

Anthropology, B.A.

The Major in Anthropology

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Overview

Anthropology is the study of all forms of human diversity across time and space. The B.A. in Anthropology (ANTHRO) is an interdisciplinary major designed for students who want to understand how societies and cultures are changing in an age of uneven globalization. The rigorous yet flexible curriculum combines courses in anthropology, history, and cultural studies that provide foundational knowledge of both global processes and regional contexts. Anthropology students develop critical skills for working across cultures, analyzing complex problems, and crafting equitable solutions. Graduates of the program have pursued careers in a wide range of fields, including law, education, international development, media, tourism, and community organizing, as well as graduate work in the social sciences, business, public health, medicine, and international relations.

Many Anthropology students complete a study-abroad experience during their sophomore or junior years, while others explore a variety of U.S.-based internships and summer research opportunities that embrace pluralistic perspectives. Students should consult with the Academic Program Manager, Dr. Alexandra Garnhart-Bushakra, about new courses and study abroad courses that may be approved for the Anthropology major.

Our faculty's expertise in anthropology, history, and environmental studies enables students to develop a rich, multidisciplinary understanding of global issues and concerns (such as, climate change and the environment; inequality; migration; social and political movements; imperial legacies and contemporary politics; art, language, culture, and globalization).

Anthropology may be elected as a **primary** or an **additional** major; the requirements for each are the same.

Curriculum

There are two required courses for the major: Introduction to Anthropology (79-201), and Advanced Seminar in Anthropology (79-400). In addition to these two courses, majors must also complete 18 units under Topics and Methods in Anthropology, 27 units of Transnational, Global, and Regional Courses, and finally 27 units of electives.

Students may "double-count" a maximum of four courses for the Anthropology major that are used to fulfill the requirements of other majors and programs. (Note that some of the courses may have prerequisites established by the departments offering them. Students should consult with the academic advisor about how such prerequisites may affect their course of study.)

The Major in Anthropology 93 units

I. Anthropology Introductory Course 9 units

Students must earn a final grade of "C" or better for the course to count toward the major.

	Units
79-201 Introduction to Anthropology	9

II. Topics and Methods in Anthropology 18 units

To gain a solid foundation in the theories and analytical topics underpinning the B.A. in Anthropology, students select 18 units (typically two courses). Students must earn a final grade of "C" or better in these courses to fulfill the Topics and Methods in Anthropology core course requirement.

79-275	Introduction to Global Studies	9
79-278	How (Not) to Change the World	9
79-283	Anthropology of Energy	9
79-314	How Do We Remember? The Politics and Cultures of Memory	9
79-315	The Politics of Water in Global Perspective	9
79-317	Art, Anthropology, and Empire	9
79-318	Sustainable Social Change: History and Practice	9
79-332	Medical Anthropology	9
79-379	Experimental Ethnography	9
79-380	Hostile Environments: The Politics of Pollution in Global Perspective	9
79-381	The Multispecies City: Anthropology of Urban Environments	9

III. Transnational, Global, and Regional Courses 27 units

To gain insight into how complex transnational and global processes shape and are affected by local, national, and regional dynamics, students will select 27 units (typically three courses). Furthermore, specific Category II courses--such as Introduction to Global Studies (79-275)--listed above that are not used to fulfill those requirements may be counted as towards the required 27 units of Transnational, Global, and Regional Courses, by permission of the Director of Undergraduate Studies, Professor Ricky Law.

