None  
Acad Year 2014–2015: Not offered  
Acad Year 2015–2016: G (Spring)  
3-0-9  
Introduces scholarly debates about the socio-cultural practices through which individuals and societies create, sustain, recall, and erase memories. Emphasis is given to the history of knowledge, construction of memory, the role of authorities in shaping memory, and how societies decide on whose versions of memory are more "truthful" and "real." Other topics include how memory works in the human brain, memory and trauma, amnesia, memory practices in the sciences, false memory, sites of memory, and the commodification of memory. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.  
M. Buyandelger

21A.120 American Dream: Exploring Class in the US  
Prereq: None  
Acad Year 2014–2015: Not offered  
Acad Year 2015–2016: U (Fall)  
3-0-9 HASS-S  
Americans have historically preferred to think of the United States in classless terms, as a land of economic opportunity equally open to all. Yet, social class remains a central fault line in the US. Subject explores the experiences and understandings of class among Americans positioned at different points along the US social spectrum. Considers a variety of classic frameworks for analyzing social class and uses memoirs, novels and ethnographies to gain a sense of how class is experienced in daily life and how it intersects with other forms of social difference such as race and gender.  
C. Walley

21A.125J Black Matters: Introduction to Black Studies  
(Same subject as 2A.912J, 21H.106J, 21L.008J, 21W.741J, WGS.190J)  
Prereq: None  
Acad Year 2014–2015: Not offered  
Acad Year 2015–2016: U (Spring)  
3-0-9 HASS-A, HASS-H; CI-H  
See description under subject 24.912J.  
Staff

21A.130J Introduction to Latin American Studies  
(Same subject as 17.55J, 21F.084J)  
Prereq: None  
Acad Year 2014–2015: U (Fall)  
Acad Year 2015–2016: Not offered  
3-0-9 HASS-S; CI-H  
See description under subject 17.55J.  
R. Bateson

21A.140J Cultures of East Asia  
(Same subject as 21F.047J)  
Prereq: None  
Acad Year 2014–2015: Not offered  
Acad Year 2015–2016: U (Spring)  
3-0-9 HASS-S  
Explores diverse cultures, everyday experiences, and political economies in East Asian countries, such as China, Japan, Korea, and Singapore, with additional examples from the surrounding regions. Examines the different ways people in these regions experience and understand globalization, as well as the changing structures of kinship and family, work and organizational culture, media, consumption, and the role of government. Readings cover ethnographic studies of the world’s largest seafood market in Tokyo, the effect of the Asian financial crisis on South Korea, the role of science in formulating China’s one child policy and its economic and social implications, and the state and ethnic diversity in Singapore.  
M. Buyandelger

21A.141J Images of Asian Women: Dragon Ladies and Lotus Blossoms  
(Same subject as 21F.048J, WGS.274J)  
Prereq: None  
Acad Year 2014–2015: Not offered  
Acad Year 2015–2016: U (Fall)  
3-0-9 HASS-S  
Explores some of the forces and mechanisms through which stereotypes are built and perpetuated. In particular, examines stereotypes associated with Asian women in colonial, nationalist, state-authoritarian, and global/diasporic narratives about gender and power. Students read ethnography, fiction, and history, and view films to examine the politics and circumstances that create and perpetuate the representation of Asian women as dragon ladies, lotus blossoms, despotic tyrants, desexualized servants, and docile subordinates. Students are introduced to debates about Orientalism, gender, and power.  
M. Buyandelger

21A.142J Japanese Literature and Cinema  
(Same subject as 21F.065J)  
(Subject meets with 21F.593)  
Prereq: None  
U (Spring)  
3-0-9 HASS-H; CI-H  
See description under subject 21F.065J.  
J. Cullen

21A.143J Japanese Popular Culture  
(Same subject as 21F.039J)  
(Subject meets with 21F.591)  
Prereq: None  
Acad Year 2014–2015: Not offered  
Acad Year 2015–2016: U (Spring)  
3-0-9 HASS-H  
See description under subject 21F.039J.  
Staff

