

ANTHROPOLOGY

College of Natural and Behavioral Sciences
Department of Anthropology

Program Description and Features

The Department of Anthropology offers undergraduate students course work in the five anthropological subdisciplines: ethnology, archaeology, biological anthropology, applied anthropology and anthropological linguistics. In addition, courses focus on contemporary disciplinary research, area studies and societal applications of anthropological knowledge.

By majoring or minoring in Anthropology, a student gains a better understanding of people's behavior within cultural settings. Anthropology studies the varied nature of human experience in American society and in the cultures of the world. A student is better prepared to comprehend human behavior through this study of people, their lifestyles, and how they adapt to cultural change, both present, and past. What distinguishes anthropology from other disciplines concerned with people is its holistic perspective or encompassing view, and its central concern with the concept of culture.

The Department of Anthropology, in the College of Natural and Behavioral Sciences, offers a major and minor in the discipline. Majors may choose between the General Anthropology concentration, Biological Anthropology concentration, Applied concentration, or the Archaeology concentration. With additional applied work in Cultural Resource Management, the student will be awarded a certificate.

Comparative and evolutionary, scientific and humanistic, Anthropology provides a unique opportunity for broadening and integrating one's view of human existence. Goals of the major concentration in General Anthropology include an understanding of cultural heritage along with a general overview of the significance of cultural change, whether that change be ongoing, from the past, or anticipated in the future. Acquainting students with the cross-cultural perspective and cultural pluralism also are major goals of the General Anthropology concentration.

The major concentration in Archaeology is designed to provide the undergraduate student with a strong background in general anthropology, archaeology, and cultural preservation. It stresses anthropological theory, archaeological methodology, field research, data collection, area studies and applications of the field to cultural resource management. In the face of rapid population expansion and increased development, public concern has grown to protect the quickly diminishing cultural resources related to our ancestral and traditional heritage. In addition to the concentration, the department offers a certificate in Cultural Resource Management to those students who complete the program and demonstrate competence in applied aspects of the field.

The major concentration in Biological Anthropology is designed to provide the undergraduate student with a strong background in general anthropology, biological anthropology, archaeology, and research methods. It stresses biological anthropology research methodology, field research, data collection and statistical methodology.

The major concentration in Applied Anthropology is designed to provide the undergraduate student with a strong background in general anthropology, applied anthropology and research methods. It stresses applied anthropology research methodology, field research, data

collection, statistical methodology and service learning. One of the pillars of an applied anthropology focus is to stress community engagement and application of anthropological theoretical framework to the field.

The Minor in Anthropology complements a major in other disciplines and professional programs such as biology, health sciences, art, communications, history, philosophy, and the other behavioral sciences. Students can develop a focused minor in consultation with an advisor in specialized areas such as medical anthropology, New World cultures, physical anthropology, cognitive anthropology, etc.

Academic Advisement

Students will be assigned a faculty advisor whose experience and expertise most closely reflect their own interests and career plans. An advisor will provide educational and professional guidance during the undergraduate curriculum. Advisors are familiar with disciplinary opportunities and current directions and can assist with career planning. In addition, the academic advisor can recommend or refer students to other campus services such as skills assessment, development, and enhancement. Advisors will assist in verifying that each student completes university and departmental requirements.

Preparation

Students will find classes in the following areas useful to the appreciation of anthropological course work: history, ancient civilizations, art history, biology, geography, earth science, foreign languages, and social studies.

Transfer students with previous course work in anthropology should consult with an advisor to determine which courses are transferable for lower and upper-division units towards completion of the major or minor.

Graduation with Honors

Undergraduate students may be candidates for graduation with Honors in Anthropology if they meet the following criteria:

1. A minimum of 36 units in residence at CSU Dominguez Hills.
2. A minimum grade point average of 3.5 in all courses used to satisfy the upper division requirements for the Anthropology major.

Career Possibilities

The Department of Anthropology provides undergraduate training for students interested in developing careers in academic, research and applied aspects of the discipline. Often postgraduate work is useful or required in certain job categories. However, persons with anthropological background are employed in a wide range of service areas: education, government, environmental and socioeconomic consulting, medical research, planning, social services, personnel, marketing/advertising, international business, law, tourism, and a variety of occupations for which knowledge and appreciation of cultural diversity is important. Students should discuss career objectives with an academic advisor to develop an appropriate curriculum and research interests.

