

Anthropology

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Program Description

Anthropology is the study of human societies in all their diversity through time and around the world. It is a way to explore the richness and variety of humankind and the human condition, a means to look at what people and groups share in common and at what sets them apart.

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The anthropology [curriculum](#) at Gettysburg encompasses the four major branches of the discipline, with particular emphasis on cultural anthropology (contemporary human culture and society), archaeology (reconstruction of past human life through material remains), and physical anthropology (human evolution and physical variation). Study of the fourth branch, linguistic anthropology, is also an option. **Classes are discussion-based, lively, and interactive, with strong emphasis on critical thinking** and on the development of written and oral communication skills.

Anthropology majors have opportunities for [study abroad](#) and **fieldwork on five continents**. Students have studied saffron growers in Morocco and cultural tourism in Vietnam. Those interested in archaeology have attended archaeological field schools or volunteered with projects in the United States, Italy, Honduras, England, Macedonia, and South Africa. Many students choose to focus their study on a particular world area, such as Latin America, the Asia-Pacific region, Africa, or the Middle East. Many also choose to do anthropological research on a topic of interest to them. Recent [honors](#) research projects have been far ranging, exploring everything from the stigmatization of practitioners of the Caribbean Santeria religion to the subculture of ghost hunters searching for the spirits of Civil War-era Gettysburg.

Anthropology is an ideal field for those who are curious about the world and how people make their way in it. Students gain insight into how cultural frameworks shape our understanding of the world, which has implications for such current challenges as inequality, religious conflict, and globalization. The cultural awareness and sensitivity developed through the study of anthropology are assets in a wide range of workplace environments. Gettysburg graduates have gone on to work for service programs such as City Year, Teach for America, and the Peace Corps. They succeed in careers as professional anthropologists and in many other fields, including law, medicine, education, government, and the nonprofit sector.

Program Requirements

Requirements for the Anthropology Major

The Anthropology major consists of 5 required and 5 elective courses.

Core Courses - All students are required to take the following courses:

ANTH 103: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

ANTH 106: Introduction to Archaeology and Physical Anthropology

ANTH 300: History of Anthropological Theory

ANTH 323: Field Methods in Cultural Anthropology

ANTH 400: Capstone Experience in Anthropology

Students must earn a minimum of a C-minus in ANTH 103, 106, and 300. No course may be taken Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U).

Electives - The five electives may be chosen from 200- and 300-level [Anthropology courses](#).

At least one elective must be a 300-level course. Up to two courses taken while studying abroad may count as 200-level electives subject to departmental approval. 400-level courses (Individualized Study, including internships and tutorials) do not generally count as electives. No course may be taken Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U). An archaeological field school may count as an elective or may even substitute for Anth 323 (but not both), subject to departmental approval.

Requirements for the Anthropology Minor

The Anthropology minor consists of six courses:

Anth 103: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

Anth 106: Introduction to Archaeology and Physical Anthropology

Anth 300: History of Anthropological Theory

3 electives which may include 200- and 300-level [Anthropology courses](#), Anth 450 (Individualized Study).

One course taken while studying abroad may count as a 200-level elective for the minor subject to departmental approval.

Course Listing

Course level:

[100](#) | [200](#) | [300](#) | [400](#)

***ANTH-103* Introduction to Cultural Anthropology**

Comparative study of social practices and cultural systems, using a series of case studies of non-Western and Western cultures, including our own. Course gives overview of history of cultural anthropology, major questions and theoretical debates, fieldwork and research methods, and the relevance of anthropology to the modern world. No prerequisites.

ANTH-106 Introduction to Archaeology and Physical Anthropology

Study of how archaeologists and physical anthropologists reconstruct what people's lives were like in the past. Course uses case studies drawn from historical and ancient societies to examine how archaeology and physical anthropology contribute to anthropology's goal of understanding and comparing human behavior, religious beliefs, political structure, social organization, and economy. Students are introduced to the range of materials that archaeologists and physical anthropologists study, including burials, buildings, monumental art, trash, and texts; and to important theoretical concepts and methods. No prerequisites.

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ANTH-205 Primate Behavior & Human Origins

Introduction to the anthropological study of human origins. Course focuses on primatology (the study of monkeys and apes) and human paleontology (the study of the human and pre-human fossil record.) Topics include different explanations for the evolution of humans from prehuman ancestors; current debates, such as the relationship between humans and Neanderthals; and the role of culture in human evolution. Prerequisites: Anthropology 103 or 106.