21A.150 Teaching and Learning: Cross-Cultural Perspectives  
Prereq: None  
U (Fall)  
3-0-9 HASS-S  
Explores the diverse ways that people teach and learn in different countries, disciplines, and subcultures (computer gamers, magicians, jazz musicians, etc.). Compares schooling to other forms of knowledge transmission, from initiation and apprenticeship to recent innovations in online education. Students discuss various learning theories and apply them to a variety of in-class activities using qualitative methods to conduct original research on topics of their choice. Limited to 15.  
G. Jones

21A.155 Food, Culture, and Politics  
Prereq: None  
U (Spring)  
3-0-9 HASS-S  
Explores connections between what we eat and who we are through cross-cultural study of how personal identities and social groups are formed via food production, preparation, and consumption. Organized around critical discussion of what makes “good” food good (healthy, authentic, ethical, etc.). Uses anthropological and literary classics as well as recent writing and films on the politics of food and agriculture.  
H. Paxson
RELIGION AND BELIEF

21A.200 Magic, Science, and Religion
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2014–2015: Not offered
Acad Year 2015–2016: U (Fall)
3-0-9 HASS-S
Explores the origins of magic, science, and religion as forms of belief within and across cultures. Addresses the place of rationality and belief in competing sociocultural theories, with a focus on analyzing modern perspectives. Examines how cases of overlap between magic, science, and religion raise new questions about modernity and human nature.
G. Jones

21A.201J The Supernatural in Music, Literature and Culture
(Same subject as 21L.013J, 21M.013J)
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2014–2015: Not offered
Acad Year 2015–2016: U (Fall)
3-0-9 HASS-A, HASS-H; CI-H
See description under subject 21M.013J.
C. Shadle, M. Fuller

21A.203 Anthropology through Speculative Fiction
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2014–2015: Not offered
Acad Year 2015–2016: U (Fall)
3-0-9 HASS-S
Examines how anthropology and speculative fiction (SF) each explore ideas about culture and society, technology, morality, and life in "other" worlds. Investigates this convergence of interest through analysis of SF in print, film, and other media. Covers traditional and contemporary anthropological themes, including first contact; gift exchange; gender, marriage, and kinship; law, morality, and cultural relativism; religion; race and embodiment; politics, violence, and war; medicine, healing, and consciousness; technology and environment.
E. C. James, S. Helmreich

GLOBAL HEALTH

21A.300 Practicum in Global Health and Development
(Subject meets with 21A.329)
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
3-3-6 HASS-S
Provides training for students to critically analyze the relationship between "health" and "development." Draws upon the theory and methods of medical anthropology, social medicine, public health, and development to track how culture, history, and political economy influence health and disease in global communities. Students work in teams to formulate research questions, and collect and analyze qualitative data in clinical and community settings in the greater Boston area, in order to design effective development interventions aimed at reducing health disparities in the US and abroad. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.
E. C. James

21A.301 Disease and Health: Culture, Society, and Ethics
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2014–2015: Not offered
Acad Year 2015–2016: U (Spring)
3-0-9 HASS-S
Examines how medicine is practiced cross-culturally, with particular emphasis on Western biomedicine. Analyzes medical practice as a cultural system, focusing on the human, as opposed to the biological, side of things. Also considers how people in different cultures think of disease, health, body, and mind. Enrollment limited.
J. Jackson

21A.302J Dilemmas in Biomedical Ethics: Playing God or Doing Good?
(Same subject as WGS.271J)
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2014–2015: Not offered
Acad Year 2015–2016: U (Fall)
3-0-9 HASS-S
An introduction to the cross-cultural study of biomedical ethics. Examines moral foundations of the science and practice of western biomedicine through case studies of abortion, contraception, cloning, organ transplantation and other issues. Evaluates challenges that new medical technologies pose to the practice and availability of medical services around the globe, and to cross-cultural ideas of kinship and personhood. Discusses critiques of the biomedical tradition from anthropological, feminist, legal, religious, and cross-cultural theorists.
E. C. James