Undergraduate Programs

Bachelor

- Anthropology, Bachelor of Arts (<https://catalog.csudh.edu/academics/anthropology/anthropology-ba/>)

Minors

- Anthropology, Minor (<https://catalog.csudh.edu/academics/anthropology/anthropology-minor/>)
- Indigenous Peoples of the Americas, Minor (<https://catalog.csudh.edu/academics/anthropology/indigenous-peoples-americas-minor/>)

Certificate

- Cultural Resource Management, Certificate (<https://catalog.csudh.edu/academics/anthropology/cultural-resource-management-certificate/>)

Faculty

Sarah Taylor, Department Chair

William Lucas, Kenneth Seligson, Morgan Siewert

Department Office: SBS G-322, (310) 243-3443

Emeriti Faculty

Jan Gasco, Margaret Gordon, Kenneth L. Kuykendall, Jerry Moore, Susan Needham, Sandra L. Orellana

Courses

ANT 100. Introduction to Cultural Anthropology. (3 Units)

Examination of the anthropological approach to the study of humans. Explores the concepts of culture, cultural institutions and processes, the evolution of cultural systems, and the application of anthropology to current social problems.

Offered Fall, Spring, All terms

ANT 101. Intro to Biological Anthro. (3 Units)

Examination of human biology. Introduces scientific approaches to genetics and evolution, primate evolution and behavior, evidence from fossil record for human evolution, and biological variation among modern humans, human growth and disease patterns, and human demography.

Offered Fall, Spring

ANT 102. Ancient Civilizations. (3 Units)

Examination of origins and development of world civilizations. Using evidence from the archaeological record, the written record, the arts, literature, and the sciences, human cultural achievements are examined from the earliest beginnings to the sixteenth century.

Offered Fall, Spring

ANT 115. Intro To Arch & Phys Anth. (3 Units)

Introduction to archaeological methodology and human biology. Review of fossil evidence for the biological evolution of humans and archaeological evidence for the major stages in cultural development.

Offered Infrequent, All terms

ANT 120. Pop Culture Archaeology. (3 Units)

Prerequisite(s): None. Recommended prerequisite(s): None. Co-requisite(s): None. Recommended co-requisite(s): ANT 100, ANT 102. Ancient aliens, government conspiracies, lost civilizations, apocalyptic prophecies, mysterious technologies. Archaeology seems to inspire an unlimited stream of imaginative cult theories. From Indiana Jones to Reality TV, depictions of archaeologists in popular culture have skewed the general public understanding of archaeology and archaeologists. In this course, we will critically examine pseudoscience, archaeological frauds, and implausible interpretations with an eye to dispelling fantastical or cult depictions of the past and present. The ability to deconstruct a range of expertly designed false claims and insufficient datasets is an increasingly important skill in the age of social media. Deliberate misrepresentations and innocent misunderstandings alike have the capacity to cloud our understanding of the human past and harm people in the present. We will critically examine ideas still prevalent today that promote racist ideologies by diminishing the accomplishments of indigenous cultures around the world. As we explore the achievements of ancient societies from every continent, you will gain a better appreciation for how much we all have in common and how societies are constantly changing.

Offered Fall, Spring

ANT 310. Culture & Personality: Psychological Anthropology. (3 Units)

Examination of the human personality within cultural contexts. Topics include personality formation and child-rearing; stress and mental/physical health problems which occur with cultural change; aging, roles and communication among local and worldwide ethnic groups.

Offered Fall, Spring

ANT 312. Language And Culture. (3 Units)

Analysis of language as an aspect of culture. Relationship between language and culture patterns, dynamics of language and cultural change; the problem of meaning.

Offered Fall, Spring, Summer

ANT 313. Meth & Tech In Arch. (3 Units)

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. Basic procedures and techniques used by archaeologists to excavate, analyze and interpret prehistoric remains. Field and/or laboratory activities. Variable topics will include field procedures, laboratory procedures or archaeological method and theories. Six hours of activity per week.

Offered Spring

ANT 315. Magic & Religion. (3 Units)

A comparative analysis of magico-religious systems in their cultural setting and the role of the supernatural in human societies.

Offered Spring

ANT 330. North American Indians. (3 Units)

Comparative study of cultural patterns of selected past and present native peoples of the United States and Canada .

Offered Spring

ANT 333. Ancient Peoples Of Mexico. (3 Units)

The history and archaeology of cultures of Central Mexico and Guatemala. Alternating topics include the rise of the Olmecs to the establishment of Teotihuacan and Tenochtitlan and the rise of Izapa to the development of classic and Postclassic Maya Civilization.Â Repeatable course with alternate topics.

