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MAJORING IN ANTHROPOLOGY

This booklet has been prepared by the Department of Anthropology and the AnthroCircle to provide a brief overview of the department and the requirements for a major in Anthropology. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to see a faculty advisor.

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THE UNDERGRADUATE MAJOR IN ANTHROPOLOGY

Anthropology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is divided into three subdisciplines. First is Archaeology: the investigation and interpretation of the remains of past cultures through excavation and laboratory analysis. Second is Physical or Biological Anthropology: the study of the origin and evolution of human biological characteristics, our primate ancestors, modern primates, and the genetic diversity of contemporary races. The final major subdiscipline is Cultural Anthropology or Ethnology: the study of the development and function of cultures, social systems, institutions, customs, and arts, and the relation of these to human social and psychological needs. Linguistics, the analysis of varieties of human speech and the relationships between them, is another recognized subdiscipline of Anthropology. At the UW, Linguistics is a separate department that draws on the expertise of faculty from many disciplines including Anthropology.

An undergraduate major in Anthropology consists of a minimum of 30 credits distributed within the department including the following required courses:

105, Introductory Human Biology, 3 credits *or*
107, Evolution of the Human Species, 3 credits

300, Cultural Anthropology, 3 credits
490, Undergraduate Seminar, 3 credits

Majors must also take *two* of the following three Archaeology courses:

112, Principles of Archaeology, 3 credits
321, The Emergence of Human Culture, 3 credits
322, The Origins of Civilization, 3 credits

Courses 300 and above can be counted toward the 15 credits of advanced work in the major with the exception that 361 and 362 (Elementary Quechua) do not count toward the major in anthropology. No more than 40 credits in anthropology may be taken as part of the major. If advanced degree study is planned, additional courses in related fields should be discussed with an advisor in the department.

By arrangement with a supervising professor, advanced students may substitute a thesis for four (4) of the above credits, to be written in either biological anthropology, archaeology, or cultural anthropology using course number 699 for juniors or seniors.

Questions regarding the Anthropology Major should be directed to the Undergraduate Advisor.

Questions regarding the College of Letters and Science degree requirements should be directed to the L&S Deans, 70 Bascom Hall, 262-2644.

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

UNDERGRADUATE CHECKLIST

Major Declaration form filed

Required Courses

Biology requirement: 105 or 107
 Cultural requirement: 300
 Archaeology: 112, 321, 322 (pick two)

 Anthropology 490:
 Expository English Form filed
 Other Anthropology Courses:

	Semester Course Taken	Credits Below 300*	Credits 300 or above*	Total Credits
Sub-total			(15)	
Total Credits				

Minimum 30 and Maximum 40 credits

*At least 15 credits must be 300 level or above, but 361 or 362 count as elementary credits not above the 300 level because they are elementary language courses.

For checklists of the College of Letters and Science requirements, please see the following web pages:

Bachelor of Arts: http://www.wisc.edu/pubs/ug/10lettsci/ba_chart.html

Bachelor of Science: http://www.wisc.edu/pubs/ug/10lettsci/bs_chart.html

This checklist and the checklists for L&S are designed to work in conjunction with a DARS report. To obtain a DARS report, please go to the Registrar's Office, 123 Peterson Hall; the L&S Deans, 70 Bascom Hall; or contact the Anthropology Undergraduate Coordinator, 5240 Social Science Building, and remember to bring your ID.

ANTHROPOLOGY IS. . .

Anthropology is the comparative study of humans and human society, focusing on biological, behavioral, and cultural similarities and differences. As a natural history of the human species, it studies all human groups from the time of the first evidence of humanity. It may be classified as a natural science, a social science, and a humanistic study.

Anthropology is the systematic study of humans in all their physical, social, and cultural dimensions. It presents information and theories that allow human social and cultural patterns, so varied with time and environment, to be related to present-day problems. In its attention to the complexity of human life, it stresses the inadequacy of common assumptions about “human nature.”