21A.303J The Anthropology of Biology
(Same subject as STS.060J)
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2014–2015: Not offered
Acad Year 2015–2016: U (Fall)
3-0-9 HASS-S
Applies the tools of anthropology to examine biology in the age of genomics, biotechnological enterprise, biodiversity conservation, pharmaceutical biopspecting, and synthetic biology. Examines such social concerns such as bioterrorism, genetic modification, and cloning. Offers an anthropological inquiry into how the substances and explanations of biology—ecological, organismic, cellular, molecular, genetic, informatic—are changing. Examines such artifacts as cell lines, biodiversity databases, and artificial life models, and using primary sources in biology, social studies of the life sciences, and literary and cinematic materials, asks how we might answer Erwin Schrodinger’s 1944 question, "What Is Life?", today.
S. Helmreich

21A.304J Reproductive Politics and Technologies
(Same subject as WGS.175J)
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-9 HASS-S
Examines through comparative case studies how cultural, moral, and political values give meaning to human reproductive events and inform people’s uses of medical technologies. Focuses on how technological mediations of fertility, pregnancy and birth (e.g., contraception, abortion, in vitro fertilization, prenatal testing, etc.) offer opportunities for the formation of gender and kinship, the reproduction of social inequalities, and the implementation of national population and international development agendas. Considers how bioethical evaluation of reproductive technologies might take into account the motivations and experiences of actual users.
H. Paxson

21A.306 Culture, Embodiment, and the Senses
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2014–2015: Not offered
Acad Year 2015–2016: U (Fall)
3-0-9 HASS-S
Examines historical and cross-cultural debates about the relationship between mind, brain, emotion, and behavior; memory and recall;
sensory experience; and illness and healing. Assesses cultural traditions that challenge scientific interpretations of experience arising from western philosophical and physiological models. Explores how experience itself is culturally mediated, interpreted, and elaborated within symbolic, political, and other fields.

E. C. James

**21A.319J History and Anthropology of Medicine and Biology**
(Same subject as STS.330J)
Prereq: Permission of instructor
Acad Year 2014–2015: Not offered
Acad Year 2015–2016: G (Spring)
3-0-9 H-LEVEL Grad Credit
See description under subject STS.330J.
S. Helmreich

**21A.329 Practicum in Global Health and Development**
(Subject meets with 21A.300)
Prereq: None
G (Fall)
3-3-6
Provides training for students to critically analyze the relationship between “health” and “development.” Draws upon the theory and methods of medical anthropology, public health, and development to track how culture, history, and political economy influence health and disease in global communities. Students work in teams to formulate research questions, and collect and analyze qualitative data in clinical and community settings in the greater Boston area, in order to design effective development interventions aimed at reducing health disparities in the US and abroad. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.
E. C. James

**ENVIRONMENT, DEVELOPMENT, AND CONFLICT**

**21A.400 The Stakes of International Development**
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2014–2015: Not offered
Acad Year 2015–2016: U (Spring)
3-0-9 HASS-S; CI-H
Offers an anthropological perspective on international development. Students consider development, not in policy or technical terms, but through its social and political dynamics and its impacts on daily life. Examines the various histories of, and meanings given to, international development as well as the social organization of aid agencies and projects. Follows examples of specific projects in various parts of the world. Examples: water projects for pastoralists in Africa, factory development in Southeast Asia, and international nature parks in Indonesia. Enrollment limited.
C. Walley

**21A.409J Ethics of Intervention**
(Same subject as 11.238J)
Prereq: Permission of instructor
Acad Year 2014–2015: Not offered
Acad Year 2015–2016: G (Spring)
3-0-9 H-LEVEL Grad Credit
An historical and cross-cultural study of the logics and practices of intervention: the ways that individuals, institutions, and governments identify conditions of need or states of emergency within and across borders that require a response. Examines when a response is viewed as obligatory, when it is deemed unnecessary, and by whom; when the intercession is considered fulfilled; and the rationales or assumptions that are employed in assessing interventions. Theories of the state, globalization, and humanitarianism; power, policy, and institutions; gender, race, and ethnicity; and law, ethics, and morality are examined.
E. C. James

