



ANTH2210 – Advocate and Educate for Change: Applying Anthropology

Advocacy and public engagement examines how to take the methods and insights of scholarship outside the walls of colleges and universities. Anthropologists and other publicly engaged scholars choose to work on issues and problems of concern to citizens and communities, most often in collaboration with others. This course explores the challenges of different roles of advocacy, activism, and collaboration. Numerous examples are examined, including the engagements of scholars who have worked internationally, in their own neighbourhoods, and with a range of organizations from small community groups to trans-national networks and international bodies. A second aspect of the course explores the history and practice of public and applied research in anthropology, and how anthropologists have advocated, resisted and engaged with topics such as war, racism, colonialism and healthcare. A third aspects of the course involves developing skills useful for public engagement and media outreach including increasing your collaboration proficiencies, creating effective and concise messaging strategies, and acquiring confidence in media interviews.

This full-year course can be taken as a complement to your program, major or minor, or as a required core course for [a minor or certificate in advocacy and public engagement](#).

Experiential learning and skills training are active components of the course incorporated into individual and group projects on current topics. Students hear from anthropologists who practice advocacy and public engagement or visit them in the field. In 2017-2018, students visited Idea Couture, a digital innovation and design firm that prominently employs anthropologists in the designing of products, services and business models. Students also participated in the Community Action online project that draws together thousands of students at North American universities together into an intellectual community to engage with a contemporary cultural issue.