

# ANTHROPOLOGY

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Who are we? Where did we come from? Where are we going?

Anthropology, the study of human diversity across geographic space and evolutionary time, takes on these far-reaching questions. Courses in the Department of Anthropology deal with three areas:

- Physical anthropology is concerned with the evolution of human beings as biological organisms and with the physical variation within contemporary human populations.
- Archaeology and prehistory explore the extinct cultures of the past and attempt to elucidate the processes involved in their development.
- Sociocultural anthropology is involved with the comparative analysis of socially learned behavior patterns and institutions of contemporary populations from all areas of the world.

A background in anthropology is a valuable asset in today's job market. The skills you learn as a major are applicable to a wide range of careers. Many of our majors have continued on to graduate studies and have also used their anthropological training to enter fields such as business, law, government, education, international relations, public health, and social and environmental activism.

## Archaeology Field School

The department offers a summer program that affords students the opportunity to participate in an actual archaeological excavation. Emphasis is placed on excavation techniques, methods of classification and analysis, and anthropological interpretation. At present, efforts are concentrated on Paleo-Indian, Archaic, Woodland and Contact Period sites in the mid-Hudson region of New York.

## Anthropology (BA, BS) Program Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate in-depth, holistic knowledge of the cultures of at least two different geographical areas.
- Be able to apply one or more major anthropological theories of culture and/or approaches to understanding the human condition to empirical anthropological data.
- Be able to apply qualitative and quantitative research skills in one of the anthropological subfields.
- Demonstrate capacity to think across the four anthropological subfields represented in the department curriculum.
- Information Literacy (General Education): locate information effectively using appropriate tools; evaluate information with an awareness of authority, validity, and bias; and demonstrate an understanding of the ethical dimensions of information use, creation, and dissemination.
- Critical Thinking and Reasoning (General Education): clearly articulate an issue or problem; identify, analyze, and evaluate ideas, data, and arguments as they occur in one's own or others' work;

acknowledge limitations such as perspective and bias; and develop well-reasoned (logical) arguments to form judgments and/or draw conclusions.

- [Major in Anthropology](#)
- [Minor in Anthropology](#)

### ANT100. The Anthropology of Today's World. 3 Credits.

Introduction to anthropological perspectives on major social, political, and scientific controversies facing today's world. Use of case studies from cultural and linguistic anthropology, as well as archaeology and biological anthropology.

#### Attributes:

- Ethical Reflection
- Liberal Arts
- Systematic Inquiry
- GE5: World History Global Aw
- GE4: World Civilizations
- GE3: WRLD

May not be repeated for credit

### ANT193. Anthropology Selected Topic. 3-12 Credits.

Selected topics courses are regularly scheduled courses that focus on a particular topic of interest. Descriptions are printed in the Schedule of Classes each semester. Selected topics courses may be used as elective credit and may be repeated for credit, provided that the topic of the course changes.

May be repeated for credit

### ANT211. General Anthropology. 3 Credits.

Introduction to the theories, methods, and major areas of Anthropology.

#### Attributes:

- Liberal Arts
- Systematic Inquiry
- GE4: Social Science
- GE5: Social Sciences
- GE3: SSCI

May not be repeated for credit

### ANT213. Principles of Archaeology. 3 Credits.

Method and theory of Archaeology as a branch of Anthropology; survey of major archaeological discoveries and sequences of world prehistory.

#### Attributes:

- Liberal Arts
- Systematic Inquiry
- GE4: Social Science
- GE5: Social Sciences
- GE3: SSCI

May not be repeated for credit

**ANT214. Principles of Cultural Anthropology. 3 Credits.**

This course introduces the concepts, theories, and methods of cultural anthropology. Students will learn how anthropologists approach the study of culture and its influence on social life, and how anthropologists have explored what it means to be human in particular times and places.

**Attributes:**

- Liberal Arts
- Systematic Inquiry
- GE5: Social Sciences
- GE4: World Civilizations
- GE3: WRLD

May not be repeated for credit

**ANT215. Principles of Biological Anthropology. 3 Credits.**

Designed to introduce students to the field of biological anthropology including primatology, human evolutionary ecology, paleoanthropology, and skeletal biology. Students will gain fundamental knowledge about evolutionary theory, basic biological concepts, the course of primate and human evolution, and modern human diversity.

**Attributes:**

- Liberal Arts
- GE4: Natural Science Course
- GE5: Natural Science Course
- GE3: NSCI
- Systematic Inquiry

May not be repeated for credit

**ANT216. Language and Culture. 3 Credits.**

The course explores the social, cultural, and political dimensions of language use. It investigates both how people are shaped by language and how they use language to express class, gender, race and national identity.