**21A.410 Environmental Struggles**
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2014–2015: Not offered
Acad Year 2015–2016: U (Spring)
3-0-9 HASS-S
Offers an international perspective on the environment. Using environmental conflict to consider the stakes that groups in various parts of the world have in nature, while also exploring how ecological and social dynamics interact and change over time, subject considers such controversial environmental issues as: nuclear contamination in Eastern Europe; genetic bioprospecting in Mexico; toxic run-off in the rural US; the Bhopal accident in India; and the impact of population growth in the Third World.
C. Walley

**21A.411J People and Other Animals**
(Same subject as 21H.380J)
(Subject meets with 21A.419J, 21H.380J)
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2014–2015: Not offered
Acad Year 2015–2016: G (Spring)
2-0-10
See description under subject 21H.380J.
H. Ritvo

**21A.415J Energy Decisions, Markets, and Policies**
(Same subject as 11.161J, 14.43J, 15.031J, 17.397J)
Prereq: 14.01, 15.016, or permission of instructor
Acad Year 2014–2015: Not offered
Acad Year 2015–2016: U (Fall)
4-0-8 HASS-S
See description under subject 15.031J.
D. Lessard, R. Schmalensee, S. Silbey, C. Warshaw

**21A.419J People and Other Animals**
(Same subject as 21H.980J)
(Subject meets with 21A.411J, 21H.380J)
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2014–2015: Not offered
Acad Year 2015–2016: G (Spring)
2-0-10
See description under subject 21H.980J.
H. Ritvo

**21A.429J Environmental Conflict and Social Change**
(Same subject as STS.320J)
Prereq: Permission of instructor
Acad Year 2014–2015: G (Spring)
Acad Year 2015–2016: Not offered
3-0-9 H-LEVEL Grad Credit
Explores the complex interrelationships among humans and natural environments, focusing on non-western parts of the world in addition to Europe and the United States. Use of environmental conflict to draw attention to competing understandings and uses of “nature” as well as the local, national and transnational power relationships in which environmental interactions are embedded. In addition to utilizing a range of theoretical perspectives, subject draws upon a series of ethnographic case studies of environmental conflicts in various parts of the world.
C. Walley

**21A.439J Food and Power**
(Same subject as STS.429J)
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Spring)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-9 H-LEVEL Grad Credit
See description under subject STS.429J.
H. Paxson
21A.442J Violence, Human Rights, and Justice
(Same subject as WGS.270J)
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
3-0-9 HASS-S
An examination of the problem of mass violence and oppression in the contemporary world, and of the concept of human rights as a defense against such abuse. Explores questions of cultural relativism, race, gender and ethnicity. Examines case studies from war crimes tribunals, truth commissions, anti-terrorist policies and other judicial attempts to redress state-sponsored wrongs. Considers whether the human rights framework effectively promotes the rule of law in modern societies. Students debate moral positions and address ideas of moral relativism.
E. C. James

21A.445J Slavery and Human Trafficking in the 21st Century
(Same subject as WGS.272J)
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2014–2015: Not offered
Acad Year 2015–2016: U (Spring)
3-0-9 HASS-S
Explores the issue of human trafficking for forced labour and sexual slavery, focusing on its representation in recent scholarly accounts and advocacy as well as in other media. Ethnographic and fictional readings along with media analysis help to develop a contextualized and comparative understanding of the phenomena in both past and present contexts. Examines the wide range of factors and agents that enable these practices, such as technology, cultural practices, social and economic conditions, and the role of governments and international organizations. Discusses the analytical, moral and methodological questions of researching, writing, and representing trafficking and slavery.
M. Buyandelger

21A.455J Law and Society
(Same subject as 11.163J, 17.249J)
(Subject meets with 21A.459)
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-9 HASS-S
Studies legal reasoning, types of law and legal systems, and relationship of law to social class and social change. Emphasizes the profession and practice of law, including legal education, stratification within the bar, and the politics of legal services. Investigates emerging issues in the relationship between institutions of law and science.
S. Silbey

21A.459 Seminar in Readings on Law and Society
(Subject meets with 11.163J, 17.249J, 21A.455J)
Prereq: Permission of instructor
G (Fall)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-9 H-LEVEL Grad Credit
Explores the historical and contemporary literature, theoretical and empirical, tracking the roles of law in society as a common yet distinctive aspect of everyday life. Focuses on law as a social institution, a system, and as a feature of popular culture. Highlights the relationship between the internal logic of legal devices and economic, political and social processes and change. Emphasizes law as a practical resource, a mechanism for handling a wide range of unspecified social issues, problems, and conflicts, and at the same time, as a set of limited although shared representations and aspirations.
S. Silbey