ANTH-215 Ethnographic Film: Theory and Practice

Survey and overview of the use of film in anthropological analysis and documentation. Course includes viewing and analysis of films, digital video production, and the making of short ethnographic films. Explores historical and contemporary trends in ethnographic filmmaking as these relate to the concerns of anthropology, including technical limitations and ethical issues encountered by ethnographic filmmakers. This course involves reflexive writing and hands-on film production work. Prerequisites: Anthropology 103 or 106, or Film Studies 101.

ANTH-218 Islam and Women

Ethnographic look at the lived experiences of Muslim women. The course explores how these experiences are informed or mediated by religious texts and practices, as well as by political systems, ethnicity, sectarianism, class, family, migration, and other factors. A major focus is women's rights and how activists are shaping their discourses of rights through reinterpretation of Islamic texts and critiques of state governments and legal institutions. Prerequisite: Anthropology 103 or 106.

ANTH-220 World Cultures

Study of cultural patterns and social practices around the world, viewing them through the distinctive lens of cultural anthropology. Course looks at issues of culture contact, sociocultural change, and globalization of culture. No Prerequisites.

ANTH-221 Language and Culture

Introduction to the anthropological study of language and communicative behavior. The course compares human language with non-human primate communication; examines language acquisition among children; looks at ethnographies of communication from around the world; and explores linguistic relativity. In addition, the course touches on sociolinguistics to elucidate how communicative behavior varies within communities and nations according to age, gender, race, ethnicity, caste, and class. Students explore how languages change over time, and ask how people cope with linguistic difference during the contemporary era of globalization. Prerequisites: Anthropology 103 or 106.

ANTH-223 Indigenous Peoples, the Environment, and the Global Economy

Examination of the ways that indigenous peoples are integrated into the global economy and international environmental movements. Will focus on such topics as informal economies, transnational migration, off-shore factory production, eco-tourism, toxic dumping, interactions between Western environmentalists and indigenous peoples, and the effects of environmental degradation on non-Western societies. Will examine how global inequalities are solidified or destabilized by contemporary economic and environmental practices. Will also review the emerging activism of indigenous peoples. Prerequisites: Anthropology 103 or 106.

ANTH-225 Food, Culture, and Globalization

Study of food as a lens for understanding culture and globalization. The course considers religion, gender, ethnic identity, socioeconomic inequality, exchange, and nationalism through the study of the production and consumption of food in local and global settings. The course examines debates on the impact of globalization on local cultures through case studies of colonial food trades and contemporary global food industries. Prerequisites: Anthropology 103 or 106.

ANTH-226 Archaeology of the Body

Examination of archaeological and physical anthropological research on the human body. Course considers how such research is carried out, what it contributes to our understanding of prehistoric and ancient societies, and what are the ethical issues unique to the analysis of human remains. Prerequisites: Anthropology 103 or 106.

ANTH-227 Anthropology of Religion

Study of theories of religion and aspects of religious systems in cross-cultural perspective. Through ethnographic case studies of religious practices among indigenous peoples, the course explores debates in anthropology regarding the definition of religion. Other central themes include: the role of religious leaders and ritual practitioners, myth and ritual, politics and religion, gender and religion, religious movements, and the role of religion in sociocultural change. Prerequisites: Anthropology 103 or 106.

ANTH-228 Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Gender and Sex Roles

Examination of the social roles of women and men, the dynamics of sexual identity, and the ideologies of gender in various societies. Course explores broad theoretical issues (such as biological vs. cultural determinants; gender stratification and inequality; the effects of social, cultural, and economic variables), as well as a range of specific societal studies. Prerequisites: Anthropology 103 or 106.

ANTH-229 Tourism and Culture in China

Study of the literary and bodily encounters between places, people, capital, and cultures in the context of China's modernization and globalization. Students read historical and contemporary travel writings, view documentary films, and analyze ethnographically-based research to explore what happens on the meeting grounds between "hosts" and "guests" and how these encounters shape landscapes, nation building, ethnic identities, traditions, and gender and class boundaries. All readings are in English. Prerequisites: One of the following courses: Anthropology 103, Anthropology 106, History 103, History 110, Religion 101, or Visual Art History 131. Cross-listed with Asian Studies.

