How to Make Friends and Influence People: An Archaeological Guide

How can I befriend my enemy?

Can objects tell us about our personal connections?

What makes or breaks an alliance?

Within this course, we will discuss how archaeologists use the material record to study how people build social networks, create opportunities, reduce risk, and gain power. Using case studies from 5 continents we will explore topics ranging from food sharing to the spirit world.

ANTHRARC 296 SECTION 201
Tuesday & Thursday
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
SP/SU 2021

For questions contact: Elspeth Geiger for more information
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3 credits. Counts toward the anthropology major and minor, or it fulfills the social science distribution (SS) for non-majors and anthro minors.
How is race seen? How is it unseen? Is it primarily a visual experience? What does the aspiration to be “colorblind” assume about the nature of race and sensory processes in society? How are racial objects and associations discerned multi-sensorially? How are sensory practices and habits themselves shaped by social, linguistic, cultural, and historical forces?

This seminar explores how ways of thinking about the senses are connected to the conception of racial logics, and vice versa. Walking into the anthropology of the senses, students explore how social and cultural contexts shape practices of sense perception, and how different societies have varied sensory orderings.

Offered during a historical moment marked by mass movements for racial justice across the globe, this seminar is designed to inspire creative approaches to the question of race and racial discrimination. The course will fulfill the LSA requirements for Social Studies (SS) and Race and Ethnicity (R&E) Credit.

Instructor: Saquib Usman, usman@umich.edu
When spirits, deities, ancestors, and Gods are not visible or physically present, how can people speak to them and how are the invisible participants invited to participate in interaction? When divine participants cannot be heard, how can living humans get them to speak back? And in what ways are religious uses of language entangled with material things? Through the lens of linguistic anthropology, this course illuminates the role and power of language in creating and changing both social and religious worlds.