21A.461 What Is Capitalism?
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
3-0-9 HASS-S; CI-H
Introduces academic debates on the nature of capitalism, drawing upon the ideas of scholars as diverse as Adam Smith and Karl Marx. Examines anthropological studies of how contemporary capitalism plays out in people’s daily lives in a range of geographic and social settings, and implications for how we understand capitalism today. Settings range from Wall Street investment banks to auto assembly plants, from family businesses to consumer shopping malls. Enrollment limited.
C. Walley

21A.501J Art, Craft, Science
(Same subject as STS.074J)
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2014–2015: Not offered
Acad Year 2015–2016: U (Spring)
3-0-9 HASS-S
Credit cannot also be received for 21A.509, STS.474
Examines how people learn, practice, and evaluate traditional and contemporary craft techniques. Social science theories of design, embodiment, apprenticeship learning, skill, labor, expertise, and tacit knowledge are used to explore distinctions among art, craft, and science. Also discusses the commoditization of craft into market goods, collectible art, and tourism industries. Ethnographic and historical case studies include textiles, Shaker furniture, glassblowing, quilting, cheesemaking, industrial design, home and professional cooking, factory and laboratory work, CAD/CAM. Demonstrations, optional field trips, and/or hands-on craft projects may be included. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.
H. Paxson

21A.502 Fun and Games: Cross-Cultural Perspectives
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2014–2015: Not offered
Acad Year 2015–2016: U (Fall)
2-0-7 HASS-S
Considers the cultural organization of play in different communities and societies. Explores why all people play, how different cultures experience fun, and what particular games mean, if anything. Surveys major theories of play in relation to a variety of play phenomena, such as jokes, video games, children’s fantasies, sports, and entertainment spectacles. As a final project, students develop their own case study.
G. Jones
21A.503J Language and Technology
(Same subject as 24.913J, STS.070J)
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2014–2015: Not offered
Acad Year 2015–2016: U (Fall)
3-0-9 HASS-S
Examines cultural impact of communication technologies, from basic literacy to cell phones, and computer-based social networks on patterns of verbal interaction. Introduces theories and methods of linguistic anthropology pertinent to technologies that make it possible for people to communicate across distances in space and time. Students develop their own research projects exploring the cultural dimensions of technologically enhanced communication.
G. Jones

21A.504J Cultures of Computing
(Same subject as STS.086J, WGS.276J)
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2014–2015: Not offered
Acad Year 2015–2016: U (Spring)
3-0-9 HASS-S
Examines computers anthropologically, as artifacts revealing the social orders and cultural practices that create them. Students read classic texts in computer science along with cultural analyses of computing history and contemporary configurations. Explores the history of automata, automation and capitalist manufacturing; cybernetics and WW II operations research; artificial intelligence and gendered subjectivity; robots, cyborgs, and artificial life; creation and commoditization of the personal computer; the growth of the Internet as a military, academic, and commercial project; hackers and gamers; technobodies and virtual sociality. Emphasis is placed on how ideas about gender and other social differences shape labor practices, models of cognition, hacking culture, and social media.
S. Helmreich

21A.505J The Anthropology of Sound
(Same subject as STS.065J)
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
Not offered regularly; consult department
3-0-9 HASS-S
Credit cannot also be received for CMS.407
Examines how people learn, practice, and evaluate traditional and contemporary craft techniques. Social science theories of design, embodiment, apprenticeship learning, skill, labor, expertise, and tacit knowledge are used to explore distinctions among art, craft, and science. Also discusses the commoditization of craft into market goods, collectible art, and tourism industries. Ethnographic and historical case studies include textiles, Shaker furniture, glassblowing, quilting, cheesemaking, industrial design, home and professional cooking, factory and laboratory work, CAD/CAM. Demonstrations, optional field trips, and/or hands-on craft projects may be included. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.
H. Paxson

