



ANTHROPOLOGY

Department of Anthropology
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What is Anthropology?

Anthropology is the comparative study of human society and culture. By closely observing and analyzing different ways of life around the world, from tribal villages to Wall Street offices, anthropologists create new knowledge about what it means to be human today. Because of its broad reach, anthropology complements any other subject in the university – from biology to philosophy to media studies, and more – and it can change the way you see human life forever.

What will you learn if you study Anthropology?

You will learn about human social action and cultural diversity. Anthropology will allow you to interpret why people do the things they do. An anthropologist may study different types of families, the raising of young children or the death of the elderly; why some people fit in or why others are cast out. We study war, peace, exchange or theft; we study food practices, markets, industrial agriculture, and their effects on the planet; we study language, cultural performance, and mass media. We study the seemingly mundane, such as everyday habits of adornment (but also the symbolism of high fashion), and the manifestly sacred, such as world religions, their doctrinal precepts, and their ritual practices.

You can also study forensic anthropology, which applies skeletal analysis and archaeological techniques to solve criminal cases, working with real-world specialists and practitioners.

You will learn how to document and understand cultural difference. But, you will also learn about our evolution as a species, and the practices that all humans display in common. Our ancestors and our ape cousins can tell us a lot about ourselves, but we will also discuss the limits and dangers of comparison. Together, we will try to understand how cultures and societies interact and change in the contemporary world, which is increasingly interconnected and which moves with ever-growing speed.

What can you do with a degree in Anthropology?

Anthropology compliments many career paths and anthropological skills are optimal in an interconnected transnational economy and global political situation, where understanding cultural difference is necessary for individuals, businesses, and countries to succeed and flourish.

Anthropology prepares students for careers in a wide range of professions including international development, civil service and government, business and finance, journalism, user experience and design research, heritage, ecology and conservation, public health, museum curation, marketing, and more.

ANTHROPOLOGY MODULES

As a part of the general Arts degree, you can choose to study Anthropology as:
Single Honours (50/60 ECTS)
Double Honours (30 ECTS)
Major or Minor (40/20 ECTS)

First Year Modules

Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Optional/ Compulsory	Semester
AN167	Introducing Anthropology	7.5	Compulsory	1
AN168	Being Human: Understanding our Material and Digital Worlds	7.5	Optional	1
AN169	Anthropology Matters	7.5	Compulsory	2
AN170	Magic and Witchcraft	7.5	Optional	2

Second Year Modules

Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Optional/ Compulsory	Semester
AN238	Reading Ethnography	5	Compulsory	1
AN212	Language, Culture and Mediation: Linguistic Anthropology	5	Optional	1
AN213	Affliction and Healing: Medical Anthropology	5	Optional	1
AN228	Material Cultures	5	Optional	1
AN205	Ethnographies of Crime and Policing	5	Optional	1
AN210	Ethnographic Research	5	Compulsory	2
AN234	Anthropological Approaches to Poverty & Development	5	Optional	2
AN241	The Anthropology of Diversity in Higher Education [TBC]	5	Optional	2
AN240	Self, Person, Identity: Psychological Anthropology	5	Optional	2
AN237A	Changing Legal Landscapes: Anthropology and the Law	5	Optional	2

Third Year Modules

Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Optional/ Compulsory	Semester	Lecturer
AN344	Knowledge, Power, Institutions	5	Compulsory	1	Jamie
AN307	Thesis Draft	5	Optional	1	Staff
AN342	User Experience and Service Innovation	5	Optional	1	Design Inv
AN345	Ecology and Power: Environmental Anthropology	5	Optional	1	Chandana
AN310	Anthropology of Security	5	Optional	1	Mark
AN351	Archaeology	5	Optional	1	IAFS
AN353	Forensic Anthropology	5	Optional	1	IAFS
AN318	Thesis	10	Optional	2	Staff
AN348	Shifting Worlds: Theories and Ethnographies of Global Change	5	Compulsory	2	Hana
AN355	Troubling Identities: Gender, Race and Sexuality	5	Optional	2	Tom
AN346	Crime, Death and Forensic Anthropology	5	Optional	2	IAFS
AN350	Ethnographic Filmmaking & Photography	5	Optional	2	David
AN356	Anthropology and Literature	5	Optional	2	Steve

