Doctoral Program in Anthropological Sciences

Director
Erik R. Seiffert, Anatomical Sciences, Health Sciences Center, T8-040, (631) 444-4945

Graduate Program Coordinator
Jean Moreau, Ward Melville Social and Behavioral Sciences Building, S-501 (631) 632-7606

Degree Awarded
Ph.D. in Anthropology

Web Site
http://www.anat.stonybrook.edu>IDPAS/

Doctoral Program in Anthropological Sciences

The Interdepartmental Doctoral Program in Anthropological Sciences (IDPAS), in the College of Arts and Sciences, is an interdisciplinary and interdepartmental program leading to the Ph.D. degree that draws upon faculty and resources from the departments of Anatomical Sciences, Anthropology, Asian and Asian-American Studies, Geosciences, and History. The goal of the IDPAS is to train students for careers in research and teaching in physical anthropology, archaeology, and cultural anthropology. Students in the Ph.D. program who have already been advanced to candidacy may, upon petition, receive a master’s degree without submitting a master’s thesis. IDPAS is not accepting any applications for cultural anthropology at present.

Admission Requirements for Doctoral Program in Anthropological Sciences

Application procedures and requirements determined by the University at Stony Brook, as set forth in this bulletin, must be followed. Applications will be reviewed by the admissions committee of the IDPAS, and successful applicants will be considered for financial assistance through the award of a teaching assistantship (TA) by the TA committee of the IDPAS. All rules, regulations, and requirements of the Graduate School, Stony Brook University, must be satisfied in addition to those described in this section. Interested students should request information and application forms as early as possible, especially if they plan to apply for financial aid.

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

A. A bachelor’s degree from an accredited college. A minimum grade point average of 3.0 (B) in all undergraduate coursework and 3.25 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. Minimum score: 550 (paper exam) or 213 (computer-based exam) or 90 (internet-based exam);
D. Acceptance by the IDPAS and the Graduate School.

Facilities of the Anthropology Department

Extensive laboratory space as well as desk space is available for all graduate students. The archaeology and physical anthropology labs housed in the Department of Anthropology provide facilities for the analysis of artifact collections--especially stone tools and faunal remains, application of remote sensing and Geographic Information Systems (GIS), analysis of primate or human remains, and advanced electron microscopy (EM). Housed in the department are archaeological collections from Africa, the Near East, Long Island, and South America. A fully equipped preparation lab provides opportunities for state-of-the-art mineralized tissue research.

Outside of the Anthropology Department, interested students have access to the research facilities for comparative primate morphology, human anatomy, and human and primate evolution housed in the Department of Anatomical Sciences, which are at present unparalleled at any other institution. The collections include primate fossils; primate osteological material from Africa, Asia, and South America; and living nonhuman primates, including New and Old World monkeys and lemurs.

Also in the Department of Anatomical Sciences is a biomechanics lab that includes equipment and facilities for force-plate analysis, high-speed cinematography and cineradiography, three dimensional morphometrics, as well as bone strain and telemetered electromyography. Scanning and transmission electron microscope facilities are available elsewhere on campus. Students have access to excellent libraries and collections and to campus computing services.

Field work opportunities are available in primate behavioral ecology, paleontology, and archaeology. Primate behavior research is conducted in Argentina, Central Africa, Indonesia, Madagascar, Tanzania, and Thailand. Paleontological field research is current in Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, North America, and South Africa. The new Turkana Basin Institute provides IDPAS students with access to field opportunities for paleontology and archaeology in northern Kenya. Additionally, the archaeology faculty have active field sites in Kenya, Sudan, Eritrea, Long Island, and Turkey. Students may be invited to participate in these projects.

The Institute for Long Island Archaeology conducts cultural resource management studies throughout the New York Metropolitan area and provides support for graduate students interested in local archaeology. The Institute has a research library with extensive holdings on local archaeology and history, and its large collections of prehistoric and historic materials are available for student research projects.

Requirements of the Ph.D. Degree in Anthropological Sciences
A. Course Requirements

Completion of a minimum of 48 graduate credits, maintaining a minimum 3.0 average in all graduate courses. Not more than four credits of SPD or equivalent coursework may be applied toward the satisfaction of DPAS course requirements.

1. Physical Anthropology: Required courses are (a) DPA 564 Primate Evolution, (b) DPA 565 Human Evolution, (c) DPA 567 Primate Behavior and Ecology. Other required courses toward completion of study in the Evolutionary Morphology track include (a) BEE 551 Principles of Evolution, (BEE 561 Macroevolution, may be substituted for BEE 551 with the permission of the faculty in the student's track), (b) BEE 552 Biometry (an equivalent statistics course, e.g., PSY 501 and PSY 502 may be substituted with permission of the physical anthropology faculty), and (c) DPA 541 Human Evolutionary Anatomy. Students on the Primate Behavior track must take (1) BEE 551 Principles of Evolution, (2) BEE 552 Biometry (an equivalent statistics course, e.g., PSY 501 and PSY 502) may be substituted with permission of the physical anthropology faculty, and (3) BEE 550 Principles of Ecology or BEE 586 Evolutionary Ecology. Additional elective courses may be completed during the second and third years of study under the supervision of the Guidance Committee.

