

ANTHROPOLOGY, BA

Anthropology - the study of humanity in its broadest sense - is, according to Eric Wolf "the most humanistic of the sciences and the most scientific of the humanities." At Tulane, anthropology is divided into four subdisciplines: archaeology, biological anthropology, linguistics, and socio-cultural anthropology. These subdisciplines or fields are interconnected. Anthropologists at Tulane often straddle the boundaries of the subdisciplines, and they collaborate with scholars from other departments and schools of the University. Anthropology is perhaps the world's oldest cross-disciplinary discipline, and at Tulane, anthropologists study topics as seemingly disparate as two million year-old fossil hominins, capuchin monkeys in Costa Rica, the impact of Islam in West Africa, Mayan hieroglyphic texts, political movements in Mexico, indigenous use of the environment in the Amazon, variations in spoken New Orleans English - and much more!

The roots of Tulane's Department of Anthropology date from 1924, when the Department of Middle American Research (now the Middle American Research Institute [MARI]) was founded on the Uptown Campus. Anthropology courses were first offered at Tulane during the 1938-1939 academic year, and by 1947, anthropologists were employed in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. A separate four-field Department of Anthropology was established in 1968. In the last thirty years or so (1990-2020), the Anthropology Department more than doubled in size and diversity, and course offerings reflect that growth. In 2010, the Department and MARI moved into newly-renovated space in Dinwiddie Hall.

Tulane's Department of Anthropology has long been known for its focus in the areas of archaeology, cultural anthropology, and linguistics of Mesoamerica (the region from Central Mexico to El Salvador). Today the teaching and research interests of our faculty have expanded, and in addition to Mesoamerica, they work in North America (especially the southeastern United States and the Gulf South); South America (especially the Andes, and the Amazon); lower Central America and the Caribbean; West Africa; the South Asian subcontinent; Southeast Asia; and Europe.

Requirements Requirements

Thirty credit hours of approved coursework are required for a major in anthropology. Typically, this requirement can be satisfied by ten anthropology courses. Within the 30 credit hours required for a major in anthropology, students must fulfill the following requirements for a degree in anthropology:

- At least one course above the 1000 level in each of the four major subdivisions of anthropology: biological archaeology, biological anthropology, linguistics, and socio-cultural anthropology.
- Students may take no more than two 1000-level courses (six credit hours) as electives to be counted towards the 30 credit hours required for degrees in anthropology.
- Five or six elective courses in anthropology.
- Newcomb-Tulane College requires all undergraduates to take a writing practicum or a writing-intensive course to fulfill its undergraduate writing requirement. Some anthropology courses may have writing-intensive sections, but the additional credit hours earned through writing-intensive courses are not counted towards the 30 hours necessary for degrees in anthropology.

Four Major Subdivisions Archaeology

Course ID	Title	Credits
ANTH 2340	Introduction to Archaeology	3
ANTH 2350	Architecture and Power in the Ancient World	3
ANTH 2360	Ancient Trade and Commerce	3
ANTH 3260	Highland Mexican Prehistory	3
ANTH 3320	Archaeology of Gender	3
ANTH 3430	Archaeology of Cultural Landscapes	3
ANTH 3560	Environmental Archaeology	3
ANTH 4130	North American Prehistory	3
ANTH 4150	African Prehistory	3
ANTH 4260	Archaeology of the U.S. Southwest	3
ANTH 4270	Roots of Western Civilization	3
ANTH 4410	Olmec and Maya Civilization	3
ANTH 4610	Ceramic Analysis	3
ANTH 4620	Lithic Analysis	3
ANTH 6100	South American Archaeology	3
ANTH 6130	Southeastern U.S. Prehistory	3
ANTH 6230	Archaeological Theory	3

ANTH 6240	Technical Analyses for Archaeology	3
ANTH 6250	Old World Paleolithic Prehistory	3
ANTH 6260	Prehistory of Highland Mexico	3
ANTH 6430	Archaeology of Cultural Landscapes	3
ANTH 6810	Introduction to Maya Hieroglyphs	3

Biological Anthropology

Course ID	Title	Credits
ANTH 3120	Anthropology of Sex and Reproduction	3
ANTH 3140	Primate Ecology and Behavior	3,4
ANTH 3450	Methods of Observation in Behavioral Research	3
ANTH 3720	Adaptation and Human Variability	3
ANTH 3730	Principles of Forensic Anthropology	3
ANTH 3745	Bioarchaeology of Mummies	3,4
ANTH 3750	Bones, Bodies and Disease	3
ANTH 3755	Human Osteology	3
ANTH 3760	Primate Evolution and Adaptation	3
ANTH 4510	Species Concepts in Human Paleontology	3
ANTH 6020	The Neandertal Enigma	3
ANTH 6120	Anthropology of Sex and Reproduction	3
ANTH 6140	Primate Ecology and Behavior	3,4
ANTH 6480	Human Functional Morphology	3
ANTH 6500	Human Evolution	3
ANTH 6745	Bioarchaeology of Mummies	3

