

First Year Seminar ANTH 89

Walking in the World:

The Anthropology of Moving, Knowing, and Creating

We learn about the world by moving through it. We change the spaces that we pass through and in which we remain; we are transformed by that experience. And yet, moving through the world is a complicated thing. There are some spaces that we cannot enter. There are spaces that are familiar to us that are closed to others. We dream of places that we cannot visit. We are compelled to travel where we do not want to go. We long for those who cannot be with us, for places that no longer exist. We desire things that we encounter but cannot be ours. We are changed by sharing our experience with others, we are transformed by learning from theirs. And sometimes, we come together to challenge these boundaries, to intentionally create something new.

Over the course of the semester, we will learn how anthropologists create research projects to explore these questions. While the focus of the course will be on cultural anthropology, you will also consider the ways in which artists, historians, geographers, novelists, philosophers, outdoor athletes, soldiers, and activists approach similar problems.

We will not just think about the relationship between walking, knowing, and creating: we will experience it ourselves. We will step out of the classroom to work on ethnographic exercises that give us the opportunity to create and carry out short research projects. We will share our results with one another, reflect on our experiences in our journals, and write essays that build on what we have done together. I will work with each of you every week so that you can continue to develop your ideas, and your classmates will also provide suggestions and support. Walking and thinking can be done alone, but we can create so much more when we work together.

Fall 2024

Tuesdays and Thursdays

12:30pm-1:45pm



with Professor Nelson
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