

ANTHROPOLOGY NEWSLETTER

Fall 2022 Course Preview

Introductions

- ANT-104: Anthropological Inquiries – Families
- ANT-104: Anthropological Inquiries – Beyond Nature & Culture

Electives

- ANT-195: Special Topic – Prehistoric Technologies
- ANT-220: Racing Through Genetics
- ANT-254: Jews, Diaspora, Antisemitism
- ANT-280: Theories of Culture
- ANT-291: Method Empirical Investigation
- ANT-293: Research for Community Development
- ANT-295: Special Topic – Nature/Culture on the American Prairie
- ANT-295: Special Topic – Historical Archaeology

Seminars

- ANT-395: Special Topic – Language & Social Justice
- ANT-395: Special Topic – Landscapes of Social Inequality

Brigittine M. French

Professor, Chair

Jonathan Andelson

Professor

Vicki Bentley-Condit

Professor

Douglas Caulkins

Professor Emeritus

Emily de Wet

Assistant Professor

Katya Gibel Mevorach

Professor

Cynthia Hansen

Associate Professor

Kathryn Kamp

Professor

Tess Kulstad

Assistant Professor

Josh Marshack

Assistant Professor

Laura Ng

Assistant Professor

Jackson Montgomery Roper

Associate Professor

Nikolas Sweet

Assistant Professor

Maria Tapias

Professor

John Whittaker

Professor

Meet the SEPC

The Student Educational Policy Committee, or SEPC, aims to platform the voice of fellow anthropology students within the department. Additionally, the committee is dedicated to harboring authentic community for students within the anthropology major. Below are the students currently serving on the Anthropology SEPC.

Mallory Graham Hi everyone! My name is Mallory and I'm a third year Anthropology major with a concentration in Peace and Conflict Studies. I've been a member of the SEPC since my second year and I'm excited to get more people involved with the anthropology major!



Lucy Suchomel Hi! I'm Lucy and I'm a second year Anthropology and Biology major. I'm really interested in archaeology and human-environment interaction, but also cults and deviant religious groups. I was just elected this semester, and I'm excited to be a part of the SEPC!

Harvey Wilhelm Hi! My name is Harvey and I am a second year from Minneapolis MN and now living outside Cedar Rapids, new to the SEPC. I am mostly interested in cultural anthropology applied to agriculture and education, but I like archaeology too. I will be going abroad in the fall but can't wait to work with everyone!



Lila Podgainy

Rachel Woock Hey ya'll, I'm Rachel! I'm a 3rd year and a recent addition to the SEPC. I have grown an appreciation for all subfields of anthropology however specifically I have a passion for medical anthropology and the archeology of death. I'm pumped to serve on the committee this year! :)



Spring 2022 Graduates

Rylee Beltran After graduation, I will be moving to Iowa City to live with my partner and our pup. In the next year I plan on finishing my masters in public health at the University of Iowa. I'm excited to develop my understanding of the connection between anthropology and medicine through the next leg of my academic adventure!



Anna Brew I will be going to Pompeii, Italy for my third summer working in the Casa Della Regina Carolina Project directed by Cornell University and the University of Reading. I will then take some time off from academics to work with hopes to return to academics to get a masters in archaeology.



Neil Israni

Olivia Jensen After graduation I plan to spend a gap year working and enjoying Minnesota before ultimately pursuing a graduate degree in medical anthropology



Spring 2022 Graduates

Danielle Mydlo After graduation, I will be moving to the West Coast and I intend to pursue clinical opportunities to develop my interests in the healthcare field. I will also be enrolled in Anatomy & Physiology at a community college in preparation for my anticipated application to Physician Assistant (PA) graduate school. I hope to combine my passions for providing clinical care and addressing health disparities in the Latinx community. Ultimately, I want to pursue studying medical anthropology at a graduate school in the distant future.



