Anthropology Department

Chairperson

Director of M.A. Program
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Degree Awarded
M.A. in Anthropology

Anthropology Department

The Department of Anthropology, within the College of Arts and Sciences, offers a graduate program leading to the M.A. degree. In the M.A. program candidates may study toward a master’s in anthropology with a concentration in archaeology, sociocultural anthropology, or physical anthropology. Admission and degree requirements are the same but the course of study differs.

The M.A. Program in Anthropology is designed for students who wish to pursue anthropological training for careers in education or for those whose undergraduate training did not prepare them for doctoral level work in Anthropology. Full-time or part-time attendance is possible. Students are expected to choose their subfield (archaeology, social/cultural anthropology or physical anthropology) and contact the person with whom they wish to study prior to application. However, admissions decisions are made by the admissions committee, not by individual faculty members. By the time they have completed 15 credits of graduate work, students are expected to request a guidance committee consisting of three faculty members, at least two of whom must be members of the Anthropology Department, who will guide them through the preparation of a thesis proposal and the completion of the M.A. thesis.

Admission Requirements of Anthropology Department

In addition to the admission requirements of the Graduate School, the Department of Anthropology requires:

A. A bachelor’s degree from an accredited college with a minimum grade point average of 3.0 (B) in all undergraduate coursework and 3.25 (3.0=B) in the major field of concentration;

B. Results of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test;

C. Test of English as a Foreign Language for non-native speakers of English, with a minimum score of 550 (paper), 220 (computer based), or 90 (iBT).

D. Acceptance by the Department of Anthropology and the Graduate School.

Facilities of Anthropology Department

Research and teaching facilities are maintained for the study of human and primate evolution, lithic technology, zooarchaeology, paleoethnobotany, Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and dental structure and microwear. The archaeology and physical anthropology laboratories contain state-of-the-art scanning and digitizing equipment and a variety of microscopes. The GIS Laboratory contains eight networked Pentium computers configured to run ArcGIS 9 software.

Teaching collections include extensive primate and hominin fossil cast collections as well as modern human skeletons; Near Eastern ceramics; stone tools from North America, Europe, the Middle East and Africa; and faunal assemblages from North America and Southwest Asia. In addition, the Institute for Long Island Archaeology (ILIA) maintains a large collection of library and archival materials relating to the history and archaeology of coastal New York.

For students interested in anthropological research in the New York/Long Island area, there is a research room containing an expanding collection of documentary material. The Institute for Long Island Archaeology performs cultural resource surveys and environmental impact statements for the area and provides equipment for survey, excavation, and data analysis.

Students may be invited to participate in ongoing archaeological, ethnographic, paleontological, or primatological research conducted by the faculty in North America, Africa, Madagascar, Europe and the Mediterranean, East and Southeast Asia, and Southwest Asia (the Middle East).

Requirements for the M.A. in Anthropology with Concentrations in Archaeology, Social/Cultural Anthropology, and Physical Anthropology

In addition to the requirements of the Graduate School, the following are required:

A. Completion of a minimum of 30 graduate credits, maintaining a 3.0 average;

B. A course of study planned and carried out with the approval of the student’s M.A. guidance committee (this may require examinations, library research, laboratory study, and/or fieldwork as the basis of the M.A. thesis, which must be accepted by a committee appointed by the program—no final defense is required);

C. Minimum residence of one year.
The requirements for the three tracks in Anthropology differ, but students may take courses in the other sub-disciplines as electives. The requirements are as follows:

**Anthropology**

1. ANT 515 Theory and Method in Archaeology: 4 credits
2. ANT 527 Field Methods and Techniques in Archaeology*: 6 credits
3. Graduate Statistics Course (Approved by Committee): 3 credits
4. ANT 599 M.A. Thesis Research: 6 credits
5. Electives chosen from among ANT 510, ANT 511, ANT 512, ANT 513, ANT 514, ANT 516, ANT 517, ANT 518, ANT 519, ANT 526, and other courses offered in Anthropology, History, Ecology and Evolution, Marine Sciences, or other programs chosen with the approval of the student’s guidance committee: 10 credits

Total: 30 credits

* In some instances equivalent courses may be accepted if they have been previously approved by the student’s guidance committee.

**Social/Cultural Anthropology**

1. ANT 520 Principles of Social and Cultural Anthropology: 4 credits
2. ANT 540 Readings in Ethnography and Ethnology: 3 credits
3. ANT 599 M.A. Thesis Research: 6 credits
4. Electives chosen from among ANT 500, ANT 501, ANT 509, ANT 561, ANT 602, ANT 620, ANT 640, and other courses offered in Anthropology, Sociology, Psychology, or other programs chosen with the approval of the student’s guidance committee: 17 credits

Total: 30 credits

**Physical Anthropology**

1. ANT 564 Primate Evolution: 4 credits
2. ANT 565 Human Evolution: 4 credits
3. ANT 567 Primate Behavior and Ecology: 4 credits
4. BEE 552 Biometry: 4 credits
5. ANT 599 M.A. Thesis Research: 6 credits
6. Electives chosen from among other courses in Anthropology, Ecology and Evolution, Anatomy, or other programs chosen with approval of the student’s guidance committee: 8 credits

Total: 30 credits

**Faculty of Anthropology Department**

**Professors**

Arens, William, Dean of International Academic Programs, Ph.D., 1970, University of Virginia: Social anthropology; conservation; Africa and the Mediterranean.

Doran-Sheehy, Diane M., Chair, Ph.D., 1989, Stony Brook University: Primate behavior and ecology; socioecology of African apes.

Gilmore, David, Ph.D., 1975, University of Pennsylvania: Complex societies; stratification; peasant culture; Europe; Mediterranean.

Grine, Frederick E., Ph.D., 1984, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa: Hominid evolution; functional morphology of the masticatory system; vertebrate paleontology; dental structure and comparative odontology.

Hicks, David, Recipient of the State University Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities, 2005; Recipient of the President’s Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities, 2005; Ph.D. (London), 1971; D.Phil., 1972, Oxford University: oral literature, ritual and belief, mythology, kinship, politics, Southeast Asia, East Timor.


Stone, Elizabeth C., Ph.D., 1979, University of Chicago: Old World archaeology; state formation; ancient economy and society; Near East; remote sensing and GIS.
Wright, Patricia C., Ph.D., 1985, City University of New York: Primate behavior and ecology; rain forest conservation; Madagascar.

Associate Professors
Bernstein, David J., Ph.D., 1988, Binghamton University: New World archaeology; paleoecology; coastal societies; subsistence studies; cultural resource management.

Koenig, Andreas, Ph.D., 1992, University of Göttingen, Germany: Primate behavioral ecology; social evolution; community ecology; Asia.
Shea, John J., Ph.D., 1991, Harvard University: Old World Paleolithic archaeology; lithic analysis; Near East; Europe; Africa.

Research Associate Professor
Borries, Carola, Ph.D., 1989, University of Göttingen, Germany: Primate reproductive strategies; behavioral ecology; social structure; Asia.

Assistant Professors
Hildebrand, Elisabeth, Ph.D., 2003, Washington University in St. Louis: Archaeology; early farming; Africa; paleoethnobotany; ethnoarchaeology.
Rossie, James, Ph.D., 2003, Yale University: Primate evolution; fossil catarrhines; East Africa.
Twiss, Katheryn C., Ph.D., 2003, University of California, Berkeley: Old World archaeology; zooarchaeology; transition to agriculture; food; southwest Asia.

NOTE: The course descriptions for this program can be found in the corresponding program PDF or at COURSE SEARCH.