Offered Fall

ANT 334. Mesoamerica Past and Present. (3 Units)

Explores historical and contemporary trends among the diverse cultures of Mexico and Central America from Pre-Columbian era to today. Focus on indigenous peoples and relationships between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples.
Offered Fall

ANT 335. Comparative Cultures. (3 Units)

The world's cultural and social diversity from a sociocultural anthropological perspective. Variable topics include regional surveys (North America, South America, Africa, Eurasia) and/or selected themes in the study of culture. Repeatable course with alternate topics.
Offered Infrequent

ANT 336. Comparative Cultures: Culture, Environment and Globalization. (3 Units)

Ethnographic and comparative approach to the study of the diverse cultures of the world. Examines substance patterns and sociopolitical organization of a variety of cultures in the past and present.
Offered Spring

ANT 337. Ethnography and Film. (3 Units)

Exploration of crosscultural differences as documented in visual images and texts dealing with three traditional societies, the Yanomami, the Dobe, and the Dugum. Analysis of subsistence and economy, social cohesion and social conflict, world view, and representations of other societies in a world characterized by dramatic cultural changes.
Offered Fall

ANT 338. Mainland Southeast Asia. (3 Units)

Anthropology of Mainland Southeast Asia (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar [Burma], Thailand, Vietnam) from ancient to modern times. Analysis of how natural and social environments (geography, climate, migration, trade, religion, arts, and state craft) contribute to the region's cultural diversity, commonalities, and change through time.
Offered Spring

ANT 339. Mexico and Central America. (3 Units)

Anthropology of Mesoamerica's indigenous cultures. Examines cultural patterns developed in prehispanic and colonial periods, and analyzes how historical factors, environmental conditions, and political and economic environments have influenced contemporary situations for Indian peoples of the region.
Offered Infrequent

ANT 340. Peoples of Ancient Egypt. (3 Units)

Anthropology of ancient Egyptian civilization from its earliest beginnings to the end of the New Kingdom. Ancient monuments, wall paintings, statues, tombs and hieroglyphic writing are examined to gain insight into Egyptian culture and to illuminate the interaction between Egyptians and foreign peoples.
Offered Infrequent

ANT 341. Folklore. (3 Units)

Theory and method in the study and collection of folktales, myths, legends, proverbs, riddles, and other forms of verbal tradition.
Offered Infrequent

ANT 342. South America. (3 Units)

Anthropology of cultural differences expressed by indigenous cultures of South America. Critical analysis of such topics as environment and adaptation, kinship and social structure, social cohesion and social conflict, symbolism and ritual, and representations of other societies in a world characterized by dramatic cultural changes.
Offered Spring

ANT 344. Cross-Cult Persp: Aging. (3 Units)

Survey and analysis of cultural influences on the physical and social processes of aging. Examination and comparison of societal roles available to and assumed by older men and women of various cultures.
Offered Infrequent

ANT 345. Medical Anthropology. (3 Units)

Cross-cultural survey of critical problems common to anthropology and health-related fields; cultural ecology of health and pathology, folk medical practices; medical beliefs in relation to other aspects of culture; public health and medical education problems as affected by ethnic culture; effects of acculturation upon mental and physical health.
Offered Infrequent

ANT 346. Anthropology Of Work. (3 Units)

Examination of the significance of work in contemporary societies. Cross-cultural comparisons of workers' life styles. Impact of changing cultural conditions on work patterns.
Offered Spring

ANT 348. Society & Automated Tech. (3 Units)

Examination of the ramifications of the installation of automated systems on social and economic conditions of contemporary and future societies. Analyses of culture change issues and the interrelationships between automated technologies and lifestyles.
Offered Infrequent

ANT 349. Anthropology Of The Future. (3 Units)

Examination of newly emerging questions and ideas about the cultural future of humankind. Topics of discussion include the relevance of anthropology to building a Solar System culture, the possibility of extraterrestrial contact, and alternative cultural futures.
Offered Infrequent

ANT 350. Prehistory: Africa & Eurasia. (3 Units)

Examination of the archaeological record of the Old World (Europe, Africa, Asia). Emphasis on the study and critical analysis of excavated materials, processes of culture change, and reconstructions of social patterns. Variable topics will include the prehistory of different culture areas and chronological periods. Repeatable course.
Offered Spring even

ANT 351. Prehistory of the Americas. (3 Units)

Examination of the archaeological record of the New World (North America, Mesoamerica, and Andean area). Emphasis on critical analysis of excavated materials, processes of culture change, and reconstructions of social patterns. Variable topics will include the prehistory of different culture areas and chronological periods. Repeatable course.
Offered Spring odd

ANT 352. Human Osteology. (3 Units)

Prerequisite: ANT 101 is required. Introduction to human osteology, bone biology and growth, and paleopathology. students will learn differences between human and non-human remains, determine left and right sides of bones, and identifying important skeletal landmarks.
Offered All terms, Fall odd

ANT 353. Forensic Anthropology. (3 Units)

Prerequisites: ANT 101 is required. ANT 352 is recommended. Consent of instructor is required. Examines the techniques used to create a biological profile from human skeletal remains. Students will learn the medicolegal implications of using forensic anthropology techniques to solve forensic cases involving human skeletal remains.
Offered Spring even

ANT 354. Biological Anthropology. (3 Units)

Prerequisites: ANT 101 is required. In depth analysis of the topics and theories in biological anthropology and is meant to be a continuation of ANT 101.