FIRST-YEAR MODULES

In the first year, there are two general courses, Introducing Anthropology in Semester 1 and Anthropology Matters in Semester 2 which will introduce you to anthropology. You can also choose two additional modules – in Semester 1, you will look at material culture and consider how people create their own worlds through online interactions and visual media. In Semester 2 you can also choose a module on Magic and Witchcraft, looking at witchcraft, magic, and other



forms of 'occult' or 'mystical' powers.

Semester 1

AN167 Introducing Anthropology (Compulsory)

Assessment: 100% Continuous Assessment

This module will introduce you to anthropology as the subject that studies human behaviour and cultural diversity. You will learn about the massive cultural differences that divide the world. But you will also learn about our evolution as a species, and the behaviours that all humans display in common. We will discuss, interactively, group identity, language and power, and the societal structures that bind some and free others. The first half of the module includes close reading of the book *When I Wear My Alligator Boots*, a fascinating study of drugs, violence and family on the US-Mexico border, which we will use to explore themes raised during the first few weeks. In the latter part of this class we will continue exploring the concept of culture through which anthropologists study human societies. In the process of reading and watching captivating accounts of other peoples' ways of life, we will develop our anthropological imagination and the capacity to see and describe the world around us in cross-cultural terms. In addition to readings and audio-visual materials, we will engage in hands-on practical exercises to learn ethnographic skills, nurturing our powers of observing, listening and writing. This introductory course in anthropology is compatible with almost every subject in the university and it will change the way you see human life forever.

AN168 Being Human: Understanding our Material and Digital Worlds (Optional)

Assessment: 100% Continuous Assessment

This module looks at anthropological approaches to material, digital and visual culture. We will first consider object worlds in some detail, and focus on cloth and clothing, fashion and faith, recycling and fashion revolution. As an object of material and visual culture, cloth is frequently co-opted as a vehicle for multiple social and cultural agendas. The hijab, for example, - this single piece of cloth - acts as a lightning rod for emotive stereotypes regarding race, religion, gender and geopolitical forces. We will then place

take these insights and consider how people create their own worlds through online interactions and visual media. Student participation and peer discussion will be expected in all sessions.

Semester 2

AN169 Anthropology Matters (Compulsory)

Assessment: 100% Continuous Assessment

In the spring, we will build upon what we will have learnt about culture and anthropological imagination and show how anthropology can help us explore some of the key developments in the contemporary world. The themes will include urbanization, migration, aging, climate change, transformations in family organization, and human-animal relations, etc. We will pay attention to how people in diverse cultures live their lives, learn and adapt in the context of social, technological, economic and environmental changes that are sweeping the world, which we collectively inhabit. Anthropological focus on culture and cultures as both a universal and a specific phenomenon will allow us to examine the richness of human experience in diverse settings across the globe.

AN170 Magic and Witchcraft (Optional)

Assessment: 100% Continuous Assessment

Witchcraft, magic, and other forms of 'occult' or 'mystical' powers have long been a source of anthropological fascination. Sometimes, these kinds of practices seem to symbolize exotic beliefs and incommensurable cosmologies, challenging our preconceptions about rationality and human nature. Yet anthropological analyses of witchcraft have also shown that modern ideas about 'risk' and 'responsibility' follow social scripts that are not dissimilar from those of the seemingly irrational belief in witchcraft. The anthropological lesson is that the dangers and mysteries we imagine for ourselves, alongside our conventional habits of who we choose to blame for misfortunes, function ideologically to reproduce core cultural values. If this is true, how might we understand the surge in contemporary interest in things occult – from Wicca to #WitchesOfInstagram? This module surveys anthropological analyses of black magic, juju, sorcery, flying witches, spiritual warfare, shamanism, magical healers, and more: and shows how these fantastical figures do not belong to a past superseded by a scientific and secular modernity, but have come to find a home even in that hard-to-understand otherworld we call 'the internet.'