**Attributes:**

- Critical Thinking Introductory
- Liberal Arts

**Restrictions:**

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate

May not be repeated for credit

**ANT230. Forensic Anthropology. 3 Credits.**

Students are introduced to the role of the anthropologist in forensic investigations. The course will cover basic skeletal biology, osteology, field recovery of human remains, and recognition of gross trauma and pathology.

**Attributes:**

- Liberal Arts

**Restrictions:**

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate

May not be repeated for credit

**ANT293. Anthropology Selected Topic. 3-12 Credits.**

Selected topics courses are regularly scheduled courses that focus on a particular topic of interest. Descriptions are printed in the Schedule of Classes each semester. Selected topics courses may be used as elective credit and may be repeated for credit, provided that the topic of the course changes.

May be repeated for credit

**ANT295. Indep Study Anthropology. 1-12 Credits.**

May be repeated for credit

**ANT301. Human Evolution. 3 Credits.**

This course is designed to introduce students to (1) the fundamentals of evolutionary theory and (2) the application of this framework for our understanding of human evolutionary history. The course will begin by introducing students to the theory of evolution, its historical background and its modern articulation by Charles Darwin. We will also explore modern modifications to Darwinian evolution. From here we will begin to explore the anatomical and phylogenetic context of human evolution by discussing the origin and evolution of primates. Then we will explore the origins of the first hominids and their place in the human family tree. Finally, we will discuss the origins of the genus Homo, the criteria used to differentiate these specimens and the emergence of the modern human suite of anatomical and behavioral characteristics.

**Attributes:**

- Liberal Arts
- GE4: Natural Science Course
- GE5: Natural Science Course
- GE3: NSCI
- Systematic Inquiry

**Restrictions:**

- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

**ANT302. Human Osteology. 3 Credits.**

Students will gain hands-on experience in biological anthropology, including osteology, dental anthropology, primatology, human evolution, and forensics.

**Attributes:**

- Liberal Arts

**Restrictions:**

- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

**ANT305. Cultures of South America. 3 Credits.**

Social, political, economic and religious institutions of native and mestizo peoples in South America, using examples from selected areas (Amazonian lowlands, Andean highlands, southern cone.) Traditional cultural patterns and contemporary social issues, including the recent rise of the left-wing regimes in Venezuela, Bolivia and Brazil.

**Attributes:**

- Liberal Arts
- Systematic Inquiry
- GE5: World History Global Aw
- GE4: World Civilizations
- GE3: WRLD

**Restrictions:**

- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

**ANT306. Cultures of Brazil. 3 Credits.**

An anthropological introduction to the history, peoples, geography, and key cultural issues facing contemporary Brazil. Key themes: poverty, carnival, gender, sexuality, urban violence, religion, and land reform.

**Attributes:**

- Liberal Arts

**Restrictions:**

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

**ANT310. Bioarchaeology of Food. 3 Credits.**

An examination of the manner in which archeologists reconstruct diet and its influence on human evolution, social organization, and health. Topics covered in the course include the biochemical nature of food and nutrients, the associations between diet and morphological and behavioral adaptations in fossil hominins, the relationship between human social organizations and subsistence strategies, and the impact of the transition of food production.

**Attributes:**

- Liberal Arts
- GE4: Natural Science Course
- GE5: Natural Science Course
- GE3: NSCI

May not be repeated for credit

**ANT312. North American Archaeology. 3 Credits.**

An archaeological survey of early man in North America.

**Attributes:**

- Liberal Arts

**Restrictions:**

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

**ANT314. New York State Archaeology. 3 Credits.**

Major prehistoric developments in New York State; cultural and adaptive changes of Native American cultures from Paleo-Indian times to contact with Europeans.

**Attributes:**

- Liberal Arts

**Restrictions:**

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

**ANT315. Historical Archaeology. 3 Credits.**

The purpose of this course is to provide a working knowledge of American historical archaeology from both a practical and theoretical perspective. Subject areas covered include archeological excavation methods and strategies, artifact analysis, current research and theory, and how historical archeology can answer questions about past human behavior.

**Attributes:**

- Effective Expression/Written
- Liberal Arts
- Systematic Inquiry
- GE3: USST
- GE4: United States Studies
- GE5: US History Civic Engmnt

**Restrictions:**

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

**ANT316. Cannibalism; Archaeology and Ethnography. 3 Credits.**

Cannibalism is examined from an Archaeological and Ethnographic perspective. Topics include individuals or groups accused of practicing cannibalism, and also potential biases in both the historical records and anthropological research.

