

# 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 area place at students' disposal a group of anthropological scholars, materials, and resources unparalleled in the country.

## Fields of Inquiry

### Sociocultural Anthropology

This field is the study of social organization and the systems of thought and values that both reflect and inform social practice in different cultures. Sociocultural anthropology is interdisciplinary in orientation, analyzing and synthesizing religious, artistic, economic, and political practices through the common medium of culture. Traditionally, cultural anthropology emphasized the study of small-scale societies in non-Western settings. Contemporary sociocultural anthropology maintains such interests but increasingly applies its insights and methods to urban and industrialized societies and attends more closely to the production of culture. An emphasis of the department is the ethnographic study of cultural, social, and political processes that shape our lives and those

of other people, especially as we are drawn together and influence one another in increasingly transnational and global interactions.

### Linguistic Anthropology

This field focuses on how language is interpreted and used in cultural contexts. Language use is socially organized, and it is a key to understanding the ways in which speakers create and change social realities. Studied within historical as well as cultural frameworks and in relation to other social institutions (e.g., politics, education, law, medicine), variation in ways of speaking language(s) adds to our understanding of how social categories such as ethnicity, race, and gender are interactionally constituted across contexts, cultures, and societies.

### Archaeological Anthropology

This field uses artifacts and other material remains to understand human culture. It attempts to breathe life into a material record that at first glance appears static and fragmentary. The research interests of anthropological archaeologists range from the earliest production of durable tools 3.3 million years ago to the refuse currently being generated by modern cities. All aspects of past human existence, including art, technology, religion, gender, economic and social organization, and food-getting strategies, are addressed by researchers in anthropological archaeology.

### Biological Anthropology

This field encompasses the study of human and nonhuman primate biological diversity and includes the anatomy, genetics, behavior, ecology, and evolution of humans and other primates. It is linked to the other subfields of anthropology by its commitment to the study of human biology, behavior, and evolution within the context of culture, society, and ecology. Close ties with the American Museum of Natural History and the Wildlife Conservation Society at the Bronx Zoo facilitate the department's diverse research interests in biological anthropology.

## Departmental Objectives

Anthropology courses contribute to undergraduate education in two ways. First, the scope of the discipline's interests bridges the humanities, the social sciences, and the natural sciences. Anthropology asks basic questions concerning the origins and development of humans and their cultures and divergent systems of thought, belief, and social order. By systematically analyzing various cultural traditions—contemporary as well as historically known—anthropology raises critical questions concerning the foundations of world civilizations. An understanding of the distinctive way anthropology formulates and attempts to answer its basic questions is a necessary component of a comprehensive liberal arts education.

Second, the department offers concentrated programs of study for the minor, major, or honors student. A minor usually emphasizes one of the four subdisciplines, although students are free to select courses from across the subfields. For the major, the department encourages study in all of the subdisciplines, because each supplements and complements the others in presenting humans as both biological and social beings. The honors program includes in-depth research and writing in an aspect of sociocultural, linguistic, archaeological, or biological anthropology, as well as the pursuit of additional advanced course work at the senior undergraduate and graduate level. The department also participates in the interdisciplinary minor in archaeology.

The director of undergraduate studies (DUS) works closely with anthropology majors and minors in designing programs of study that integrate their individual goals with the offerings and intellectual goals of the department and complementary disciplines. Majors should meet with the DUS at least once per semester, typically just prior to registration for the next semester, to discuss their progress through the program, decide on future course work, and discuss post-graduation plans.

The department prides itself on its graduate and undergraduate programs' integrated nature, which enables major, minor, and honors students to participate in a variety of challenging graduate courses and seminars. Additionally, an active Anthropology Undergraduate Student Association (AUSA) connects students to one another through special events and an e-mail forum.

## 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 an overall grade point average of 3.65 and an average of 3.65 in the major. Candidates for the honors program must complete a total of ten 4-credit courses (40 credits) in anthropology, including the two-semester research/thesis writing sequence, ANTH-UA 950 Honors Research I and ANTH-UA 951 Honors Research II taken in the senior year, plus at least one graduate course, typically taken in the junior or senior year. All of these courses count toward the major.