SECOND-YEAR MODULES

In the second year, the two compulsory modules focus 1) on ethnographic writing – here you will be able to learn what anthropologists do through a close reading of anthropological works that will take you to different places of the globe, and 2) you will also learn about methods of anthropological research in settings ranging from remote villages to urban or digital environments, from organic communities of people to complex formal organizations, distributed across many sites and cultures. You will interact with professional ethnographic practitioners working in government, NGO and business environments. Other modules that you can choose from focus on language, culture and mediation, affliction and healing, anthropology of crime, self, person and identity, poverty and development, material culture, law and also a topical module on diversity in education.

Semester 1

AN238 Reading Ethnography (Compulsory)

Assessment: 100% Continuous Assessment

This module looks at contemporary ethnographic writing in anthropology. The aim of the course is to learn about what anthropologists do through a close reading of a range of anthropological works. Through these ethnographies we will learn about the questions anthropologists ask; the types of theoretical influences they employ; the practices they engage in and data they marshal in forming an argument. Student participation and peer discussion will be expected in all sessions.

AN205 Ethnographies of Crime and Policing (Optional)

Assessment: 100% Continuous Assessment

Around the world, protests about racial injustice, violence, and corruption are challenging the authority of police and forcing societies to rethink how they provide security. Suddenly, it seems, there is a demand to redraw the “thin blue line” in more equitable, less violent, and more responsible ways. But anthropologists have long argued that neither crime nor “the police” are stable categories. Ethnographies of crime and policing show the variability and contingent qualities of these social forms. In this course, we look at some of the most interesting insights available in ethnographies of crime and policing, from early writing about criminal “tribes” and professional masters of disguise to contemporary studies of transnational gangs, and from violent customary justice to the role of elite special forces and secretive intelligence units. Ethnography will illuminate the institutional “backstage” of policing and highlight some radical, alternative possibilities. Throughout the course, policing practitioners will give guest talks to ground student knowledge in matters such as the use of force and the progress of reform. Along the way, students will learn about ethnographic research and writing, its limitations, and the rich insights that it may provide.

AN212 Language, Culture and Mediation: Linguistic Anthropology (Optional)

Assessment: 100% Continuous Assessment

This module investigates the ways that human thought, social action, and culture are mediated by language and related semiotic systems. We will investigate a few of the ways that social organisation, social relationships, and identity are mediated through talk, then explore the ways that social relationships and talk itself are transformed via mass media and large-scale publics.

AN213 Affliction and Healing: Medical Anthropology (Optional)

Assessment: 100% Continuous Assessment

This course offers an introduction to medical anthropology. If sickness and suffering are universal aspects of the human condition, it is also true that disease and illness are always experienced within historically specific sociocultural frameworks. Putting sickness into social context, in this course we tarry with the proposition that disease is never just about biology. Rather, we view health and illness as produced by and within hybrid and dynamic ‘biosocial’ milieux, melding the somatic and the semiotic, culture and

corporeality, body and mind. In exploring sickness across societies with an eclectic aetiology of this sort, medical anthropology takes seriously diverse ways of knowing and treating disorder, sometimes questioning (and sometimes supporting) the magisterial social position of Western biomedicine. This course thus explores mysteries and meanings of affliction and convalescence as occasions for considering some of anthropology's most enduring conceptual quandaries, tackling head-on questions such as: the epistemological status and ritual efficacy of both "faith" and "science," colonialism and cultural confrontation, embodiment and the social construction of the body, medical power and (global) social inequality, the politics of reproduction and gender inequality, modernity and political economies of hope.

