

ANTHROPOLOGY (BA)

Department of Anthropology Website (<http://as.nyu.edu/anthropology/>)

NYSED: 08405 HEGIS: 2202.00 CIP: 45.0201

Program Description

The Department of Anthropology is one of the country's leading graduate and undergraduate centers for cultural anthropology, archaeology, linguistic anthropology, and biological anthropology—the four principal subfields studied in the undergraduate curriculum. The department considers its greatest assets to be the various individual areas of faculty expertise: archaeological specialties such as medieval archaeology and European, Near Eastern, and South Asian prehistory; biological anthropology areas such as molecular primatology, primate behavioral ecology, and paleoanthropology; linguistic anthropology foci such as discourse analysis and language socialization; and sociocultural anthropology specialties such as the ethnography of North America, Africa, India, China, the Near and Middle East, Russia and the former Soviet Union, the Caribbean, Latin America, Europe, Australia, and the South Pacific. Major theoretical emphasis is on the systems of thought and symbolic representation of the self and society; the relation between female and male domains of interaction; changing patterns of social organization and hierarchy within small-scale societies, urban settings, and bureaucratic institutions; medical anthropology; evolutionary approaches to the study of primate and human origins; religion; art; science studies; race and ethnicity; and the problem of ethnographic representation in film and other media.

Departmental resources include an extensive film and video collection as well as teaching and research labs for archaeology, linguistic anthropology, and biological anthropology, which can be used for research by advanced undergraduates. A departmental colloquium series and an undergraduate student association welcome undergraduate participation. The department participates in the University's Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies, the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, the Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia, the Institute for French Studies, the Center for Religion and Media, the Center for the Study of Human Origins, the Institute for Study of the Ancient World, the Program in Museum Studies, and the Center for Media, Culture, and History.

Formal and informal cooperative arrangements with museums, zoos, and other academic institutions in the greater New York City area place at students' disposal a group of anthropological scholars, materials, and resources unparalleled in the country.

Honors Program

A degree in Anthropology is awarded with honors to selected Anthropology majors who apply for admission to the program through the DUS during their junior year. Honors program candidates are expected to meet all the requirements for the program and to maintain a grade point average of 3.65, both overall and in the major. Candidates for the honors program must complete a total of ten 4-credit courses (40 credits) in anthropology, which is 4 credits more than the standard major. These include the two-semester research/thesis writing sequence taken in the candidate's senior year—ANTH-UA 901 Honors Research I and ANTH-UA 902 Honors Research II—plus at least one graduate course, typically taken in the junior or senior year. These courses all count toward the

major. In both semesters of the candidate's senior year, students must also enroll in a 2-credit independent study with their thesis advisor.

In the spring semester of the junior year, students will secure a faculty supervisor for their honors thesis (in January of the senior year, the student will also choose a second faculty reader in consultation with their thesis supervisor). In the fall semester of the senior year, all thesis writers from across departmental subdisciplines enroll in ANTH-UA 901 Honors Research I, a 2-credit seminar course in which research methods are taught and individualized to fit each student's topic—e.g., assembling a bibliography; constructing hypotheses; using secondary, primary, and occasionally original sources to generate data; and analyzing data. In the spring semester, all thesis writers enroll in ANTH-UA 902 Honors Research II, a 2-credit seminar course in which students share their developing theses with the group. Honors candidates are strongly encouraged to formally present posters/papers at the Dean's Undergraduate Research Conference and within the department. Feedback will be offered at different stages by both faculty and student peers in the seminar. It is the responsibility of the thesis writer to consult with his or her departmental faculty adviser who is supervising the honors project and who will serve as the primary thesis reader.

Admissions

New York University's Office of Undergraduate Admissions supports the application process for all undergraduate programs at NYU. For additional information about undergraduate admissions, including application requirements, see How to Apply (<https://www.nyu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/how-to-apply.html>).

Program Requirements

The major in Anthropology consists of nine 4-credit courses (36 credits) completed with a grade of C or better (courses graded Pass/Fail do not count) as outlined below.

Course	Title	Credits
General Education Requirements		
First-Year Seminar		4
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing as Inquiry	4
Foreign Language ¹		16
Quantitative Reasoning		4
Physical Science		4
Texts and Ideas		4
Cultures and Contexts		4
Expressive Culture		4
Major Requirements		
<i>Introductory Courses</i>		
ANTH-UA 1	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology ²	4
ANTH-UA 2	Introduction to Biological Anthropology ³	4
ANTH-UA 3	Introduction to Archaeology	4
ANTH-UA 4	Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology ⁴	4
Electives		
Major Electives (select 5 Anthropology elective courses) ⁵		20
Other Elective Credits		48
Total Credits		128

¹ The foreign language requirement is satisfied upon successful completion through the Intermediate level of a language. This may be

accomplished in fewer than 16 credits, but those credits must then be completed as elective credit.