Transnational and Global Courses

79-153	Ancient Rome: How Often Should You Think About It?	9
79-221	From Compton to Kabul: Sound, Power, and Global History	9
79-237	Comparative Slavery	9
79-239	Theories of Nationalism	9
79-270	Anti-Semitism Then and Now: Perspectives from the Middle Ages to the Present	9
79-273	Jews & Arabs: From the Time of Muhammad to the Present	9
79-276	Beyond the Border	9
79-280	Coffee and Capitalism	9
79-289	Animal Planet: An Environmental History of People and Animals	9
79-305	Global Perspectives in LGBTQ+ History	9
79-313	"Unwanted": Refugees, Asylum Seekers, and Patterns of Global Migration	6
79-333	African Americans, Race, and the Fight for Reparations	9
79-350	Early Christianity	9
79-368	Un-natural Disasters: Societies and Environmental Hazards in Global Perspective	6
79-377	Food, Culture, and Power: A History of Eating	9
79-385	Out of Africa: The Making of the African Diaspora	9

Regional Courses

Africa:		
79-225	West African History in Film	9
79-226	African History: Earliest Times to 1780	9
79-227	Modern Africa: The Slave Trade to the End of Apartheid	9
79-290	The Slave Passage: From West Africa to the Americas	9
Eastern and Southern Asia and the Pacific:		
79-112	Introduction to Asian American History	9
79-207	Asian American History through the Novel	9
79-210	Identity, Ethnicity, and Place in Modern China	9
79-211	Modern Southeast Asia: Colonialism, Capitalism, and Cultural Exchange	9
79-264	Tibet and China: History and Propaganda	9
79-292	China and the West	9

Europe:

79-110	Introduction to the Medieval Mediterranean World	9
79-122	Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations	9
79-202	Flesh and Spirit: Early Modern Europe, 1400-1750	9
79-203	The Other Europe: The Habsburgs, Communism, & Central/Eastern Europe, 1740-1990	9
79-205	20th Century Europe	9
79-208	Witchcraft and Witch-Hunting	9
79-246	War, Genocide, and Gender in Modern Europe	9
79-272	Coexistence and Conflict: Muslims, Christians and Jews in Spain and Portugal	9

The Middle East:

79-116	Introduction to the Modern Middle East	9
79-229	The Origins of the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict, 1880-1948	9
79-230	The Arab-Israeli Conflict and Peace Process Through 1948 to Present	9
82-215	Minorities in the Middle East and North Africa	9

The Americas:

79-174	Introduction to Latin America	9
79-223	Mexico: From the Aztec Empire to the Drug War	9
79-245	Capitalism and Individualism in American Culture	9
79-288	Bananas, Baseball, and Borders: Latin America and the United States	9

IV. Elective Courses

27 units

Please schedule an appointment with the Academic Advisor, Beth Jameson, for guidance in selecting appropriate thematic and region-based courses that satisfy Anthropology degree requirements.

Students are required to take an additional 27 units of elective courses, selected from one or both of the subcategories below. In addition, Category III and IV courses listed above that are not used to fulfill those requirements may be counted as electives in addition to the courses listed below. Students should consult each semester with the Academic Advisor, Beth Jameson, about new courses approved for the Anthropology major.

Please consult the full list of available history courses within the Undergraduate Course Catalog.

Thematic Elective Courses

57-306	World Music	9
66-236	Introduction to Environmental Ideas	9
76-241	Introduction to Gender Studies	9
76-337	Intersectional Feminism	9
76-353	Transnational Feminisms: Fiction and Film	9
76-384	Race, Nation, and the Enemy	9
76-386	Language & Culture	9
79-101	Making History: How to Think About the Past (and Present)	9
79-150	Medieval Science, Magic, and Wonders of Nature	9
79-155	Introduction to African American Studies	9
79-170	Introduction to Science, Technology, and Society	9
79-204	American Environmental History	9
79-256	Introduction to Masculinity Studies	9
79-281	Introduction to Religion	9
79-304	History of Eugenics and Scientific Racism	9
79-316	Photography, the First 100 Years, 1839-1939	9
79-321	Documenting Human Rights	9
79-329	Introduction to Queer Studies	9
79-330	Medicine and Society: Health, Healers, and Hospitals	9
79-343	Education, Democracy, and the Arts	9
79-357	Science and the Body	6
80-244	Environmental Ethics	9
80-335	Social and Political Philosophy	9
80-348	Health, Human Rights, and International Development	9
80-447	Seminar in Global Justice	9