AN228 Material Cultures (Optional)

Assessment: 100% Continuous Assessment

This module looks at anthropological approaches to material culture, from spectacular monuments of the built environment to the commodities that furnish domestic life. Through diverse ethnographies, we will focus on the active role of the material world to mediate, constitute and intervene in human relationships. Student participation and peer discussion will be expected in all sessions.

Semester 2

AN210 Ethnographic Research (Compulsory)

Assessment: 100% Continuous Assessment

This course of lectures and tutorials explores how anthropological field research is designed and carried out in settings ranging from remote villages to urban or digital environments, from organic communities of people to complex formal organizations or processes, distributed across many sites and cultures. The course addresses how such research gets written up as ethnographies and the class will have the opportunity to interact with professional ethnographic practitioners working in government, NGO and business environments. Students will learn practical ethnographic field techniques by carrying out a field exercise in participant-observation, and will explore how to design an anthropological research project, including planning, literature and ethics review, fieldwork, analysis and write-up phases. Moreover, students will learn the epistemological foundations of anthropological research, how to prepare an annotated bibliography, and develop an ethnographic research proposal.

AN234 Anthropological Approaches to Poverty and Development (Optional)

Assessment: 100% Continuous Assessment

This module tries to familiarise students with critical anthropological perspectives on global poverty and inequality, and the efforts to address it, using a core ethnography and shorter theoretical texts. It begins by considering the long historical process of the making of the contemporary Global South, and goes on to probe the exacerbation of global inequality in the era of globalisation. Excerpts from key texts by Worsley, Appadurai and Scheper-Hughes are among the readings assigned for the first segment of this module. The second segment is based on a close textual reading of the classic ethnography on the subject of development, James Ferguson's 'The Anti-Politics Machine'. This module is a standalone module offered in the Anthropology Department; it is also the second half of the elective stream 'Perspectives on Poverty and Development', which is a teaching collaboration between the International Development and the Anthropology departments.

AN237A Changing Legal Landscapes: Anthropology and the Law (Optional)

Assessment: 100% Continuous Assessment

This module will explore the field of legal anthropology from its historical origins to contemporary debates on legal pluralism and human rights. A core objective of the course is to foreground law as a social process influenced by developments outside of the law. The course will examine the contested arenas of law and custom, crime and punishment and the disputing process.

AN240 Self, Person, Identity; Psychological Anthropology (Optional)

