

The Anthropology of Mobile Societies
ANTH 375/775
F 9:30-11:15 HLH 51 Rm 101

Instructor: **William Honeychurch**

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Office Hours: Mobile office, see me after class or by appointment or email

Prerequisites: None other than deep curiosity!

Course Description: This course examines, explores, and analyzes the human propensity to move. Movement of various kinds has great significance for past and present societies and whether you are a pastoralist, a hunter-gatherer, a gypsy, an economic migrant, or a modern day tourist, regimes and technologies of movement have fashioned your life and culture in unexpected ways. Using a variety of case studies, this course examines the impact of mobility and transport technologies on subsistence, trade, ecology, kinship, information transfer, inequality, interaction networks, and international World Systems. The course draws upon examples from both the Old and New Worlds, from archaeology, ethnography, sociology and geography and attempts to trace commonalities between present trends in human mobility and mobility related changes and processes in the past. This course is designed to inspire creative thinking about the relationships between movement, society, culture, and politics. It is also intended to help you gain a better understanding of the kinds of research anthropologists do, the range of questions they ask about societies, and the ways we use different kinds of data to answer those questions. In the process of becoming better informed about the anthropology of movement, you will work on the development and improvement of your academic skills through reading, discussion, presentation, and writing and ideally get some exercise beyond the classroom!

Course Requirements and Grading:

- * Submit weekly questions (interesting ones) on the readings/experiences for our discussions (15%)
- * Organize an effective (and engaging, maybe mobile) discussion or experience session (25%)
- * Class presentation on your research topic for the final paper (20%)
- * Research paper (35%)
- * Participation in weekly workshop/discussions (5%)

The main responsibility of each student will be to choose one of the class topics (see those listed below) and prepare an informative workshop/discussion session or experience for the class in conjunction with the professor (me). Please schedule an appointment with me to discuss your topic and some presentation ideas. Discussions will involve a few selected questions from those submitted by all students based on the readings/media and experiences for the week.

So, why do I use the term “workshop/discussion”? Because the discussion that you end up designing will be “discussion+” – you can employ audio, video, visitors, short digital trips, experiences outside and objects and people from outside the class to facilitate your presentation of ideas. Feel free to be as creative or as conservative as you like, but the objective is to generate intriguing experience and discussion and new insights among your fellow students. Your in-class research presentations at the end

of the course will take the form of a round table discussion in which each of you can present your intended research topic and tell us how and why it fits with mobilities theory. I am not expecting a big powerpoint, rather something more intimate, conversational and ... fascinating! The paper should be 15-20 pages (undergrads) and 25-30 pages (grads) including bibliography. The paper should develop a research question relevant to the student's selected mobility topic which will then be addressed by examining the current state of theory on that question and one or more case studies that shed light on possible answers – again, creativity is encouraged!

READINGS, LISTENINGS, VISUALIZATIONS, etc...

There is no course textbook, all readings+ will be made available as PDF and other kinds of files!

WEEKLY WORKSHOPS / DISCUSSIONS

W01 Jan 26 – What is Mobility? Genesis of an Analytical Line of Inquiry

W02 Feb 2 – The “Mobilities Turn” – Theory, Conceptions, & Metaphor

Urry, J. 2007. Mobilities, selected sections.

Ingold, T. 2000. Perception of the Environment. Essays on Livelihood, Dwelling and Skill, selected sections.

Cresswell, T. 2010. Towards a politics of mobility. Environment and Planning D: Society and Space, volume 28: 17-31.

Leary, J. 2014. Past Mobilities, Chapter 1

*Additional Media experiences

W03 Feb 9 – Original Mobility and Being Human – Why Move?

Potts, R. 2002. Complexity and Adaptability in Human Evolution. In Probing Human Origins, pp. 33-47.

Bower, B. 2003. The Ultimate Colonists. Science News, pp. 10-12.

Gamble, C. 1998. Paleolithic Society and the Release from Proximity: A Network Approach to Intimate Relations. World Archaeology 29:426-449.

Potts, R., et al. 2018. Environmental dynamics during the onset of the Middle Stone Age in eastern Africa. Science 360:86-90.

Fowles, S. 2011. The Chimpanzee's Cringe. Conference presentation text.

OPTIONAL INTERVIEW with POTTS

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/article/adaptable-human/>

*Additional Media experiences

W04 Feb 16 – Mobility and Race

Brace, C.L. 2005. “Race” is a Four-letter Word: The Genesis of the Concept, selected sections.

Cresswell, T. 2016. Black Moves: Moments in the History of African-American Masculine Mobilities. *Transfers* 6(1): 12–25.