2. Archaeology Program: Required courses that form the basis of the qualifying examination are (a) ANT 515 or DPA 515 Theory and Method in Archaeology and (b) a Graduate-level Statistics course, (c & d) two survey courses chosen from ANT 511 or DPA 511 Paleolithic Archaeology, ANT 513 or DPA 513 Origins of Agriculture, or ANT 512 or DPA 512 Comparative Civilizations. Additional requirements include (a) ANT 516 or DPA 516 Research Design in Archaeology, (b) one laboratory methods course chosen from ANT 517 or DPA 517 Primitive Technology, ANT 518 or DPA 518 Lithic Technology, ANT 519 or DPA 519 Zooarchaeology, ANT 526 or DPA 526 Remote Sensing and GIS, or additional laboratory course approved by committee, (c) one area course chosen from ANT 560 or DPA 560 Ancient Mesopotamia, ANT 562 or DPA 562 Long Island Archaeology, ANT 564 or DPA 564 African Stone Age, ANT 585 or DPA 585 Prehistoric Peoples of the Americas, or ANT 650 or DPA 650, ANT 651 or DPA 651, ANT 652 or DPA 652, ANT 653 or DPA 653 (with committee approval). Students must also take one elective course outside the archaeology subdiscipline (e.g. ANT 565 or DPA 565 Human Evolution, ANT 566 or DPA 566 Hunters and Gatherers, ANT 582 or DPA 582 Human Demography, ARH 541 Topics in Ancient Art, GEO 521 Isotopes and Trace Element Geology). Students must have had one season of archeological fieldwork (with committee approval) before advancing to candidacy.

3. Cultural Anthropology: Required courses that form the basis of the qualifying examination are (a) DPA 501 Development of Anthropological Theory, (b) DPA 540 Readings in Ethnography and Ethnology, and (c) DPA 520 Principles of Social and Cultural Anthropology. Other courses required for completion of the cultural anthropology program include (a) DPA 620 Research Seminar in Topical Problems, (b) DPA 640 Research Seminar in Ethnography and Ethnology, and (c) three additional credits of DPA 540 Readings in Ethnography and Ethnology. Other courses that may be taken at the discretion of the student’s guidance committee include DPA 509 Seminar in European Ethnography, DPA 561 Peasant Societies and Cultures, and a statistics course.

B. Qualifying Exam

The qualifying examination must be taken after two or three semesters of study (depending upon sub-field) and passed at an appropriate level. The qualifying examination is administered to each student by the examination committee of the IDPAS. The examination varies by subfield. Students in Physical Anthropology are required to develop a publishable research paper, students in archaeology taken an oral exam, while students in cultural anthropology take a written exam. The material covered in the qualifying examination comprises that covered in the courses specified above as well as that covered by the prescribed reading list for the selected field.

C. Language Requirement

The student must select the suitable language(s) necessary for the chosen field of specialization with the approval of the guidance committee. Language tests must be passed prior to advancement to candidacy. Language tests are administered by members of the IDPAS faculty, by special arrangements, or through standardized tests. Before recommending that a student be permitted to engage in fieldwork, the guidance committee may ask the student to demonstrate ability to speak the language required for fieldwork.

D. Preparation of Dissertation Research Proposal

The dissertation proposal is prepared under the direction of the dissertation guidance committee which is composed of at least three IDPAS faculty members and an external member. The dissertation proposal will be defended orally at a seminar open to the academic community and to which all IDPAS faculty and students are invited at least two weeks in advance. Students should aim to complete and defend their dissertation proposal during their third year in the program. Upon successful defense of the proposal, the student may be advanced to candidacy. The M.A. may be awarded at this point. Dissertation research, writing, and examination are supervised by the dissertation guidance committee.

E. Teaching Requirement

In accordance with Graduate School regulations, every student must gain some teaching experience. This may involve the presentation of a number of lectures in a course offered by a member of the IDPAS faculty. Upon advancement to candidacy, a student may be assigned greater teaching responsibility in the form of an undergraduate course to be prepared and taught under the supervision of an IDPAS faculty member. This arrangement will be made in consultation with the student and with the approval of the TA committee and the student’s advisor. No student will be required to teach more than one course per year, and credit for teaching assignments will be given under the aegis of DPA 600.