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 choose a second faculty reader in consultation with the thesis supervisor). In the fall semester of the senior year, all thesis writers from across departmental subdisciplines enroll in ANTH-UA 950 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 951 Honors Research II, a 2-credit seminar course in which students share their developing theses with the group. Students should also enroll in a 2-credit independent study with their thesis adviser. 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. In both semesters, it is the responsibility of the thesis writer to consult with his or her departmental faculty mentor 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

Course	Title	Credits
<b>General Education Requirements</b>		
First-Year Seminar		4

EXPOS-UA 1	Writing The Essay:	4
Foreign Language <sup>1</sup>		16
Quantitative Reasoning		4
Physical Science		4
Texts and Ideas		4
Cultures and Contexts		4
Expressive Culture		4
<b>Major Requirements</b>		
<i>Introductory Courses</i>		
ANTH-UA 1	Culture, Power, Society	4
ANTH-UA 2	Human Evolution	4
ANTH-UA 3	Introduction to Archaeology	4
ANTH-UA 17	Language, Culture, and Society (offered only in the spring semester)	4
<b>Electives</b>		
Major Electives (select 5 Anthropology elective courses) <sup>2</sup>		20
Other Elective Credits		48
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>128</b>

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

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 from the Department of Anthropology at New York University in order to receive a major in anthropology from NYU, and a grade of C or better is required in every course to be counted toward the major. Students are not required to focus on any one of the subfields of anthropology represented in the department, but rather are free to choose elective courses that accommodate their interests as narrowly or broadly as they see fit, in consultation with the DUS. Internships approved by the DUS are encouraged, but internship credits may not be applied toward the major. Independent study courses, conducted under the supervision of a departmental faculty member, are also encouraged and can be applied toward the major, up to a limit of 8 credits. Majors should consult regularly with the DUS in order to take full advantage of the seminars and research opportunities open to them.

## Independent Study

Students must obtain permission from the director of undergraduate studies to register for the independent study courses ANTH-UA 997 or 998 (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 adviser 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. After securing approval from a faculty member in writing, the student should see the director of undergraduate studies (DUS) in order to register for an independent study course.

It is imperative that students meet on a regular basis with their faculty adviser throughout the semester in which they are doing the independent study. Upon completion of the independent study, the faculty adviser

must present written proof that the student has completed all course work for the study to the DUS, along with the student's final grade.

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 980 or 981 (2 or 4 credits per term). Internship credits cannot be applied toward 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 8 hours per week for 4 credits.

On the internship form, which is available in the department office, the student will describe the intended internship, indicating how it is relevant to his/her academic training in anthropology. The statement should also include an outline of the professional and educational duties and responsibilities of the student intern. The student, the department faculty, and the internship site sponsor will each sign the form, which the student will return to the department.

The student will submit weekly or other periodic reports to her/his anthropology faculty supervisor describing the internship's activities and what she/he has learned. These reports will serve as self-assessments of the professional and educational component of the internship, and will contribute to the student's final grade.

At the end of the internship period, the internship site sponsor will provide the anthropology faculty supervisor with a written account of the student's activities, responsibilities, number of hours per week spent on the internship, and a brief report describing and assessing the student intern's work, which will contribute to the student's final grade. The student's final grade will be determined and submitted by the department faculty supervisor.

## Sample Plan of Study

Course	Title	Credits
<b>1st Semester/Term</b>		
ANTH-UA 1	Culture, Power, Society	4
Foreign Language I		4
Texts and Ideas		4
First-Year Seminar		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>2nd Semester/Term</b>		
ANTH-UA 2	Human Evolution	4
Foreign Language II		4
Cultures and Contexts		4
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing The Essay:	4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>3rd Semester/Term</b>		
ANTH-UA 3	Introduction to Archaeology	4
Foreign Language III		4
Physical Science		4

Quantitative Reasoning		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>4th Semester/Term</b>		
ANTH-UA 17	Language, Culture, and Society	4
Major Elective (#1 of 5)		4
Foreign Language IV		4
Expressive Culture		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>5th Semester/Term</b>		
Major Elective (#2 of 5)		4
Major Elective (#3 of 5)		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Other Elective Credits		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>6th Semester/Term</b>		
Major Elective (#4 of 5)		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Other Elective Credits		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>7th Semester/Term</b>		
Major Elective (#5 of 5)		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Other Elective Credits		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>8th Semester/Term</b>		
Other Elective Credits		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Other Elective Credits		4
<b>Credits</b>		<b>16</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>128</b>

## 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 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/>).