



ANTHROPOLOGY UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

THE STUDY OF HUMAN CULTURE, SOCIETY
AND DIFFERENCE

sydney.edu.au/arts/anthropology



WHY STUDY ANTHROPOLOGY?

Anthropology is the study of human culture, society, and difference. The discipline emerged in the twentieth century as a critical response to explanations of human difference in terms of 'race'. Although it shares much of its theory and method with Sociology and Cultural Studies, it remains distinct in its emphasis on comparison and human social diversity.

Anthropology's study of difference allows you to adopt discerning views on major issues in the world today. Once a study of small-scale societies, contemporary anthropology is concerned equally with the analysis of modern nation states and trans-national relations. This includes diverse ethnic and religious conflicts, gender relations in cultural context, migration and multicultural states, capitalism's impact on isolated groups, and the importance of indigenous peoples in national and international politics.

Anthropology is a comparative discipline. It begins from the shared human condition on which difference is built. It is vitally concerned with human cognition and communication, with religion, representation and performance and with the material bases of everyday social life.

Anthropology is, by definition, a critical discipline. You will discover that a genuine understanding of another culture requires an awareness that your own culture, and its 'taken for granted' attitudes, are only one possibility in the field of human diversity.

WHAT SKILLS CAN I DEVELOP STUDYING ANTHROPOLOGY?

When you study Anthropology, you will understand how terms like human nature, culture and humanity are related to particular ways of life in different societies.

You will also develop a better understanding of inter-cultural communication and cooperation. Students develop a critical awareness of diversity as well as the ability to be at home in a global world. This also enhances your ability to read, think and write critically; to identify and develop a logical argument; and to conduct library and field-based research skills to take you into both familiar and new international milieux.

WHAT ARE THE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES?

An Arts degree with a major in Anthropology is especially recommended for:

- the diplomatic service, overseas aid projects or a variety of business or other organisations whose activities require an understanding of the cultures and social institutions of Australia's Asian and Pacific neighbours and other trading partners;
- divisions of the public service and non-government organisations directly concerned with the domestic public policy issues of multiculturalism, indigenous affairs and immigration;



- teachers of the HSC subject Society and Culture;
- situations in which employees and/or clients represent the diversity of Australia's ethnic composition. Demonstrable sensitivity to cultural difference can enhance one's employment prospects across a range of employment opportunities;
- good Honours and Masters graduates can negotiate consultancies pertaining to Indigenous Australians and overseas development work;
- the research and writing skills honed in Anthropology lend themselves to a variety of research-based work situations;
- for those who proceed to successful postgraduate research there is a chance to compete for academic positions in Australian and overseas universities and other tertiary institutions.

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

MAJOR IN ANTHROPOLOGY

The Anthropology major requires 36 credit points of senior Anthropology units.

UNDERGRADUATE UNITS MAY INCLUDE:

Junior units

- ANTH1001 Cultural Difference: An Introduction
- ANTH1002 Anthropology and the Global

Senior units

- ANTH2601 The Ethnography of Southeast Asia
- ANTH2605 Aboriginal Australia: Cultural Journeys
- ANTH2620 China: Contemporary Ethnographies
- ANTH2621 Initiation Rituals
- ANTH2623 Gender: Anthropological Studies
- ANTH2625 Culture and Development
- ANTH2627 Medical Anthropology
- ANTH2628 Migration and Migrant Cultures
- ANTH2629 Race and Ethnic Relations
- ANTH2631 Being There: Method in Anthropology
- ANTH2632 Anthropology of the Body
- ANTH2653 Economy and Culture
- ANTH2654 Forms of Families
- ANTH2655 The Social Production of Space
- ANTH2666 History of Anthropological Thought
- ANTH3601 Contemporary Theory and Anthropology
- ANTH3602 Reading Ethnography

CROSS-LISTED UNITS OF STUDY

Designated units of study taught by other departments in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences may be counted as part of a major in Anthropology. The list of cross listed units is available at sydney.edu.au/arts/current_students/undergrad/crosslisted.shtml

ANTHROPOLOGY HONOURS

Anthropology Honours is an intensive, whole-year program for students who have achieved at least a credit average or better in 48 senior credit points of Anthropology, including ANTH3601 and ANTH3602 Pre-Honours Seminars. It is an exciting experience for students to participate in self-directed research in a supervised setting. Your Honours research project may involve any combination of text-based or field research. In Semester 1, there are two seminar units which form part of an assessment for the Honours year. The thesis of 20,000 words is submitted towards the end of Semester 2.



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