F. Written Dissertation and Defense

The approval of a written thesis and its successful oral defense to the committee and the University community at large are required.

G Time Limit

The candidate must satisfy all requirements for the Ph.D. degree within seven years after completing 24 credit hours of graduate courses at the University at Stony Brook department or program in which the candidate is to receive his or her degree.

Doctoral Program in Anthropological Sciences
Distinguished Professors

Fleagle, John G., Distinguished Professor, Ph.D., 1976, Harvard University: Primate and human evolution; primate behavior and ecology; functional morphology; growth and development.


Krause, David W., Distinguished Service Professor, Ph.D., 1982, University of Michigan: Vertebrate paleontology, biogeography, early primate evolution, Madagascar.

Stern, Jack T., Jr., Distinguished Teaching Professor, Ph.D., 1969, University of Chicago: Functional morphology of primates; biomechanics of muscle.

Professors

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

Demes, Brigitte, Ph.D., 1982, Ruhr University, Bochum, Germany: Biomechanics; functional morphology; allometry; primates.

Doran-Sheehy, Diane M., Ph.D., 1989, University at Stony Brook: Social evolution; behavioral ecology; African apes.

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

Grine, Frederick E., Ph.D., 1984, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa: Hominid evolution; functional morphology of the masticatory apparatus; diet reconstruction; dental anthropology; mineralized tissues.

Hicks, David B., D.Phil., 1973, Oxford University, Great Britain: Politics; ritual; literature; Insular Southeast Asia.

Koenig, Andreas, Ph.D., 1992, Georg-August University, Göttingen, Germany: Primate behavioral ecology; social evolution; reproductive strategies; Asia.

Larson, Susan G., Ph.D., 1982, University of Wisconsin, Madison: Functional morphology; primates; biomechanics.

Martin, Lawrence B., Dean & Associate Provost, Ph.D., 1983, University of London, Great Britain: Hominoid evolution; enamel thickness; enamel microstructure and development.

Shea, John J., Ph.D., 1991, Harvard University: Old World paleolithic archaeology; lithic analysis; Near East; Europe; Africa.

Stone, Elizabeth C., Ph.D., 1979, University of Chicago: Old World archaeology; state formation; ancient economy and society; remote sensing and GIS; Near East.

Susman, Randall L., Ph.D., 1976, University of Chicago: Functional morphology and behavior of primates; evolution of apes and humans; gross anatomy.

Wright, Patricia C., Ph.D., 1985, City University of New York: Primate behavior and ecology; rainforest conservation; Madagascar.

Zimansky, Paul E., Ph.D., 1980, University of Chicago: History and archaeology of the Near East; ancient imperialism; Urartian, Anatolian and Mesopotamian civilizations.

Research Professor

Leakey Meave G., PhD., 1968, University of North Wales: Primate evolution; palaeoecology and evolution of African mammals.

Associate Professors

Bernstein, David J., Ph.D., 1988, State University of New York at Binghamton: New World archaeology; paleoecology; coastal societies; subsistence studies.

Rasbury, Troy, E., Ph.D., 1998, University at Stony Brook: Sedimentary geochemistry; chronostratigraphy; geochronology.

Rossie, James B., Ph.D., 2003, Yale University: Primate evolution; miocene hominoids; cranial anatomy; East Africa.

Ruf, Gregory A., Ph.D., 1994, Columbia University: Social organization; politics and history; cultural ecology; ethnographic methods and writing; China.


Twiss, Katheryn C., Ph.D., 2003, University of California, Berkeley: Zooarchaeology; origins of agriculture and social complexity; anthropology of food; Southwest Asia.

Research Associate Professor

Borries, Carola, Ph.D., 1989, Georg-August University, Göttingen, Germany: Socio-ecology; reproduction; life history; Asian primates.

Assistant Professors

Baab, Karen L., Ph.D. 2007, City University of New York: Human evolution; lemur evolution; skull morphology; geometric morphometrics.


Hildebrand, Elisabeth, Ph.D., 2003, Washington University: Origins of agriculture; paleoethnobotany; ethnoarchaeology; Africa.

Scientists and Lecturers

O'Neill, Matthew C., Ph.D. 2009, John Hopkins University: Hominin evolution; primates; energetics; computer modeling.

Patel, Biren, Ph.D. 2008, Stony Brook University: Primate evolution; human evolution; functional morphology; biomechanics.

Number of teaching assistants/graduate assistants/theses assistants, fall 2010: 22
Number of graduate fellows, fall 2010: 12

1) Department of Anatomical Sciences
2) International Academic Programs (IAP)
3) Department of Anthropology
4) Graduate School
5) Department of History
6) Department of Geosciences
7) Department of Asian and Asian-American Studies
8) Brooklyn College, CUNY

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