21A.506 The Business of Politics: A View of Latin America
Prereq: None
U (Spring)
3-0-9 HASS-S
Examines the birth and international expansion of an American industry of political marketing with an emphasis on Latin America. Focuses attention on the cultural processes, sociopolitical contexts and moral utopias that shape the practice of political marketing in the US and in different Latin American countries. By looking at the debates and expert practices at the core of the business of politics, explores how the “universal” concept of democracy is interpreted and reworked throughout space and time. Examines how different cultural groups experimenting with political marketing understand the role of citizens in a democracy.
M. Vidart-Delgado

21A.507J Resonance: Sonic Experience, Science, and Art (New)
(Same subject as 4.648J)
(Subject meets with 4.649J, 21A.519J)
Prereq: None
U (Fall)
3-0-9 HASS-A
See description under subject 4.648J.
S. Helmreich, C. Jones

21A.509J Art, Craft, Science
(Same subject as STS.474J)
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2014–2015: Not offered
Acad Year 2015–2016: G (Spring)
3-0-9
Credit cannot also be received for 21A.501, STS.074
Examines how people learn, practice, and evaluate traditional and contemporary craft techniques. Social science theories of design, embodiment, apprenticeship learning, skill, labor, expertise, and tacit knowledge are used to explore distinctions among art, craft, and science. Also discusses the commoditization of craft into market goods, collectible art, and tourism industries. Ethnographic and historical case studies include textiles, Shaker furniture, glassblowing, quilting, cheesemaking, industrial design, home and professional cooking, factory and laboratory work, CAD/CAM. Demonstrations, optional field trips, and/or hands-on craft projects may be included. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.
S. Helmreich, C. Jones

21A.519J Resonance: Sonic Experience, Science, and Art (New)
(Same subject as 4.649J)
(Subject meets with 4.648J, 21A.507J)
Prereq: None
G (Fall)
3-0-9
See description under subject 4.649J.
S. Helmreich, C. Jones

21A.550J DV Lab: Documenting Science through Video and New Media
(Same subject as STS.064J)
Prereq: None
Acad Year 2014–2015: Not offered
Acad Year 2015–2016: U (Fall)
3-3-12 HASS-S
Introductory exploration of documentary film theory and production, focusing on documentaries about science, engineering, and related fields. Students engage in digital video production as well as social and media analysis of science documentaries. Readings drawn from social studies of science as well as from documentary film theory. Uses documentary video making as a tool to explore the worlds of science and engineering, as well as a tool for thinking analytically about media itself and the social worlds in which science is embedded. Class includes a lab component devoted to digital video production in addition to class time. Enrollment limited.
C. Walley, C. Boebel

21A.551J Advanced DV Lab: Documenting Science through Video and New Media
(Same subject as STS.068J)
Prereq: 21A.550 or permission of instructor
Acad Year 2014–2015: Not offered
Acad Year 2015–2016: U (Spring)
3-3-6 HASS-S
Advanced exploration of documentary film theory and production that offers a social scientific perspective on documentaries about science, engineering, and related fields. Student work focuses on final digital video projects. Discussion and readings tailored to the questions and issues raised by specific student projects; labs focus on the technical skills required to complete more advanced work. Enrollment limited.
C. Walley, C. Boebel
CROSS-CULTURAL DIALOG AND INVESTIGATIONS

21A.801J Cross-Cultural Investigations: Technology and Development  
(Same subject as EC.792J, STS.071J)  
(Subject meets with EC.792J, 21A.839J, STS.481J)  
Prereq: None  
Acad Year 2014–2015: Not offered  
Acad Year 2015–2016: U (Fall)  
3-0-9 HASS-S  
Enhances cross-cultural understanding through discussion of practical, ethical, and epistemological issues in conducting social science and applied research in foreign countries or unfamiliar communities. Includes research practicum to help students develop interviewing, participant-observation, and other qualitative research skills, as well as critical discussion of case studies. Open to all interested students, but intended particularly for those planning to undertake exploratory research or applied work abroad. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.  
C. Walley