Tolnay, S. 2003. The African American “Great Migration” and beyond. *Annual Review of Sociology* 29:209–32.

Jackson, M. 2020. Twelve Minutes and a Life. *Runners World*.

Michelle Singletary on Racism, *Washington Post*, 2020

Race at Yale various selections

*Additional Media experiences

W05 Feb 23 – Pastoral Nomads and the State

Salzman, P.C. 2004. *Pastoralists: Equality, Hierarchy, and the State*. (selections).

Fratkin, E. and Mearns, R. 2003. Sustainability and Pastoral Livelihoods: Lessons from East African Maasai and Mongolia. *Human organization* 62:2:112-122.

Stepanoff, C., et al. 2017. Animal Autonomy and Intermittent Coexistences: North Asian Modes of Herding. *Current Anthropology* 58:57-70.

Honeychurch, W. 2010. Pastoral Nomadic Voices: A Mongolian Archaeology for the Future. *World Archaeology* 42:405-417.

*Additional Media experiences

W06 Mar 1 – Transport, Automobility, and Urban Landscapes

Urry, J. 2004. The ‘System’ of Automobility. *Theory, Culture and Society* 21:4-5:25-39.

Sheller, M. and J. Urry. 2000. The City and the Car. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 24: 737–57.

Lin. P. 2013. The Ethics of Autonomous Cars. *The Atlantic*, October 8.

Muller, P. 1986. Transportation and Urban Form: Stages in the Spatial Evolution of the American Metropolis.” In S. Hanson (ed.), *The Geography of Urban Transportation*. New York: Guilford.

Rink, B. 2016. Race and the Micropolitics of Mobility: Mobile Autoethnography on a South African Bus Service. *Transfers* 6(1): 62–79.

*Additional Media experiences

W07 Mar 8 – Mobility, Economy, and Networks – A New Haven History

Brown, E. 1976. New Haven: A Guide to Architecture and Urban Design. Yale University Press: New Haven. (selections)

New Haven Colony Historical Society. 2002. New Haven: Reshaping the City 1900-1980. (selections)

Dawidoff, N. 2022. The Other Side of Prospect. W.W. Norton, New York. (selections)

Hopkins, J. 2016. Developing Dixwell. <https://newhavenurbanism.wordpress.com/developing-dixwell/>

*Additional Media experiences

W08 Mar 29 – Global & Local: Moving Money and Food

Urry, J. 2014. Offshoring. Cambridge: Polity Press. (selections)

Phillips, L. 2006. Food and Globalization. Annual Review of Anthropology 35:37–57.

Hart, K., and Ortiz. 2014. The Anthropology of Money and Finance: Between Ethnography and World History. Annual Review of Anthropology 43:465-482.

*Additional Media experiences

W09 Apr 5 – Migrant vs Tourist – Mobilities of Privilege and of Need

Constable, N. 2009. The Commodification of Intimacy: Marriage, Sex, and Reproductive Labor Annual Review of Anthropology 38: 49-64.

Hayes, M. 2014. 'We Gained a Lot Over What We Would Have Had': The Geographic Arbitrage of North American Lifestyle Migrants to Cuenca, Ecuador, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, 40:12, 1953-1971.

Shin, H-R. 2011. Spatial Capability for Understanding Gendered Mobility for Korean Christian Immigrant Women in Los Angeles. Urban Studies 48(11): 2355–2373.

Urry, J. and M. Sheller. 2004. Tourism Mobilities: Places to Play, Places in Play. Routledge, London. (selections)

*Additional Media experiences

W10 Apr 12 – Corporeal Movement versus Stationary Travel – Virtual Space

Green, N. 2002. On the Move: Technology, Mobility, and the Mediation of Social Time and Space. The Information Society 18:4.

Urry, J. 2002. Mobility and Proximity. Sociology 36:2:255-274.

Messeri, L. 2024. In the Land of the Unreal: Virtual and Other Realities in Los Angeles. Duke University Press, Durham, NC.

*Additional Media experiences

W11 Apr 19 – Digital & Spatial Surveillance

Edelman, J. 2016. Is anything worth maximizing?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GyVHrGLiTcc&feature=youtu.be>

Whyte, W. 2001. The social life of small urban spaces. Project for Small Spaces. (selections)

Buckley, C., and Mozur, P. 2019. How China Uses High-Tech Surveillance to Subdue Minorities. New York Times.

Beauchamps, M. et al. 2017. Security/Mobility: Politics of Movement. Routledge, London. (selections)

*Additional Media experiences

W12 Apr 26 – Round Table Discussion and Student Presentations

FINAL PAPER DUE