ANTH-231 Gender and Change in Africa and Afro-Latin America

An exploration of the diversity of women's familial, political, economic and social realities and experiences in West Africa and the African Diaspora in South America and the Caribbean. Particular attention is given to the processes by which indigenous West African gender and cultural patterns and their inherent power relations have shifted since pre-colonial times and across the Atlantic into the New World. Finally, the course examines the concept of Diaspora and theories relative to processes of cultural change, resistance, and retentions, as well as the role gender plays in these processes. No prerequisites. Anth 231, WGS 231 and LAS 231 are cross-listed.

ANTH-232 Precolumbian Civilizations of Mesoamerica

Introduction to the organization and development of Native American civilizations in Mexico and Central America. Evidence from archaeological and ethnographic research, Native texts and art, and Spanish

Colonial writings is used to study religious beliefs, sociopolitical organization, economic relationships, and intellectual achievements of such groups as the Olmec, Maya, and Aztecs. Period prior to the sixteenth-century Spanish conquest is emphasized, but modern indigenous cultures are also studied. Prerequisites: Anthropology 103 or 106, or Latin American Studies 140. Anth 232 and LAS 232 are cross-listed.

***ANTH-236* Precolumbian Civilizations of South America**

Introduction to the organization and development of Native American civilizations in South America. Evidence from archaeological and ethnographic research, Native texts and art, and Spanish Colonial writings is used to study religious beliefs, sociopolitical organization, economic relationships, and intellectual achievements of such groups as the Inka, Moche, and Chavin. Period prior to the sixteenth-century Spanish conquest is emphasized, but modern indigenous cultures are also studied. Prerequisites: Anthropology 103 or 106, or Latin American Studies 140. Anth 236 and LAS 236 are cross-listed.

***ANTH-239* African Modernities**

Study of contemporary African peoples and cultures based on anthropological readings, films, and novels. Course explores how global processes of colonialism, trade, and international development have influenced the lifestyles and social structures of different culture groups throughout the continent. Course examines, from an anthropological perspective, such contemporary topics as family life, gender and patriarchy, religion and the occult, ethnicity, migration, violence and war, child soldiers, youth crisis, environmental degradation, popular culture, informal economies, and emerging diseases. Prerequisites: Anthropology 103 or 106.

***ANTH-240* Modernity and Change in Asia/Pacific**

Examination of contemporary societies in Southeast Asia and the Pacific from an anthropological perspective. Focus is on current ethnographic writings about modernity and change among indigenous peoples. Major themes include migration and urbanization, transformations of gender and religion, ethnic conflict and violence, environmental change and environmental movements, and the effects of globalization at the local level. Prerequisites: Anthropology 103 or 106.

***ANTH-244* Anthropology and History of Tibet**

By adapting literatures on Tibet from the disciplines of anthropology and history, this interdisciplinary seminar introduces the ways in which “Tibet – as a unit of Asian/Area Studies” can be understood through the analytical lenses of (1) ethnicity, (2) civilization, and (3) geopolitics. The course is intended

to deepen students' appreciation of what Asian Studies as a discipline can do to comprehend the everlasting interconnections among the local, the regional, and the global. Prerequisites: Anth 103 or Hist 110 or permission of instructor. Anth 244 and AS 244 are cross-listed.

ANTH-245 Language, Culture, and Identity in the Middle East

Study of cultural variety in Middle East/North Africa region. The course introduces various ethnic and language groups as well as religious sects across national borders in the region. An understanding of the lived experiences of individuals and groups is encouraged through ethnographic readings. A major focus is how stereotypical notions of culture are deployed in political claims both within and concerning the region, including claims about group origins and homelands, women's rights, and political Islam.

Prerequisites: Anthropology 103 or 106.

ANTH-250 Topics in Anthropology

Exploration of a particular topic, chosen by a faculty member

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ANTH-300 History of Anthropological Theory

Analysis of the rise of anthropology and development of its major theoretical models. Course traces the precursors of anthropology, the emergence of the field of "anthropology" and its subdisciplines in the nineteenth century, the elaboration of the culture concept and fieldwork methods in the twentieth, and recent trends in post-colonial anthropology. Prerequisites: Anthropology 103 and 106.

ANTH-301 Social Life of Things

A cross-cultural exploration of how members of various societies, past and present, invest objects with symbolic meanings as they produce, utilize, and exchange them in everyday life. Drawing primarily on non-Western case studies, the course will integrate perspectives from studies of material culture in fields such as economic anthropology, archaeology, and the anthropology of art. These resources will illuminate the many ways that things acquire a kind of metaphorical life in association with the lives of people who use them. Prerequisites: Anthropology 103 or 106, and one 200-level Anthropology course.

