

# ANTHROPOLOGY AND LINGUISTICS (BA)

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

NYSED: 19711 HEGIS: 4903.00 CIP: 24.0103

## Program Description

### Anthropology

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.

### Linguistics

Linguistics is the science of human language. It seeks to determine that which is necessary in human language, that which is possible, and that which is impossible. While linguists work to determine the unique qualities of individual languages, they are constantly searching for linguistic universals—properties whose explanatory power reaches across languages. The discipline of linguistics is organized around syntax (the principles by which sentences are organized), morphology (the principles by which words are constructed), semantics (the study of meaning), phonetics (the study of speech sounds), phonology (the sound patterns of language), historical linguistics (the ways in which languages change over time), sociolinguistics (the interaction of language with society), psycholinguistics, and neurolinguistics (the representation of language in the brain). Current research by faculty members extends across the field, including topics in the interaction of syntax and semantics, phonetics and phonology, languages in contact, pidgin and creole languages, urban sociolinguistics, and computer analogies of syntactic processes.

## Joint Honors

Joint majors with a minimum major and overall GPA of 3.65 are encouraged to complete their honors thesis in either the Department of Anthropology or the Department of Linguistics. This choice should be outlined in a two-page proposal submitted by April 15 of junior year via this form (<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe8qx-YoX2mPlwZLcrSL4Vz2-DfZHWF8xKjOPdzekoxZuCpGw/viewform/>). All prospective honors students in this major must consult with both departments' directors of undergraduate studies to confirm

eligibility. Students pursuing honors through the anthropology track must also complete the Petition to Enroll in Honors Program form, which is available on the Department of Anthropology's website. This form must be approved before a student may pursue the honors track in anthropology.

### Anthropology Honors Track

Students whose primary adviser and thesis research are in anthropology must complete the 4-credit Anthropology Honors Research I and II (ANTH-UA 901 & 902; 2 credits each) sequence, two 2-credit independent study courses in anthropology, and one graduate-level anthropology course, approved by the student's adviser. The graduate course may be counted as one major elective, as can the two combined independent study courses, but ANTH-UA 901 and 902 cannot. These 4 credits are in addition to the 40 credits required for the major. In addition to coursework, students must complete a senior honors thesis based on original research, developed under the supervision of a faculty advisor. The thesis is completed as part of the honors seminar and independent study sequence.

### Linguistics Honors Track

Students whose primary adviser and thesis research are in linguistics must complete the Senior Honors Thesis Seminar (LING-UA 102) in the fall, plus one other advanced undergraduate course, or graduate course, or independent study course, chosen in consultation with their thesis adviser (8 credits total). The Senior Honors Thesis Seminar and the additional course chosen with the student's adviser may be counted as advanced electives.

Students in this track must complete a 40-50 page thesis covering their own original research, which is developed over two semesters and due by April 1 of their senior year. This thesis must be presented either at an oral conference presentation of research or private defense/discussion with their thesis adviser and second 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 joint major in anthropology and linguistics consists of five 4-credit courses (20 credits) in the Department of Anthropology and another five 4-credit courses (20 credits) in the Department of Linguistics (all completed with a grade of C or better; courses graded Pass/Fail do not count) as outlined below.

Course	Title	Credits
<b>General Education Requirements</b>		
First-Year Seminar		4
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing as Inquiry	4
Foreign Language <sup>1</sup>		16
Quantitative Reasoning		4
Physical Science		4
Life Science		4
Texts and Ideas		4
Cultures and Contexts		4

Expressive Culture	4
<b>Anthropology Courses</b>	
ANTH-UA 1 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology <sup>2</sup>	4
ANTH-UA 4 Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology <sup>3</sup>	4
ANTH-UA 106 Language, Power, Identity (Formerly ANTH-UA 16)	4
Select two other cultural or linguistic anthropology courses approved by the Department of Anthropology's DUS	8
<b>Linguistics Courses</b>	
LING-UA 1 Language	4
LING-UA 15 Language & Society	4
Select two of the following:	8
LING-UA 9 Indigenous Languages of the Americas	
LING-UA 14 Language Change	
LING-UA 18 Bilingualism	
LING-UA 21 Sex, Gender, & Language	
LING-UA 23 African American Vernacular English	
LING-UA 30 Language in Latin America	
Select one additional course in linguistics <sup>4</sup>	4
<b>Electives</b>	
Other Elective Credits	40
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>128</b>

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Formerly Culture, Power, Society.

<sup>3</sup> Formerly Language, Culture, and Society (ANTH-UA 17).

<sup>4</sup> The fifth course in linguistics may be an additional course from the above list or another course that the department offers, chosen in consultation with the DUS in the Department of Linguistics.

## Sample Plan of Study

Course	Title	Credits
<b>1st Semester/Term</b>		
ANTH-UA 1	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	4
Foreign Language I		4
First-Year Seminar		4
Texts and Ideas		4
	<b>Credits</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>2nd Semester/Term</b>		
LING-UA 1	Language	4
Foreign Language II		4
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing as Inquiry	4
Cultures and Contexts		4
	<b>Credits</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>3rd Semester/Term</b>		
ANTH-UA 4	Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology	4
LING-UA 15	Language & Society	4
Foreign Language III		4
Quantitative Reasoning		4
	<b>Credits</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>4th Semester/Term</b>		
ANTH-UA 106	Language, Power, Identity	4
Linguistics Major Elective (1 of 3) <sup>2</sup>		4
Foreign Language IV		4

Expressive Culture	4
<b>Credits</b>	
<b>5th Semester/Term</b>	
Anthropology Major Elective (1 of 2) <sup>1</sup>	4
Linguistics Major Elective (2 of 3) <sup>2</sup>	4
Physical Science	4
Other Elective Credits	4
	<b>Credits</b>
<b>6th Semester/Term</b>	
Anthropology Major Elective (2 of 2) <sup>1</sup>	4
Linguistics Major Elective (3 of 3)	4
Life Science	4
Other Elective Credits	4
	<b>Credits</b>
<b>7th Semester/Term</b>	
Other Elective Credits	4
	<b>Credits</b>
<b>8th Semester/Term</b>	
Other Elective Credits	4
	<b>Credits</b>
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>128</b>

<sup>1</sup> Cultural or Linguistic Anthropology.

<sup>2</sup> Chosen from:

- LING-UA 9 Indigenous Languages of the Americas
- LING-UA 14 Language Change
- LING-UA 18 Bilingualism
- LING-UA 21 Sex, Gender, & Language
- LING-UA 23 African American Vernacular English
- LING-UA 30 Language in Latin America

## Learning Outcomes

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

1. An understanding of anthropological and linguistic approaches to the study of language and its role in society.
2. Knowledge of the methods that anthropologists and linguists use to study language and speech and their cultural context.
3. Effective written and oral communication skills.
4. The ability to conduct independent research based on library research and field techniques.

## Policies

### Program Policies

#### Double Counting of Courses

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

**Grading**

A minimum grade of C is required for any course to count toward this major. Pass/Fail courses may not be counted.

**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/>).