² Formerly Culture, Power, Society.

³ Formerly Human Evolution.

⁴ Formerly Language, Culture, and Society (ANTH-UA 17).

⁵ The remaining elective courses for the major (five courses/20 credits) may be selected from any subfield of anthropology. Students must take at least five courses in the Department of Anthropology and are not required to focus on any one of the subfields of anthropology represented in the department.

Independent Study

Students must obtain permission from the director of undergraduate (DUS) studies to register for our independent study courses (2 or 4 credits per term; 6 or 8 credits may be appropriate in exceptional cases). Independent study is an opportunity for students to work closely with a faculty advisor on a project related to their area of study. Students must choose a member of the faculty in their area of study with whom they have taken at least one anthropology course. To enroll, students must have their faculty advisor and the Director of Undergraduate Studies sign off on the *Petition to Enroll in an Independent Study* form—available on the department’s website—and then submit it to the undergraduate administrative aide, who can assist with registration.

Independent study units can be applied toward the major and minor in anthropology and can fulfill one of the student’s elective requirements, provided that the student earns a grade of at least C. A maximum of 8 credits of independent study can be applied to the 36 credits required for the major in anthropology, and a maximum of 4 credits of independent study can be applied to the 16 credits required for the minor.

Internships

Only Anthropology majors who have the permission of the director of undergraduate studies may register for the internship courses ANTH-UA 903 or 904 (2 or 4 credits per term). In total, internships and independent studies can amount to no more than 8 credits towards the major. Internships are opportunities for students to gain practical work experience relevant to anthropology and are sponsored by selected institutions, agencies, and research laboratories. Internships are negotiated between the student, the internship sponsor, and a faculty member in anthropology who will supervise the internship. The expected time commitment for internships is 4 to 5 hours per week for 4 credits.

Sample Plan of Study

Course	Title	Credits
1st Semester/Term		
ANTH-UA 1	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	4
Foreign Language I		4
Texts and Ideas		4
First-Year Seminar		4
Credits		16
2nd Semester/Term		
ANTH-UA 2	Introduction to Biological Anthropology	4
Foreign Language II		4
Cultures and Contexts		4
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing as Inquiry	4
Credits		16
3rd Semester/Term		
ANTH-UA 3	Introduction to Archaeology	4
Foreign Language III		4

Physical Science		4
Quantitative Reasoning		4
	Credits	16
4th Semester/Term		
ANTH-UA 4	Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology (Formerly ANTH-UA 17)	4
Major Elective (1 of 5)		4
Foreign Language IV		4
Expressive Culture		4
	Credits	16
5th Semester/Term		
Major Elective (2 of 5)		4
Major Elective (3 of 5)		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Other Elective Credits		4
	Credits	16
6th Semester/Term		
Major Elective (4 of 5)		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Other Elective Credits		4
	Credits	16
7th Semester/Term		
Major Elective (5 of 5)		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Other Elective Credits		4
	Credits	16
8th Semester/Term		
Other Elective Credits		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Other Elective Credits		4
	Credits	16
	Total Credits	128

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of program requirements, students are expected to have developed:

1. An understanding of all four sub-fields of anthropology (sociocultural anthropology, linguistic anthropology, biological anthropology, and anthropological archaeology), including their goals and methods of study.
2. Experience with the basic laboratory methods and techniques used in biological anthropology and anthropological archaeology.
3. The ability to conduct independent research using anthropological methods such as archival research, excavation, laboratory studies, ethnographic research, library research, museum studies, and appropriate technologies.
4. Effective written and oral communication skills.
5. An understanding of the ways in which an anthropological perspective can be applied to contemporary issues such as climate change, human rights, and the role of the media in modern society.

Policies

Program Policies

Double Counting Courses

Majors may share (double count) two courses with a second major (or a minor) with permission from the other department/program.

Transfer Courses

If the College of Arts and Science accepts transfer of credits for an anthropology course(s) taken at another university, students may petition to apply the equivalent of no more than two courses (8 credits) toward the major. Students must present the Director of Undergraduate Studies with a copy of the syllabus and reading list for each course. The Department's Undergraduate Curriculum Committee will then review the course and decide if it is appropriate to count toward the major. For all students, at least five of the nine anthropology courses for the major must be taken within the department.

Grading

In order to count a course towards the major or minor, students must receive a minimum grade of C. Pass/Fail courses do not count.

NYU Policies

University-wide policies can be found on the New York University Policy pages (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/nyu/policies/>).

College of Arts and Science Policies

A full list of relevant academic policies can be found on the CAS Academic Policies page (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/undergraduate/arts-science/academic-policies/>).