

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.

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.

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

For the requirements of joint honors in anthropology and linguistics, students should consult Professor Renée Blake.

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
General Education Requirements		
First-Year Seminar		4
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing The Essay:	4
Foreign Language ¹		16
Quantitative Reasoning		4
Physical Science		4
Life Science		4
Texts and Ideas		4
Cultures and Contexts		4
Expressive Culture		4
Anthropology Courses		
ANTH-UA 1	Culture, Power, Society	4
ANTH-UA 17	Language, Culture, and Society	4
ANTH-UA 16	Language, Power, Identity	4
Select two other cultural or linguistic anthropology courses approved by the Department of Anthropology's DUS		8
Linguistics Courses		
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 26		
LING-UA 30	Language in Latin America	
Select one additional course in linguistics ²		4
Electives		
Other Elective Credits		40
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

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
1st Semester/Term		
ANTH-UA 1	Culture, Power, Society	4
Foreign Language I		4
First-Year Seminar		4
Texts and Ideas		4
Credits		16
2nd Semester/Term		
LING-UA 1	Language	4
Foreign Language II		4
EXPOS-UA 1	Writing The Essay:	4
Cultures and Contexts		4
Credits		16
3rd Semester/Term		
ANTH-UA 16	Language, Power, Identity	4
LING-UA 15	Language & Society	4
Foreign Language III		4
Quantitative Reasoning		4
Credits		16
4th Semester/Term		
ANTH-UA 17	Language, Culture, and Society	4
Linguistics Major Elective (#1 of 3) ²		4
Foreign Language IV		4
Expressive Culture		4
Credits		16
5th Semester/Term		
Anthropology Major Elective (#1 of 2) ¹		4
Linguistics Major Elective (#2 of 3) ²		4
Physical Science		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Credits		16
6th Semester/Term		
Anthropology Major Elective (#2 of 2) ¹		4
Linguistics Major Elective (#3 of 3)		4
Life Science		4
Other Elective Credits		4
Credits		16
7th Semester/Term		
Other Elective Credits		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

1

Cultural or Linguistic Anthropology.

2

Chosen from: LING-UA 9 Indigenous Languages of the Americas, LING-UA 14, LING-UA 18, LING-UA 21, LING-UA 23, LING-UA 26, *or* LING-UA 30

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

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/>).