21A.802J Seminar in Ethnography and Fieldwork  
Prereq: Permission of instructor  
U (Spring)  
3-0-9 HASS-S  
Introduction to ethnographic practices: the study of and communicating about culture. Subject provides instruction and practice in writing, revision of fieldnotes, and a final paper. Preference to Anthropology majors and minors.  
Staff

21A.809J Cross-Cultural Investigations: Social Sciences  
(Subject meets with 15.347)  
Prereq: Permission of instructor  
Acad Year 2014–2015: Not offered  
Acad Year 2015–2016: G (Fall)  
3-0-9 H-LEVEL Grad Credit  
Foundations of good empirical research in the social sciences. Introduction to the basic assumptions and underlying logic of both qualitative and quantitative methodologies. Explores a variety of approaches to research design, evaluates the products of empirical research, and practices several common techniques. Discusses several major theoretical paradigms used as interpretive frameworks for social science research. Students develop a proposal for their own research project.  
S. Silbey

21A.819J Qualitative Research Methods  
(Same subject as 15.349J)  
Prereq: Permission of instructor  
G (Spring)  
3-6-3  
Training in the design and practice of qualitative research. Organized around illustrative texts, class exercises, and student projects. Topics include the process of gaining access to and participating in the social worlds of others; techniques of observation, fieldnote-taking, researcher self-monitoring and reflection; methods of inductive analysis of qualitative data including conceptual coding, grounded theory, and narrative analysis. Discussion of research ethics, the politics of fieldwork, modes of validating researcher accounts, and styles of writing up qualitative field research.  
G. Jones

21A.829J Ethnography  
(Same subject as STS.360J)  
Prereq: Permission of instructor; Coreq: 21A.859  
Acad Year 2014–2015: Not offered  
Acad Year 2015–2016: G (Fall)  
3-0-9 H-LEVEL Grad Credit  
See description under subject STS.360J.  
M. Fischer

21A.839J Cross-Cultural Investigations: Technology and Development  
(Same subject as EC.792J, STS.481J)  
(Subject meets with EC.792J, 21A.801J, STS.071J)  
Prereq: None  
Acad Year 2014–2015: Not offered  
Acad Year 2015–2016: G (Fall)  
3-0-9  
Enhances cross-cultural understanding through discussion of practical, ethical, and epistemological issues in conducting social science and applied research in foreign countries or unfamiliar communities. Includes research practicum to help students develop interviewing, participant-observation, and other qualitative research skills, as well as critical discussion of case studies. Open to all interested students, but intended particularly for those planning to undertake exploratory research or applied work abroad. Students taking graduate version complete additional assignments.  
C. Walley

21A.852J Seminar in Anthropological Theory  
Prereq: Permission of instructor  
U (Fall)  
3-0-9 HASS-S  
Focuses on core issues and approaches in anthropological theory and method. Studies theoretical frameworks for the analysis and integration of material from other subjects in cultural anthropology. Reading and discussion of classics of anthropological theory and contemporary critiques. Students prepare and present analyses of texts. Preference to Anthropology majors and minors.  
Staff

21A.859J Social Theory and Analysis  
(Same subject as STS.250I)  
Prereq: None  
G (Fall)  
3-0-9  
Major theorists and theoretical schools since the late 19th century. Marx, Weber, Durkheim, Bourdieu, Levi-Strauss, Geertz, Foucault, Gramsci, and others. Key terms, concepts, and debates.  
S. Helmreich

INDEPENDENT STUDY, SPECIAL SUBJECTS, AND THESIS

21A.901J Independent Study in Anthropology  
Prereq: Two subjects in Anthropology  
U (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)  
Units arranged  
Can be repeated for credit  
Opportunity for independent study, guided research, practicum, or fieldwork under regular supervision by a faculty member. Projects require prior approval of the Instructor and Head of the Anthropology Program. Normal maximum is 6 units; exceptional 9- or 12-unit projects occasionally approved. HASS credit awarded only by individual petition to the Subcommittee on the HASS Requirement; minimum of 9 units required for HASS credit.  
Consult Program Head

21A.902J Independent Study in Anthropology  
Prereq: Two subjects in Anthropology  
U (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)  
Units arranged  
Can be repeated for credit  
Opportunity for independent study, guided research, practicum, or fieldwork under regular supervision by a faculty member. Projects require prior approval of the Instructor and Head of the Anthropology Program. Normal maximum
is 6 units; exceptional 9- or 12-unit projects occasionally approved. HASS credit awarded only by individual petition to the Subcommittee on the HASS Requirement; minimum of 9 units required for HASS credit.

