Lost continents and cities, crystal skulls, Bigfoot, aliens in prehistory, assertions of supernatural documentation, pyramids in Bosnia, and Nazi claims of ancient super-races – these are just a few of the more fantastic ideas people have had about the past. What can archaeology say about these cases? Are they real, are they frauds, or is the truth even stranger? This course explores a series of instructive case studies from what has been known as Popular Archaeology, Pseudo-Archeology, or Fantastic Archaeology. The goal of the course is to explicitly develop students’ critical thinking and source evaluation skills through a serious but entertaining examination of extreme claims about the past. In teaching students to be skeptical, case studies will illustrate how archaeology has been used for nationalism, political ends, the creation of deliberate frauds developed to sell books, public adoration, and the social phenomena of why people want to prove experts wrong. Archaeology’s own mistakes and entrenched thinking will be part of the course.
In studying the human condition, anthropologists privilege a perspective that is holistic, historical and comparative. We'll utilize this perspective and anthropological theory to examine climate change and what some environmental scientists call our "planetary boundaries." We'll begin with some basic scientific concepts and anthropological theories regarding our relationship to the environment. From there we'll investigate a series of environmental issues in an effort to identify their drivers and their likely consequences for human well-being. We'll conclude by considering the concepts of mitigation, resilience and adaptation.
Spring 2017

Anth 3315 North American Archaeology

TuTh 12:30-1:45pm – Professor Jamie Hodgkins

This class approaches the subject of North American archaeology from a broad and integrative perspective incorporating insights from archaeology, ecology, geology, genetics and cultural heritage. We will discuss the science of archaeology, and explore how our knowledge of the past changes every day with new discoveries and new scientific techniques.
Humans must consume a certain number and kind of nutrients on a regular basis for survival, growth and good health; a simple biological fact. But few things in human life are more complex and meaning-laden than food, eating and diet—we need nutrients but we eat food and eating is a social, meaning-centered activity. Food and food-ways define ethnicity, affect health, influence the environment (and are influenced by the environment). Likewise food is deeply embedded in the political-economic context locally, nationally and globally. Food thus provides a “window” on human culture and society in ways that few other topics can. In this class, we’ll view food, eating, diet and nutrition through a variety of lenses, from the evolutionary to the cultural to the political-economic.
Spring 2017

Anth 4090/5090 The Drug Syndemic
(formerly the Political Economy of Drugs)

TuTh 2:00-3:15pm – Professor Steve Koester

The drug syndemic refers to the assortment of interconnected health issues including addiction, bloodborne disease, drug overdose and violence that cluster around the use of illicit drugs and that develop and are sustained because of harmful social conditions (Singer and Clair 2004). In this course we will explore how the consumption of psychoactive drugs, a practice humans have engaged in for millennia, has become such a multi-faceted global problem. We will employ our anthropological perspective and theory to examine this global phenomenon. Due to the breadth of the topic our primary focus will be on current drug related issues. Students will be expected to participate in class discussions and take part in an on-going fieldwork project.
The chief concern of this course is the relationship between ourselves and our surroundings and the very immediate ways the environments in which we live affect us. The view is of ourselves as a part of, not apart from, these environments.
Anthropology & Community Based Participatory Research (ANTH 4/5230)

Course Description: Explores anthropological critiques, knowledge production and multimedia approaches to community-based Participatory Research (CBPR).

9:30-10:45am, Mon-Thu, Spring 2017, North Classroom 4002R, Marty O'Keefe, Instructor
Spring 2017

Anth 4380/5380 Archaeology of Hunter-Gatherers
(Online) – Professor Tammy Stone

This course explores the theory and methods used by archaeologists to investigate prehistoric hunter gatherers. Topics of concern include mobility, subsistence, procurement, and socio-political organization. This class is taught online.
Spring 2017
Anth 4440/5440 ST: Museum Anthropology in the 21st Century
M 1-4pm Professors Michele Koons and Steve Nash

Held at the Africa Station, Denver Museum of Nature & Science
2001 Colorado Boulevard
Register through Extended Studies

Over the last century museums have developed into a vital part of modern cultural life. But what is the future of museums in the 21st century? In this course you will explore why museums matter in today’s world from the perspective of the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, the United States’ fourth largest natural history museum. We will examine in detail topics ranging from the history of museums to current educational programming, from major construction and exhibition projects to the repatriation of human remains. A large component of this class will be processing, cataloging, properly documenting, and developing an outreach strategy for a large archaeological collection from the important Front Range site of Magic Mountain. Through this project, students will gain hands-on and real life experience working with all aspects of collection management. This course will be of interest to students in (among others) Anthropology, Museum Studies, Art History, Communications, Educational Studies, Ethnic Studies, History, Teaching and Learning Development, Women’s & Gender Studies, and more.
This course will be a concentrated examination of political-economy in anthropology. We will read and analyze a range of primary documents focusing primarily on how political-economics, generally the realm of political science, sociology, and economics, has been used and critiqued in anthropology given our much more intensive engagement with “real people doing real things,” to quote Eric Wolf. Seeking to understand abstract concepts in diverse modern and prehistoric populations can have significant impact on theory.