

## **ANG 6701: CONTEMPORARY APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY**

### **Course Objectives:**

This course is an overview of the field of applied anthropology, with particular emphasis on contemporary approaches. It is designed to:

- Illustrate how contemporary applied anthropology (dating from the Praxis book in 1987) differs from earlier work, such as Spicer 1951.
- Familiarize students with some key issues in applied anthropology
- Introduce topics related to applied work, such as ethics, employment, evaluation, public policy, differences between applied, practicing and public anthropology; needs assessment, social impact assessment, and environmental issues.
- Provide an overview of contemporary approaches in applied cultural anthropology, e.g. legal anthropology, anthropology and education, welfare and poverty, development, conflict, business anthropology, medical anthropology, environmental anthropology. A goal is to cover main areas, but also introduce students to areas with which they may be less familiar, but which are of growing importance

Key themes will include:

- How does applied anthropology differ from “theoretical” anthropology; what makes a research “applied anthropology?”
- Is a degree in anthropology required in order to be an applied anthropologist?
- What is distinctive about training for applied anthropology?
- What are the limits of cultural relativism?
- What kinds of issues should we address or avoid? (e.g. work for the military, government, businesses, etc.).
- Contemporary approaches in applied archaeology, biological and linguistic anthropology, particularly in those areas of key importance for applied cultural anthropologists, and demonstrating linkages between the sub-field.

Students should expect:

- To begin networking by interacting with guest speakers who are graduates of our programs and learning about their work and careers.
- To begin an exploration of their own area of interest through a pathfinder (an overview of the area of applied anthropology in which the student is particularly interested in), or the creation of a literature review addressing an area or problem in applied anthropology.

Depending on the interests and expertise of different faculty members, specific topics will vary, but the overall objectives will remain consistent.

This course is offered at least annually, and typically each semester.