Linguistics

Course ID	Title	Credits
ANTH 3290	The Nature of Language	3
ANTH 3310	Historical Linguistics	3,4
ANTH 3330	Anthropology of Gender	3
ANTH 3400	Language and Culture	3
ANTH 3440	Dialectology	3
ANTH 3441	Lexicography	3
ANTH 3520	Diaspora Yoruba	3
ANTH 3535	Native American Language and Linguistics	3
ANTH 3590	Introduction To Syntax	3
ANTH 3640	Phonology	3
ANTH 3650	Morphology	3
ANTH 3660	Discourse Analysis	3,4
ANTH 3670	Language & Acquisition	3
ANTH 3680	Language and Power	3
ANTH 3690	Language and Gender	3,4
ANTH 3780	Language Death	3
ANTH 4930	Languages of Louisiana	3,4
ANTH 6400	Language and Culture	3
ANTH 6415	Pidgins and Creoles	3
ANTH 6420	Linguistic Field Methods	3
ANTH 6700	Spoken Nahuatl	3
ANTH 6720	Spoken Yoruba	3
ANTH 6800	Spoken Yucatecan Maya	3

ANTH 6840	Beginning Kaqchikel (Maya) Language	3,4
ANTH 6870	Kaqchikel Maya Culture	3

Socio-cultural Anthropology

Course ID	Title	Credits
ANTH 2030	The Anthropology of Women and Men	3
ANTH 3010	Hunters and Gatherers	3
ANTH 3060	South American Indians	3
ANTH 3110	Cultures of Sub-Saharan Africa	3
ANTH 3160	Peoples of The Pacific	3
ANTH 3190	Economic Anthropology	3
ANTH 3330	Anthropology of Gender	3
ANTH 3360	Anthropology of Cities	3
ANTH 3370	Locating Southeast Asia	3
ANTH 3395	Ethnography of Performance and Identity in New Orleans and French Louisiana	3
ANTH 3470	Many Faces of Islam	3
ANTH 3510	Ethnicity, Nationalism	3
ANTH 3700	Environmental Anthropology	3
ANTH 3710	Historical Ecology of Amazonia	3
ANTH 3770	Global Vietnam	3
ANTH 3850	The Four-Field Model	3
ANTH 4080	Race & Nation in Spanish Caribbean	3
ANTH 4210	Seminar in Historical Ecology	3
ANTH 6060	South American Indians	3
ANTH 6210	Development of Anthropological Theory	3
ANTH 6270	Culture and Romantic Love	3
ANTH 6320	Social Structure	3
ANTH 6340	Medical Anthropology	3
ANTH 6395	Ethnography of Performance and Identity in New Orleans and French Louisiana	3
ANTH 6510	Race, Ethnicity, and Nationalism	3
ANTH 6520	Ethnographic Methods	3
ANTH 6710	Historical Ecology of Amazonia	3

Additional Information

Given the diversity of topics of interest to anthropologists, anthropology majors are encouraged to take a variety of courses in the different anthropological subfields and in related disciplines, and they are encouraged to integrate anthropology coursework within pre-professional programs of study. Upon consultation with anthropology faculty advisors, students may count up to six credits (two courses) as electives towards the anthropology major from approved courses in other departments.

The subject matter of anthropology is such that most of the curriculum is not an explicitly ordered sequence. Few anthropology courses at Tulane have specific prerequisites (exceptions, mostly linguistic courses, are noted in the catalog), and anthropology majors are expected to choose their courses from among all those with numbers less than 7000. The 6000-level courses are specifically designed for undergraduate as well as graduate students, and all junior and senior majors should choose freely from among these offerings.

Anthropology majors are eligible to apply for the 4+1 program in anthropology, based on consultation with advisors and other mentors. Students in the 4+1 program can earn B.A. or B.S. degrees in anthropology within four years, and M.A. degrees in anthropology based on an additional year of graduate coursework in anthropology taken during their fourth and fifth years. Requirements for this program are outlined on the departmental web site and in the anthropology majors handbook.

The anthropology department administers the Kenneth J. Opat Fund in Anthropology, reserved for the support of undergraduate research in anthropology. Students majoring in anthropology are encouraged to seek further information from their anthropology advisors about the use of this research fund.