**Attributes:**

- Liberal Arts

**Restrictions:**

- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

**ANT317. Love, Sex and Marriage: Anthro Perspectives. 3 Credits.**

An introduction to the comparative/cross-cultural study of love, sex and marriage. The course covers evolutionary, cultural and social psychological approaches to the study. Students will gain an understanding of the variability and universal features across cultures.

**Attributes:**

- Liberal Arts

**Restrictions:**

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

**ANT361. Exploring the Unknown. 3 Credits.**

An exploration of the "great mysteries" which have captured the popular imagination. A rational evaluation of the facts and hypotheses that surround such mysteries as Bigfoot, the Loch Ness Monster, UFOs, the ancient astronauts of von Daniken, the Bermuda Triangle, the legends of Atlantis and Mu, and the construction of the Egyptian pyramids. A research paper is required.

**Attributes:**

- Liberal Arts

**Restrictions:**

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

**ANT362. Race, Ethnicity and Inequality. 3 Credits.**

Investigation of the nature of the system of racial and ethnic classification that prevails in the contemporary United States and of the socio-historical processes that have generated this cultural taxonomy. Exploration of the impact of our ideas and understandings about racial and ethnic differences on selected aspects of U.S. social life.

**Attributes:**

- Liberal Arts

**Restrictions:**

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

**ANT364. Inequality and Human Health. 3 Credits.**

An examination of the biological consequences of social inequality from a biocultural perspective. Topics covered in the course include and examination of the prehistoric foundations of inequality the physiological basis of stress and its health consequences, including trauma, infectious disease, malnutrition, osteoarthritis, exposure to environmental toxins, and lower birth weight. A case study approach brings in examples from a wide range of time periods and world regions.

**Attributes:**

- Diversity
- GE3: DIVR
- GE5: DEISJ
- Liberal Arts

**Restrictions:**

- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

**ANT370. Cultures of East Asia. 3 Credits.**

An introduction to the social and cultural patterns of East Asia. The focus is on contemporary society with additional attention to changing historical, social, economic and political contexts.

**Attributes:**

- Liberal Arts
- Systematic Inquiry
- GE5: World History Global Aw
- GE4: World Civilizations
- GE3: WRLD

**Restrictions:**

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

**ANT371. Culture and Society of Vietnam. 3 Credits.**

In-depth look at the social, religious, economic and political institutions of Vietnam and, in particular, how contemporary cultural practices have been shaped and changed by dynamic political, economic and historical events of Twentieth Century Vietnam.

**Attributes:**

- Liberal Arts
- Systematic Inquiry
- GE5: World History Global Aw
- GE4: World Civilizations
- GE3: WRLD

**Restrictions:**

- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

**ANT393. Anthro Selected Topic. 3-12 Credits.**

Selected topics courses are regularly scheduled courses that focus on a particular topic of interest. Descriptions are printed in the Schedule of Classes each semester. Selected topics courses may be used as elective credit and may be repeated for credit, provided that the topic of the course changes.

**Attributes:**

- Liberal Arts

**Restrictions:**

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May be repeated for credit

**ANT400. Development of Anthropological Thought. 3 Credits.**

Examination of the major theoretical positions in contemporary anthropology, and of their development in the broader context of the history of ideas.

**Attributes:**

- Critical Thinking Intermediate
- Liberal Arts

**Restrictions:**

- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

**Prerequisites:**

- ANT214 Minimum Grade of C-

May not be repeated for credit

**ANT401. Comparative Social Organization. 3 Credits.**

A review of basic principles of kinship organization and an examination of major theories of kinship. A consideration of important dimensions of extra-familial social organization.

**Attributes:**

- Critical Thinking Intermediate
- Liberal Arts

**Restrictions:**

- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

**Prerequisites:**

- ANT214 Minimum Grade of C-

May not be repeated for credit

**ANT402. Research Methods in Anthropology. 3 Credits.**

A consideration and study of the methods critical to anthropological research. Methods and techniques common to the social sciences and those unique to anthropology are discussed. Basic statistical concepts and experimental design.

**Attributes:**

- Information Mgmt Intrmd
- Liberal Arts

**Restrictions:**

- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

**Prerequisites:**

- ANT214 Minimum Grade of C-

May not be repeated for credit

**ANT403. Religion and Culture. 3 Credits.**

Religion and its relationships to culture in different societies. Systems of belief and their translation into ritual and behavior. The role of religion in the value systems of different societies.

**Attributes:**

- Liberal Arts

**Restrictions:**

- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

**ANT404. Political Anthropology. 3 Credits.**

This course is a cross-cultural examination of politics and political organization, law and maintenance of order, corporate groups and ideology, the relations of political institutions to other institutions of society, and issues of identity and representations. We will investigate the following questions: What is power? How is it related to ideology and representations of identity? How is power acquired and used and by whom? We will examine whether forms of power and its relation to ideology differ cross-culturally. Theoretically, we will examine how structural and psychological theorists go about answering these questions.