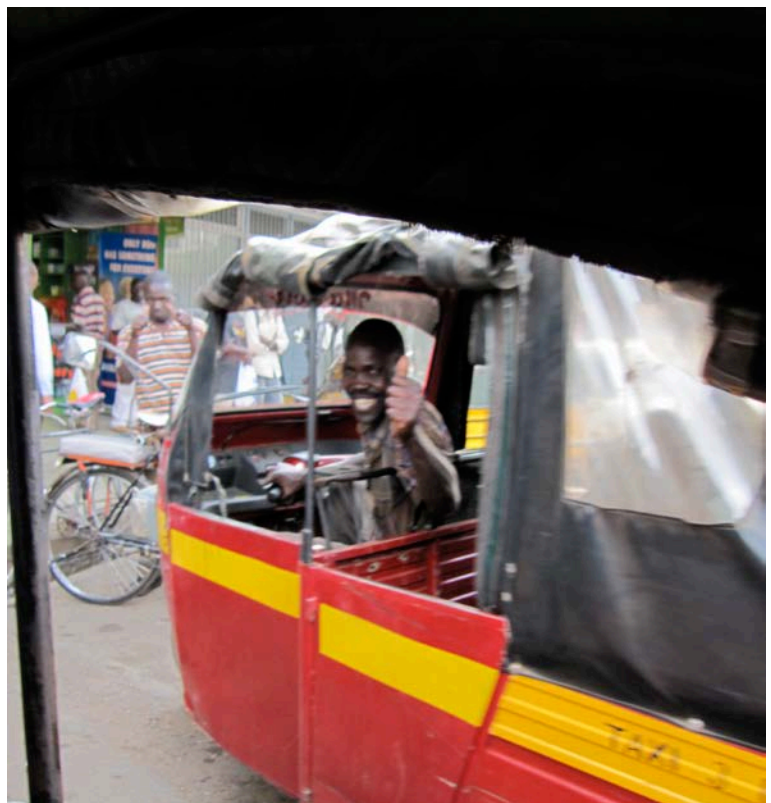
Assessment: 100% Continuous Assessment

This course is designed to introduce the student to how the relationships between personal minds and socio-cultural phenomena have been approached by anthropologists over the past one hundred years or so. The lectures focus on how specific thinkers have understood the problem of the individual mind within various social-cultural contexts in pursuit of models of social analysis and understandings of individuals that might have some actual relationship to how humans variably fashion their lives in different times and places.

AN241 The Anthropology of Diversity in Higher Education (Optional) [To be Confirmed – June 2021]

Assessment: 100% Continuous Assessment

What drives immigrant students to succeed in higher education? One factor appears to be the skills immigrant students learn while balancing keeping their family cultures alive and learning the culture of their host country. Another is the "immigrant bargain" that forms between parents who sacrifice for educational opportunities for their children and the drive of immigrant students to succeed as a result. We will look at a range of research and popular literature on this topic. We will especially focus on a book Dr. Guarnaccia published on this topic based on a study of immigrant students at Rutgers University in the United States. The book incorporates a mix of qualitative and quantitative methodologies to provide a rich portrait of student experiences across the full diversity of Rutgers University. We will examine similarities and differences with the experiences of immigrant students in Ireland.



THIRD-YEAR MODULES

In the third year, the two compulsory modules focus on 1) contemporary anthropological theory and 2) globalization and cultural change. You can also choose fascinating modules in user experience and innovation, ethnographic film making, psychological and environmental anthropology or a module that explores contemporary identities through the prism of gender, sexuality and race. You can also choose from a range of full-semester and short-term courses in forensic anthropology and archaeology.

Semester 1

AN344 Knowledge, Power, Institutions (Compulsory)

Assessment: 100% Continuous Assessment

Few ideas have so firmly entrenched themselves in social scientific discourse over the last forty years or so more than the notion that knowledge and power are inextricably bound up with one another, and, further, that a critical aspect of relations of domination are connected to groups of people getting to know one another “scientifically”. Crucial to this way of thinking is an implicit or explicit notion of “institution” defined as relatively structured parts of social life, generally with some connection to the state, generally committed to visualising and solving a social “problem”. Weaving these levels together, are specific types of subjects and subjectivities -- the sick, the bad, the mad, the dangerous to know – and, on the reforming side – doctors, nurses, wardens, activists, and missionaries (among others) – interested in somehow making certain classes of humanity “discernable” and “better”. The purpose of this module is three-fold. The first is to introduce the student to some of the ideas in the writings of Michel Foucault, who is practically impossible to ignore in any discussion of power and knowledge. The second is to introduce several ideas concerning institutions that echo one another to an extent, but that also diverge in crucial ways. The third is to look at some work in Anthropology clearly influenced by these sources.

AN307 Thesis Draft (Optional) (Compulsory for Single Honours Anthropology)

Assessment: 100% Continuous Assessment

This module is an individualized ethnographic workshop that develops student thesis projects through structured exercises that are overseen by the thesis supervisor. Students will understand how the concrete details and data gathered in ethnographic research and fieldwork are synthesized in anthropological analysis and writing by doing it themselves. This where the 'magic' of anthropology happens. The workshop uses student research, plus their own cultural knowledge, as resources for constructing analytic or descriptive exercises that develop the ideas and arguments of the thesis. Thus, the module is ‘autopoietic’: it generates its own content through its practice. Writing and research exercises comprise the principal work of the course. Each writing and research milestone is assembled into a portfolio that the thesis supervisor critiques and assesses. Criteria for assessment will include the richness, creativity, seriousness, and care exhibited in the work assembled in the portfolio.