ANTH-302 Human Rights through an Anthropological Lens

A study of human rights examined cross-culturally. The course focuses on gendered violence, violation of children's rights, genocide and ethnic persecution, refugees and exile, and disease and healthcare.

Students explore linkages between non-Western peoples and transnational advocacy networks; media

representation of indigenous peoples and human rights victims; processes of truth and reconciliation; and the fragility of domestic and national bonds in the face of human rights abuses. Students view these topics primarily through the lens of cultural anthropology, but include works by medical and forensic anthropologists. Prerequisites: Anthropology 103 or 106, and one 200-level Anthropology course.

ANTH-304 Anthropology of Violence and Conflict

Exploration of anthropological approaches to the study of war, violence, conflict, and conflict resolution. The course considers anthropological theorizing on the causes and effects of diverse forms of violence and conflict, including state and ethnic violence. Ethnographic examples provide insight into how ethnicity, sectarianism, class, kinship, poverty, nationalism, religion and other factors cause and mediate conflict. The course serves as an introduction to political and legal anthropology and examines ethical issues surrounding anthropologists' study of and involvement in conflict situations. Prerequisites: Anthropology 103 or 106, and one 200-level Anthropology course.

ANTH-310 Advanced Topics in Anthropology

Intensive exploration of an advanced anthropology topic, chosen by a faculty member.

ANTH-323 Field Methods in Cultural Anthropology

Seminar on how anthropologists conduct ethnographic fieldwork. The course covers participant observation, semi-structured interviews, and other ethnographic methods. Students examine the ethics of these methods along with strategies for organizing and analyzing fieldnotes. Assignments include writing a research proposal, carrying out original fieldwork, and writing a final research paper. In addition, students read about and discuss the subjective challenges of working with communities different from their own, confronting such issues as cultural relativism, poverty, political activism, and gender bias. Prerequisite: Anth 103 and one additional course in anthropology.

ANTH-325 Technology in Ancient Societies

Study of technology as a social process and as part of a cultural system in prehistoric and ancient societies. The course considers how and why archaeologists try to reconstruct technologies from earlier eras through analysis of material culture, experimentation, and comparative research in cultural anthropology and related disciplines. The relationship between technology and social roles, economic organization, the development and transmission of skills and knowledge, and the reproduction of cultural values is central to the course. Prerequisites: Anthropology 103 or 106, and one 200-level Anthropology course.

ANTH-400 Capstone Experience in Anthropology

Intensive culminating research experience for anthropology majors. Seminar is designed around particular topics or debates, which provide unifying themes for students' research projects. Course guides students as they consolidate their understanding of the anthropological perspective. Prerequisites: Anthropology 103, 106, and 300, or consent of instructor.

ANTH-450 Individualized Study-Tutorial

Individualized Study Independent study in fields of special interest outside the scope of regular course offerings. Prerequisite: Consent of department.

ANTH-451 Individualized Study-Tutorial

Individualized tutorial counting toward the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded S/U

ANTH-452 Individualized Study-Tutorial

Individualized tutorial not counting toward minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded A-F

ANTH-453 Individualized Study-Tutorial

Individualized tutorial not counting in the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded S/U

ANTH-460 Individualized Study-Research

Individual investigation of a research topic in anthropology under the guidance of a faculty member. Topic must be approved by department. Project culminates in written and oral presentations of a formal paper to the faculty. Required for departmental honors. Students must submit a proposal a minimum of two weeks before the end of the semester preceding the proposed study. Prerequisite: Consent of department. Open to juniors and seniors only.

ANTH-461 Individualized Study-Research

Individualized research counting toward the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded S/U

ANTH-462 Individualized Study-Research

Individualized research not counting toward minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded A-F

ANTH-463 Individualized Study-Research

Individualized research not counting in the minimum requirements in a major or minor graded S/U

ANTH-466 Field Research in Archaeology

ANTH-470 Individualized Study-Internship

Internship counting toward the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded A-F

ANTH-471 Individualized Study-Internship

Internship counting toward the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded S/U

ANTH-472 Individualized Study-Internship

Internship not counting toward the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded A-F

ANTH-473 Individualized Study-Internship

Internship not counting toward the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded S/U

ANTH-474 Summer Internship

Summer Internship graded A-F, counts for minimum requirements for a major or minor only with written permission filed in the Registrar's Office.

ANTH-475 Summer Internship

Summer Internship graded S/U, counts for minimum requirements for a major or minor only with written permission filed in the Registrar's Office

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