Consult Program Head

21A.929 Graduate Independent Study
Prereq: None
G (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit

21A.939 Graduate Independent Study
Prereq: None
G (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit

21A.949 Graduate Independent Study
Prereq: None
G (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit

Opportunity for study or projects at an advanced level with an Anthropology faculty member.

Consult Program Head

21A.950 Teaching Anthropology
Prereq: None
G (Fall, Spring)
Units arranged [P/D/F]
Can be repeated for credit

For qualified graduate students serving as either a teaching assistant or instructor for subjects in Anthropology. Enrollment limited by availability of suitable teaching assignments.

Staff

21A.S01, 21A.S02 Special Subject in Anthropology
Prereq: None
U (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)
Units arranged

Seminar or lecture on a topic in anthropology that is not covered in the regular curriculum.

Staff

21A.S10, 21A.S11 Special Graduate Subject in Anthropology
Prereq: None
G (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)
Units arranged

Seminar or lecture on a topic in anthropology that is not covered in the regular curriculum.

Staff

21A.THT Anthropology Pre-Thesis Tutorial
Prereq: None
U (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit

Students writing a thesis work with an advisor to develop research topics, review relevant research and scholarship, frame research questions, choose an appropriate methodology for data collection and analysis, and draft the introductory and methodology sections of their theses. Includes substantial practice in writing (with revision) and oral presentations.

Consult Program Head

21A.THU Undergraduate Thesis in Anthropology
Prereq: 21A.THT
U (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit

Completion of work on the senior major thesis under supervision of a faculty thesis advisor. Includes oral presentation of thesis progress early in the term, assembling and revising the final text, and a final meeting with a committee of faculty evaluators to discuss the successes and limitations of the project.

Staff

21A.UR Undergraduate Research
Prereq: None
U (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)
Units arranged [P/D/F]
Can be repeated for credit

21A.URG Undergraduate Research
Prereq: None
U (Fall, IAP, Spring, Summer)
Units arranged
Can be repeated for credit

Individual participation in an ongoing research project. For students in the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program.

Staff
### Bachelor of Science in Anthropology/Course 21A

**General Institute Requirements (GIRs)**  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Requirement [three subjects may be satisfied by subjects in the Departmental Program]</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted Electives in Science and Technology (REST) Requirement</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory Requirement</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total GIR Subjects Required for SB Degree**  
17

**Communication Requirement**  
The program includes a Communication Requirement of 4 subjects: 2 subjects designated as Communication Intensive in Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (CI-H); and 2 subjects designated as Communication Intensive in the Major (CI-M).

**PLUS Departmental Program**  
Subject names below are followed by credit units, and by prerequisites, if any (corequisites in italics).

**Required Subjects**  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21A.00 Introduction to Anthropology: Comparing Human Cultures, 12, HASS-S</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21A.01 How Culture Works, 12, HASS-S</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21A.802 Seminar in Ethnography and Fieldwork, 12, HASS-S, CI-M *</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21A.852 Seminar in Anthropological Theory, 12, HASS-S, CI-M *</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Restricted Electives**  
A coherent program of eight anthropology subjects which may include a pre-thesis tutorial and a thesis. The decision to write a thesis is made in consultation between the student and advisor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Departmental Program Units That Also Satisfy the GIRs</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Unrestricted Electives**  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>72–78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Units Beyond the GIRs Required for SB Degree**  
180

No subject can be counted both as part of the 17-subject GIRs and as part of the 180 units required beyond the GIRs. Every subject in the student’s departmental program will count toward one or the other, but not both.

**Notes**  
*Prerequisites and corequisites are listed in the subject description.

For an explanation of credit units, or hours, please refer to the online help of the MIT Subject Listing & Schedule, http://student.mit.edu/catalog/index.cgi.