AN310 The Anthropology of Security (Optional)

Assessment: 100% Continuous Assessment

This seminar involves critical overviews of surveillance and security studies, historically and in the contemporary moment. We will discuss the work of some of the key thinkers in these areas today. We shall also look closely at the contributions of Michel Foucault, which remains central to the ways in which securitization and surveillance are approached in the social sciences. And we will discuss the extension of Foucauldian insights in the work of key interlocutors such as Didier Bigo and Paul Rabinow. Seminar participants will become familiar with processes of securitization in a variety of contexts, from nineteenth-century colonial government to US national security, war, and counterterrorism. We will examine processes such as gatedness, risk, preparedness and, of course, the cultural production of fear. From

biometric technologies to refugee displacement and from migration control to bioterror, this seminar involves close attention to contemporary examples with the aim of staking out an anthropological position in relation to security.

AN342 User Experience and Service Innovation (Optional)

Assessment: 100% Continuous Assessment

This module explores service innovation through the context of human experience. It will equip undergraduate students with the transferable skillset required to bridge academic learning with the applied contexts of UX research practitioners. Students will explore user experience in terms of both qualitative and quantitative research methods. Using methods such as design ethnography, experience-centred design and co-design, students will develop a toolkit for capturing experience across a range of societal and organisational issues. This module will illustrate how students can create innovative ways of responding to these issues, bringing about positive change through evidence-based practices. Major international organisations are seeking individuals who can bring creative but also critical responses to problem-solving. This module will expose students to the potential of innovation to initiate or manage change in the design of private and public sector products and services, while also reflecting on public good and societal responsibility.

AN345 Ecology and Power: Anthropology and the Environment (Optional)

Assessment: 100% Continuous Assessment

Jason Moore has proposed the term 'Capitalocene' to replace the somewhat nebulous discourse of the 'Anthropocene' -- this module similarly insists on a world historically informed understanding of present-day environmental crises, including climate change. Thus, it focuses on writings that exemplify the trans-disciplinary political ecology approach, leaning in the direction of work that deals with struggles over water. The latter part of the module is a close reading of *Misreading the African Landscape*, a classic environmental ethnography by James Fairhead and Melissa Leach.

AN351 Excavation (takes place in June 2022 off-campus with IAFS - Optional)

Assessment: 100% Continuous Assessment

The summer school programme will be delivered through onsite experiential learning at the Ferrycarrig Ringwork, in the Irish National Heritage Park, Ferrycarrig, County Wexford. The program will give students a hands-on orientation in archaeology field techniques and field anthropology in a research driven environment. Students will participate in different research, excavation and post-excavation tasks, and be expected to critically evaluate the wider role of the excavation, particularly in terms of public outreach. Student instruction will be led by an international team of archaeologists and specialists from the Irish Archaeology Field School in the disciplines of archaeology, physical anthropology and history, through both onsite tuition and a series of onsite workshops and lectures. The module aims to maximise the teaching benefits of conducting a multi-faceted research programme in a 'live' research environment - excavating the first Anglo-Norman castle in the country.