**Attributes:**

- Liberal Arts

**Restrictions:**

- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

**ANT405. Anthropology of Morality. 3 Credits.**

Introduces students to the theoretical and philosophical background of the new field of inquiry called the anthropology of moralities. Using ethnographic case studies, we explore the diverse ways that morality is embodied, intertwined with emotions, and experienced across fundamental domains of social and cultural life.

**Attributes:**

- Liberal Arts

**Restrictions:**

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

**ANT406. Culture, Self & Meaning. 3 Credits.**

One can conceive of culture as "whatever it is one has to know or believe in order to act in a way that the members of that society consider appropriate." How we process, store and use our knowledge to act in the world is the subject matter of this course. We investigate the feedback relations between the mind and culture by examining how people of different cultures use cognitive processes to make sense of their lives and the world they live in.

**Attributes:**

- Liberal Arts

**Restrictions:**

- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

**ANT407. Visual Anthropology. 3 Credits.**

An introduction to anthropological theories of visual communication and the history of anthropological representations of non-Western "others."

**Attributes:**

- Liberal Arts

**Restrictions:**

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

**ANT410. Applied Anthropology. 3 Credits.**

Applied anthropology attempts to solve human problems and to facilitate change by drawing upon the knowledge about the culture or subculture for which these solutions and innovations are to be designed. Discussed are agricultural, social, educational and health programs that were conducted in the United States and in other countries, ethical and legal issues, and the organization of work.

**Attributes:**

- Research
- Liberal Arts

**Restrictions:**

- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

**Prerequisites:**

- ANT214 Minimum Grade of C-

May not be repeated for credit

**ANT414. The Anthropology of Performance. 3 Credits.**

This course introduces the anthropology of performance. Through cross-cultural examples, it explores the cultural conditions of aesthetic experience, the role of the audience, and how performance can create shared identity, voice protest, or promote ideology.

**Attributes:**

- Liberal Arts
- Writing Intensive

**Restrictions:**

- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

**Prerequisites:**

- ENG180 Minimum Grade of C- or ENG206 Minimum Grade of C- or ENG207 Minimum Grade of C- or ENG170 Minimum Grade of C- or ENG 002 Minimum Grade of C-

May not be repeated for credit

**ANT415. The Archaeology of Death. 3 Credits.**

Mortuary data are information on the form and structure of extinct social systems. Mortuary variation is examined using theories devised by archaeologists, anthropologists, and sociologists to interpret prehistoric social and class structure.

**Attributes:**

- Liberal Arts

**Restrictions:**

- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

**ANT421. Gender and Anthropology. 3 Credits.**

A study of the historical and contemporary position of women in society in a variety of cultures. A theoretical overview and presentations by guest lecturers.

**Attributes:**

- Liberal Arts

**Restrictions:**

- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

**ANT434. Archaeological Field School. 9 Credits.**

Archaeological excavation to train students in the practical application of archaeological theory and method.

**Attributes:**

- Field Study
- Liberal Arts

**Restrictions:**

- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

**ANT461. Seminar in Magic, Witchcraft and Sorcery. 3 Credits.**

Beliefs in magic and particularly in witchcraft are placed into general cosmological systems in their cultural contexts so that they are seen to have sociological and psychological functions.

**Attributes:**

- Liberal Arts

**Restrictions:**

- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

**ANT490. Seminar Four Fields of Anthropol. 3 Credits.**

Students will be expected to write a research paper that focuses on one of the four sub-disciplines of anthropology: biological anthropology; archeology; linguistics; and cultural anthropology. The choice of focus is based on the student's own interest. However, the student will also be asked to think of and work out ways to add perspectives from the other three sub-disciplines into their research project.

**Attributes:**

- Creative Works
- Critical Thinking Advanced
- Information Mgmt Advanced
- Liberal Arts

**Restrictions:**

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must be enrolled in the following class: Senior

**Prerequisites:**

- ANT213 Minimum Grade of C-
- ANT214 Minimum Grade of C-
- ANT215 Minimum Grade of C-
- ANT216 Minimum Grade of C-

May not be repeated for credit

**ANT493. Anthropology Selected Topic. 3-12 Credits.**

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**Restrictions:**

- Must have the following level: Undergraduate
- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May be repeated for credit

**ANT494. Fieldwork in Anthropology. 1-12 Credits.****Restrictions:**

- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May not be repeated for credit

**ANT495. Indep Study Anthropology. 1-12 Credits.****Restrictions:**

- Must not be enrolled in the following class: Freshman

May be repeated for credit

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