Area-based Elective Courses

79-220	Screening Mexico: Mexican Cinema, 1898 to Present	9
79-257	Germany and the Second World War	9
79-262	Modern China: From the Birth of Mao ... to Now	9
79-265	Russian History: Game of Thrones	9
79-266	Russian History and Revolutionary Socialism	9
79-267	The Soviet Union in World War II: Military, Political, and Social History	9
79-269	Russian History: From Socialism to Capitalism	9
79-319	India Through Film	9
79-320	Women, Politics, and Protest	9
79-322	Stalin and the Great Terror	9
79-331	Body Politics: Women and Health in America	9
82-428	History of German Film	Var.

V. Senior Capstone Course

12 units

The advanced seminar or “capstone” explores the vital role that historians, anthropologists, and other critical humanists play in facing the challenges of the twenty-first century. Guided by the instructor, students engage closely with a range of thought-provoking texts, compose critical reflections, and participate in deep discussions. The topic of the seminar varies year to year, at the discretion of the instructor, as do the disciplines and methods represented in the texts. What remains constant is a shared curiosity about the world in all its complexity, uncertainty, and potential. Students must earn a final grade of “C” or better for the course to count toward the major.

79-400	Advanced Seminar in Anthropology	12
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Sample Curriculum

This sample curriculum presents a course of study for completing the requirements for the Anthropology major that includes an optional study abroad semester. Students may declare the Anthropology major and take required courses as early as the second semester of their first year and as late as the junior year.

First-Year		Second-Year	
Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
79-201 Introduction to Anthropology	79-275 Introduction to Global Studies	ANTHRO Topics and Methods Course	ANTHRO Topics and Methods Course
First-Year Writing Requirement	Language Course or Gen Ed	ANTHRO Transnational, Global, Regional Course	ANTHRO Transnational, Global, Regional Course
Grand Challenge Seminar	36-200 Reasoning with Data	Language Course or Gen Ed	Language Course or Gen Ed
Language Course or Elective	Fourth Course (open)	General Education Course	General Education Course
Fifth Course (open)	Fifth Course (open)	Fifth Course (open)	Fifth Course (open)
99-101 Core@CMU			

Third-Year		Fourth-Year	
Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
ANTHRO Transnational, Global, Regional Course	STUDY ABROAD*	79-400 Advanced Seminar in Anthropology	Language Course or Elective
ANTHRO Elective	ANTHRO Elective	Language Course or Elective	Elective**
Language Course or Gen Ed	ANTHRO Elective	Elective**	Third Course (open)
Fourth Course (open)	Language Course or Gen Ed	Fourth Course (open)	Fourth Course (open)
Fifth Course (open)	Fourth Course (open)	Fifth Course (open)	Fifth Course (open)
	Fifth Course (open)		

* Spring semester of the junior year is a popular semester for study abroad. However, Anthropology majors may instead choose to study abroad in spring of sophomore year, or fall of junior year. Students should discuss study abroad and curricular planning with the Academic Program Manager, Dr. Alexandra Garnhart-Bushakra, History Department, Baker Hall 240G. Study Abroad in a summer program is also an option.

**Many Anthropology majors choose to apply for the senior honors thesis program. The department strongly encourages students to take advantage of this option.

VI. Anthropology Internship		3-9 units
79-506	Global Studies Internship	3-9

The Anthropology program strongly encourages students to locate internship opportunities in Pittsburgh or elsewhere that complement their historical interests (as, for example, in a museum or archaeological fieldwork) or in areas of policy research that complement their anthropological interests (as, for example, in a government agency or non-profit organization). The Academic Program Manager, Dr. Alexandra Garnhart-Bushakra, will assist students with matching their interests to local organizations. Anthropology students can earn up to 9 units in each internship. Up to 9 anthropology internship credits may count toward fulfillment of elective course requirements for the Anthropology major.

VII. Additional Major

Anthropology may be elected as a primary or an additional major; the requirements for each are the same. Contact the Academic Advisor, Beth Jameson, History Department, Baker Hall 240A, to elect the additional major.