Offered Fall

ANT 355. Human Variation. (3 Units)

Prerequisite: ANT 101 is required. Surveys the biological variation within and between human populations, including the basic principles of genetics, evolutionary theory, and the intersection of culture and genetics. Students will use anthropological and biological theories to understand differences between human populations.

Offered Spring odd

ANT 360. Visual Anthropology. (3 Units)

Survey of anthropological approaches to the study of visual/symbolic communication, the use of images for the description and analysis of human behavior, and modes of producing visual ethnographic texts.

Offered Spring odd

ANT 370. Peoples Of The Old World. (3 Units)

A survey of one or more cultural regions of the old World. Specific topics and areas may vary; for example: Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East, India, Asia, Southeast Asia, Pacific. Repeatable course.

Offered Infrequent

ANT 371. Historical and Cultural Perspectives in Disability Studies. (3 Units)

Theoretical and historical perspectives on issues pertaining to disability studies/research. The course explores cultural concepts of normalcy and disability and reviews ethnographic contexts of disability in a variety of communities in the United States and the world.

Offered Fall, Spring, Summer

ANT 375. Ethnographic Meth & Tech. (3 Units)

Prerequisites: ANT 100 and consent of instructor. Basic methods in the ethnographic study of contemporary communities. Students conduct supervised field work using audiovisual recording and computer techniques to collect and analyze data. Two hours of lecture and two hours of activity (including computer lab) per week.

Offered Fall

ANT 388. Anthro Theories Of Behav. (3 Units)

Prerequisite: One course in Anthropology. Historical survey and critical analysis of major schools of anthropological thought employed in explaining sociocultural behavior and phenomena. An integrative examination of current developments, issues and applications of the field of anthropology.

Offered Fall, Spring, All terms

ANT 389. Transmission Of Culture. (3 Units)

Examination of the concept of culture; emphasis on exploration of cross-cultural commonalities and differences in societal responses. Analysis of dynamics of cultural change with reference to ethnic and immigrant groups and institutions in America today. Topics include roles, institutions, educational processes, family interaction and structure of social systems.

Offered Infrequent

ANT 390. Applied Anthropology. (3 Units)

Prerequisite: ANT 100. Course examines the applications of anthropology to the solution of contemporary social problems. The course examines the methods of applied anthropology, the relationship between applied research and theory, and the ethical issues in the practice of anthropology.

Offered Fall

ANT 410. Environmental Policy & Planning. (3 Units)

Examination of natural resource policy on local, national, and international levels, across multiple and diverse ecosystems. Emphasis on contemporary management and conservation strategies in the context of social, scientific, environmental, and legal-institutional factors.

Offered Infrequent

ANT 455. People Culture, and the Environment. (3 Units)

Course examines the political and economic aspects of relationships between society and nature, especially with reference to current environmental and human rights issues.

Offered Spring

ANT 456. Quantitative Methods for Anthropology. (3 Units)

Prerequisite: MAT 131 is recommended. Provides an overview of the basic principles and techniques for developing a quantitative research design, collecting, and analyzing data, and presenting results. By the end of the course, all students should be proficient in basic statistical analysis in anthropological research.

Offered Spring odd

ANT 490. Proseminar in Anthropology. (3 Units)

Prerequisite: ANT 100, ANT 101, and ANT 102. Explores careers in Anthropology, examines distinctions between academic and applied Anthropology, reviews career options within sub-fields of Anthropology, examines professional activities of Anthropologists, explains research design.

Offered Spring

ANT 494. Independent Study. (1-4 Units)

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. Independent study of a particular problem under the direction of a member of the anthropology department. Repeatable course.

Offered Fall, Spring

ANT 495. Selected Topics In Anthropology. (1-4 Units)

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. An intensive study of an issue, concept or theory in anthropology that is of special interest to both the faculty member and the students. Repeatable course. Three hours of lecture per week.

Offered Fall, Spring

ANT 498. Directed Research. (1-3 Units)

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. The student develops and completes an individual study under faculty supervision. Repeatable course.

Offered As needed

ANT 510. Environmental Policy and Planning. (3 Units)

Examination of natural resource policy on local, national, and international level, across multiple and diverse ecosystems. Emphasis on contemporary management and conservation strategies in the context of social, scientific, environmental, and legal-institutional factors.

Offered Infrequent

ANT 555. People, Culture and the Environment. (3 Units)

Examines the political and economic aspects of relationships between society and nature, especially with reference to current environmental and human rights issues.

Offered Spring

ANT 595. Special Topics in Anthropology. (3 Units)

Course exposes students to cross-cultural approaches to environmental problems and develops environmental problem-solving skills based on the holistic approach of anthropology. Students will examine the political and economic aspects of relationships between society and nature in reference to current environmental and human rights issues.

Offered All terms, Infrequent