Amanda Na

Nora Paul I plan to spend the summer in Chicago and Oak Park before moving to Boston, where I will be dancing as a trainee with Boston Dance Theater. After that, maybe I'll go to grad school in anthropology or some related field. Anything can be related to anthropology I suppose.



Kit Perry Contrary to what I hoped for, I do not yet have a solid plan in place by the time these blurbs are due. I'm hoping I have something in time for graduation—something in Grinnell or the Twin Cities would be nice

Student Awards

The Rachael Asrelsky Anthropology Paper Prize, endowed in honor of Rachael Asrelsky '89 who died in the Lockerbie bombing while returning from an off-campus program, is awarded to one or more outstanding papers written for Anthropology classes at any level. Rylee Beltran and Olivia Jensen share the award this year, Rylee Beltran for her paper, "Periodic Pains and the Normal Cycle: Experiences of Invalidation and Self-Doubt in Recurring Menstrual Pain", and Olivia Jensen for "Township Tourism: Beyond "Pro-Poor or Poverty Porn?"

Researching and writing a senior thesis:

Anna Brew's *Viking Women: Where Does the Power Lie?*

Amanda Na's *Interrogation of Asian American Artists and Identity*

Kitrina (Kit) Perry: *Femininity in Sex Worker Cards*

The Ralph Luebben Prize in Anthropology was established after the retirement of Ralph Luebben, the first full-time Anthropology Professor at Grinnell College. Professor Luebben, a scholar and teacher who conducted ethnography among the Navajo and archaeology in the Puebloan Southwest, exemplified the holistic approach to Anthropology. The Luebben Prize is awarded annually to a graduating senior or seniors who are deemed ideal anthropology students, having completed study in all four fields, conducted independent scholarly work, and attained an anthropological viewpoint on life. Rylee Beltran and Danielle Mydlo are this year's Luebben Award winners

Alumni News

Andrea Rissing '09 will be starting a new position as Assistant Professor of Sustainable Food Systems in the School of Sustainability at Arizona State University in August 2022. Andrea completed her PhD in anthropology in 2019 at Emory University in Atlanta, but her doctoral fieldwork on beginning farmers' livelihoods regularly brought her back to Iowa. She also completed postdocs at Ohio State in the School of Environment and Natural Resources (2019-2021) and Emory in Environmental Sciences (2021-2022). Before any of that, though, she completed an anthropology senior thesis with Jon Andelson and Brigitte French on women farmers' gendered identities - which planted the seed of the whole thing!

Jocelyn Wyatt '99 is currently involved in getting food and other aid to Ukrainian refugees at the Poland-Ukraine border. View her journey from Grinnell anthropology student to CEO of the global humanitarian organization, Alight, [here](#), in an article published in the *Grinnellian*.

Benjamin 'Benjie' Cantor-Stone '07 recently married Kellyn Biela, an archaeological student, in a celebration with many Grinnellians present. When not obsessing over his house or tabby cat Houdini, Benjamin continues to use his analytical skills honed in Goodnow Hall to conduct stakeholder analysis as part of his new career as a Project Manager. However, he still thinks recreating or fixing old stuff is more fun.

Faculty News

Professor Jon Andelson Co-Teaching Grinnell's Digital Journal Publishing Class

This spring, Jon Andelson and Mark Baechtel are co-teaching Grinnell's Digital Journal Publishing class that produces the Spring issue of *Rootstalk: A Prairie Journal of Culture, Science, and the Arts*, a project of the Center for Prairie Studies. While not listed as an anthropology class, much of the class content ensures that students develop or serve as assistant editors for a journal that is anthropological in nature, given that the content is often developed through interviews.

This past semester, students in the class developed features about a Houston-based band, "Blossom Aloe," prairie-style architecture, and historic "Sundown Towns" in Kansas, among others. Students have collected content extending beyond Grinnell's campus, including an essay on fly-fishing in northeast Iowa and an essay on becoming a new woman farmer in southwest Iowa.