AN353 Forensic Anthropology (takes place in June 2022 off-campus with IAFS - Optional)

Assessment: 100% Continuous Assessment

The summer school programme will be delivered through onsite experiential learning at the Ferrycarrig Ringwork, in the Irish National Heritage Park, Ferrycarrig, County Wexford. This course will cover human and comparative osteology, determining sex, approximate age at death, living stature, identifying palaeopathological conditions and understanding how these techniques are used in archaeological and forensic contexts

Semester 2

AN348 Shifting Worlds: Theories and Ethnographies of Global Change (Compulsory)

Assessment: 100% Continuous Assessment

In this final-semester compulsory module, we will explore how anthropology and anthropologists explore contemporary processes of accelerated change and uneven global interconnectedness. Unlike most disciplines that focus on the macrolevel of globalization, anthropology centres on globalization's situated nature and the lived experiences of diverse peoples who find themselves at the intersections of global developments. Focusing on these articulations of the global and the local, the module opens with three class sessions dedicated to sketching out conceptual and theoretical approaches to contemporary global change within anthropology. These will help us explore concrete thematic areas of anthropological research, including: identity and citizenship in transnational fields; mobilities, borders and militarism; culture and media; global economics and trade; environment and global health; cultural and political transformations.

AN318 Thesis (Optional) (Compulsory for Single Honours Anthropology)

Assessment: 100% Continuous Assessment

This course involves the writing up and completion of a B.A. thesis.

AN346 Crime, Death and Forensic Anthropology (Optional)

Assessment: 100% Continuous Assessment

The module is an overall introduction to forensic disciplines (aimed toward students of Anthropology and Criminology), divided into two broad strands (each containing six lectures), as follows: 1) Introduction to Forensics (Strand 1): describing both the history of the discipline, and forensic casework internationally and in Ireland. This strand will overview the scientific disciplines and analytical skills used as well as the legal frameworks within which these disciplines work. The environment of the crime scene will be explored and the main participants at a scene will be discussed. The strand will overview the importance of the 'three primary identifiers' and the role of the identification commission, as well as the use of various other disciplines in mass fatality incidents. 2) Forensics and Physical Anthropology (Strand 2): a more in-depth look at a single sub-discipline in Forensics, namely the practical application of skeletal excavation and analysis in both archaeological and forensic contexts. It will detail the development of this specialism and will focus in particular on the methods used in analyses, and the information which may be ascertained. The module will examine the importance of skeletal analysis in both archaeological and forensic settings.

AN350 Ethnographic Filmmaking and Photography

Ethnographic Filmmaking and Photography is a practice-led module that provides an introduction to Visual Anthropology, teaches students to critically evaluate visual media and provides instruction on how to create short ethnographic films and images. The course will be composed of a mix of lectures, film viewings, and editing practice in Maynooth and film-based fieldwork in local locations and community organisations. Students will receive a practical introduction to storyboarding, filmmaking, photography, lighting, sound and editing. Small group film projects comprise a substantial element of this module.

AN355 Troubling Identities: Gender, Race and Sexuality (Optional)

Assessment: 100% Continuous Assessment

This seminar focuses a reflexive and critical anthropological lens on contemporary identity politics. The module samples historical genealogies of identities today, as well as philosophical, social scientific, and historical analyses of how 'the self' has come to be a key problem in contemporary society. We will review several of the dominant frameworks that shape contemporary identity politics, including multiculturalism and the politics of recognition, representation and cultural appropriation, inequality and intersectionality, violence and victimhood, and so on. Examining the norms and forms of thought that make identity intelligible as a political problem – as well as the forms of domination and resistance that comprise the substance of the political struggles associated with identities – the module hopes to generate fresh thinking for overcoming social injustice.

AN356 Anthropology and Literature

Assessment: 100% Continuous Assessment

This module explores anthropological and ethnographic approaches to the study of literature and literary community. In an anthropological perspective, literature can be seen as one aspect of a set of interrelated cultural forms: discourses, images, theories and movements. An anthropological approach to literature can explore the motivating connections between diverse aspects of cultures, societies and states. Such an approach allows anthropology to see literature not only as a finished object but also as social activity. In this module, through directed readings and a series of writing assignments, we will explore the relationships between literary textuality, social action, and their description and analysis through ethnographic and other forms of scholarly writing.

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