

ANTH 365

Colonialism & Daily Life

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Ann Stahl

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Colonial processes profoundly shaped the world in which we live. While colonialism is often understood as state-level policies and political economy, it involved fundamental transformations in the mundane routines of daily life. Our goal in this course is to explore the processes through which the daily lives of colonizers and the colonized were transformed through British colonial practices in different geographical areas and temporal contexts. We will examine archaeological and historical anthropological literatures that shed new light on the processes and consequences of colonial entanglements in North America, the Caribbean, South Asia and West Africa. We'll focus particularly on the importance of material practice (what people ate, how they dressed, where they lived and how they made a living) in configuring colonial contexts ranging from the seventeenth through the twentieth centuries. We'll also explore the continuing implications of colonialism for the contemporary world.

Skills Development

Assignments foster critical reading skills with a particular focus on how to assess the evidential basis of knowledge claims (how do authors know what it is they claim to know?); help students to develop synoptic writing skills; and engage students in library-based research. Assessment will be based on two writing assignments focused on critical assessment of course readings; a short research paper that extends one of our focal case studies; and a take home essay-style final exam.