Thus, Anthropology is characterized by a comparative point of view, a focus on humans in all their variation and similarity, and the verifiable conviction that history, biological endowment, environmental situation, way of life, and language are all related in discoverable patterns.

WHY MAJOR IN ANTHROPOLOGY?

Students who major in anthropology become familiar with the ways of life and cultures of societies throughout the world, both those currently existing and those known only from the archaeological record. They also explore the biological complexity of humanity and comparative perspectives from nonhuman primate behavior, ecology, and evolution. Through their studies, students often develop specialized interests in a particular area of the world, in the relationship between archaeological and historical materials, in the relationship between culture and behavior, or in the mutual influences of biology and culture.

Students of anthropology not only acquire basic information about *Homo sapiens* as a thinking, creative animal, but also explore the diversity of human culture. They will encounter ideas that challenge their own beliefs or behaviors and problems of interpretation for which there are no “right” answers, only probable answers. Students who find complexity, uncertainty, and challenges to their beliefs exciting will find themselves well suited to a major in anthropology.

The major is designed to expose students to a wide range of anthropological topics and information. It is an exploration, a route toward discovering a student’s own interests, not toward specializing them. While some specialization—in biological anthropology, cultural anthropology, or archaeology—is possible, basic work in all three fields is required.

No specific language requirements exist for a major in anthropology, but language can be a tool of great importance to the anthropologist. Students considering graduate work who are interested in a particular area of the world should begin work on a language appropriate to that area as soon as their decision is firm. Studying other languages, especially Chinese, Hindi, Urdu, Thai, Swahili, Quechua, or Indonesian, can open the door to many possibilities for future work. In addition to specific languages, a basic knowledge of linguistics and the techniques of working with unwritten languages is strongly recommended.

Students planning a professional career in anthropology usually determine their specialized interests through exploration within the major program. Students majoring in anthropology should not expect their undergraduate training to make them professional anthropologists. Nor should they assume that the major will provide them with ready solutions to the problems of existence. Instead, they should expect a broad introduction to the range of solutions to problems humans have developed during their habitation of earth. They can anticipate training that will sharpen their awareness of themselves and society in relation to the rest of the world and that will provide the basis for advanced, graduate-level work in the discipline. Advanced graduate work is virtually a necessity for anyone planning a career as a professional anthropologist or archaeologist.

Anthropology is one of the few major fields to combine fascinating course work and practical career training in one academic package.

Anthropology—the study of “who we are and how we came to be that way”—not only provides a sound Liberal Arts education but also gives students a needed edge in today’s fiercely competitive world of careers and jobs.

In these times of narrow specialization, anthropological study is refreshingly broad. Topics range from tribal New Guinea politics to chimpanzee “language” to issues in providing health care for urban America’s poor. As a result, anthropology majors frequently adopt outlooks on life that are as broad as the discipline itself.

Indeed, as an anthropology student you will be encouraged to see the world “holistically,” as the sum of biological, social and cultural parts. In your education as an “anthro” major you will learn to use perspective as a problem-solving tool. At each step toward your bachelor’s degree you will be urged to bring the holistic viewpoint to bear in projects and research papers in the major’s four subfields: cultural anthropology or ethnology, archaeology, biological anthropology, and linguistics.

Holism—the all-encompassing “Big Picture”—is what distinguishes anthropology as a major from more technical and specialized fields such as marketing, finance, economics, math and other majors that view the world through narrower lenses.

Moreover, your training in anthropology will help sensitize you to the mosaic of ethnic differences found on planet Earth. You will study the world’s societies—groups from the Pacific, North and South America, Asia, Africa, Europe, and the former Soviet Union—as well as our own nation’s Hispanic, Laotian, Japanese, Native American and other ethnic minority groups. Exposure to inter-ethnic ways of thinking and feeling will help you understand the diverse contending motivations at work in today’s global economy.

