

Course Objectives

The discipline of anthropology has, at its origins, a search for explanations of human diversity. Prior to the latter half of the 20th century, there was a focus on developing a biological (scientific) basis for racial classifications. Among its long lasting effects was the legitimization of scientific racism, with the associated social policies based on eugenical thinking. While such overt statements of racial classification are less common today, many of the central questions remain with us.

Anthropology 122D Outcomes

- Explain the anthropological reasoning for a common human origin.
- Analyze the study of anthropological search for a scientific justification for racial categories and why these efforts were abandoned.
- Assess the role of anthropology in the promotion of eugenics policies.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the Out-of-Africa and Multiregional hypotheses.
- Explain the social forces in place during the height of the Eugenics Movement in the United States and Europe.
- Explain the significance of Cold Spring Harbor to the discussion of human diversity research.
- Critique the recent advancements in molecular anthropology.
- Assess the controversy over genetic technology in medicine and reproduction.

Anthropology Program Core Learning Outcomes

- Collect information from different types of written sources.
- Present a synthesis of the data they collect in the form of written and/or oral presentations.
- Incorporate a cultural relativistic perspective into all course work.
- Demonstrate how the biocultural model is integral to understanding the world from a holistic perspective.
- Analyze the human condition both in a historical context and from the stance as a global citizen.

Social Sciences-specific Outcomes

- Demonstrate knowledge of a range of facts, terminology, events, and/or methods that social scientists in various disciplines must possess in order to investigate, analyze or give a history of, or predict human, group, or societal behavior.
- Demonstrate the ability to apply classifications, principles, generalizations, theories, models, and/or structures pertinent to social scientific efforts to organize conceptual knowledge in various fields.
- Demonstrate the ability to reach conclusions/make arguments across a range of social science topics that are tied to a defensible sifting of appropriate evidence relative to the questions involved.
- Demonstrate an understanding and tolerance of the diversity of perspectives, cultural understandings, and ways of thinking that others bring to bear on social science questions.