Professor Jon Andelson Directing Student Mallory Graham's Summer MAP

This summer, Jon Andelson will be directing rising senior anthropology Mallory Graham in a summer Mentored Advanced Project (MAP). They will be investigating environment attitudes, as seen especially in farming practices, in upwards of four Iowa communities that have been or are still influenced by non-mainstream religious or spiritual views. These influences include the Quakers at Scattergood School near West Branch, the Meskwaki Settlement, the Transcendental Meditation community in Fairfield, Iowa, and the Amish.

Professor Laura Ng Moves to Tenure Track Position

The Department welcomes anew Laura Ng, who moves from Visiting Assistant Professor into the tenure track archaeology position replacing Kathy Kamp and John Whittaker. See last semester's newsletter for her full introduction.

Faculty News

Professor Kathy Kamp's & Professor John Whittaker's Research

John Whittaker and Kathy Kamp made a short trip to London in April to work on research, but also, of course, to enjoy the delights of London theatre, museums, and bustle. We have two current projects in London, both the outcomes of teaching on Grinnell-in-London.

The first is analysis of a find from the Thames River foreshore. The Thames has been the center of British commerce since Roman times. An archaeological survey recovered several hundred pieces of flint, which turn out to be the debris from making gunflints, in an area of the Thames where ships from the Napoleonic Wars (ended 1815) were broken up. When we were last on Grinnell in London in 2017, we recorded this material with the help of student Anais Levin, in collaboration with John Cotton of Museum of London Archaeology. After the pandemic years, he now has access to the collection again and we can finish the project.

The second project also came out of our GIL experiences. In 1994, we noticed that London sex-workers advertised by posting small cards in the iconic red phone booths. It occurred to us that these might be an interesting collection of images and words for students to work with, so we made collections in 1994, 1999, 2004, and 2014. Sex workers started posting their ads in phone booths when it first became legal to do so in 1984 after British Telecom was privatized. They started as small printed cards with text and sometimes clip art, but eventually evolved to full color photos of scantily-clad women with lists of services offered, like "school-girl" or "nurse" fantasies, massage, and fully-equipped dungeon. The cards covered many phone boots and were viewed as a plague by many shopkeepers and parents. In 2001 it became illegal to post them in booths with punishments of up to 6 months in jail and 5000 pound fines. This seemed to have limited effect, but as cell phones proliferated and phone booths disappeared, so did the cards. The internet is now an easier way to advertise and sex worker cards are rare.

Last year, Kit Perry and Kathy figured out a coding scheme and coded over 3000 cards for systematic analysis. Kit's senior thesis used and expanded upon these initial codes. In London, the Wellcome Collection, a mostly medical museum, also has a large number of cards from different times, so we wanted to record those. Our plan is to look at the data using both qualitative and quantitative analyses. We are particularly interested in changes in the ways sexuality and ethnicity are portrayed in the cards and how this changes over time.

Faculty News

Professor Joshua Marshack's Classes Travel to Museums

Throughout the semester, Professor Marshack and his students traveled to a variety of destination museums, such as the GCMoA, the Des Moines Art Center, and the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History, to learn about anthropology from new angles.

Collections Manager Jocelyn Krueger shows Prof. Marshack's Anthropological Inquiries students a Tuareg *ehel* (tent-pole) at the **GCMoA**.



First-Year Tutorial: Alien Anthropology visits the **Des Moines Art Center's** exhibition, *Immersive*; from right: Prof. Marshack, Oyoram (Toni and Tim Urban International Artist in Residence), Carter Otelle, Evie Redding, Laura Burkhalter (curator), and Sydney Jacobs

Hayden Bhavsar with Rusty the giant sloth; Prof Marshack's Human Evolution class trip to the **University of Iowa Museum of Natural History**.



Donors

The Anthropology Department would like to extend a large “thank you” to all donations made to those who made donations from January 2022 through April 2022. We are grateful for your generous support!

Austin Family Fund