To the career-minded student, few concepts are as useful, at all levels of the corporate pyramid, as the anthropological concept of culture. Understand the inner assumptions and unvoiced axioms of the people you work with, glimpse the world as their culture teaches them to picture it, and you will be able relate across “class” lines and across ethnic boundaries as if you had a natural gift for bridging communication gaps.

Yet another tangible benefit of being an anthropology major is the training you will receive in a distinctive method known as participant observation. You will learn how to record and describe complex social scenes as they happen, “on line,” and maintain an attitude of objectivity as you watch. Anthropologists have used the participant observation technique to study diverse groups from the Jivaro Indians in South America to the peaceful Semai of Malaya.

Today’s anthropologists now count modern business organizations among the groups they have studied through participant observation. Findings on “corporate culture”—on how power is actually wielded and symbolized, or how decisions are made outside official boardrooms—enable us to see beneath the flattering portraits shown in annual reports.

Anthropology majors further hone and sharpen their powers of observation on archaeological digs and in osteology (bone) labs. Archaeology students develop Sherlock Homesian keen eyes for the telling detail. For example, a barely visible percussion “bulb” on a shard of flint may show the flake was used as a primitive tool. The subtle curve of a skull’s bony eye orbit could be evidence that the skeleton is female. Or an ash layer tracing through a thin band of sediment, while invisible to the layman, could be used to date stone artifacts buried beneath it.

Studying other people helps us see ourselves more clearly. And being able to view the big picture while seeing minute detail at the same time—the anthropologist’s special skill—will help the student at all stages in a future career.

CAREERS IN ANTHROPOLOGY

Thus a major in anthropology can open a multitude of doors for the graduate with a bachelor's degree. Depending on their focus as undergraduates, anthropology majors can go on to entry level museum or foundation work as well as work in biotechnology or medical fields. Those with archaeological field experience may go on to work on field crews for cultural resource management firms, although supervisory positions require a graduate degree. For other students who do not go on to graduate work, their training often leads them toward public service, the Peace Corps, Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), or similar organizations.

An anthropological perspective can be an asset to those entering the business world, social services, public relations and communications, medicine, and a variety of supervisory positions in various sectors of the economy. Anthropology's focus on comprehensive breadth is especially valuable to men and women seeking careers in corporate America in realms of strategic planning, decision-making, and program management. Students who have concentrated upon a specific geographical area, its language, and culture may find employment in export-import firms.

Anthropology is now also beginning to be introduced into secondary and elementary school curricula with emphasis on the archaeological, environmental, and cultural dimensions of the discipline. Anthropology's scope and intellectual roominess can prepare students to make objective, farsighted decisions at the professional level in any career field.

Anthropology majors have been trained to be flexible, quickly learning the "rules of the game" in unfamiliar settings by interviewing and observing as a participant. They know how to find patterns of behavior in a cultural group and have developed social sensitivity to those who are different from the mainstream culture. They have learned to interpret, simplify and contextualize information.

A Ph.D. in Anthropology is necessary for anyone hoping to teach at the college or university level. In addition, graduate work in biological anthropology can lead to careers in applied anthropometry in the automotive and aerospace industries and with private consulting firms, in museums, in zoos, and in forensic anthropology in the offices of medical examiners or coroners. It can also lead to medical or veterinary school or other work in the field of public health.

Graduate work in archaeology may lead to museum work as well as work for the federal government (e.g. the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), or in private cultural resource management firms.

Other careers open to individuals with graduate work in anthropology include working for non-profit agencies; researching problems like urban crime, HIV infection and AIDS, refugee resettlement, and domestic violence; and working for agencies that fund anthropological research (e.g. Wenner-Gren, the Ford Foundation, the National Science Foundation), or working as private consultants to business and government.

UNDERGRADUATE HONORS

For students in the College of Letters and Sciences and the Department of Anthropology, there are three options for honors:

1. Honors in the Liberal Arts: see the Honors Program office in 307 South Hall for more information on this option.
2. Honors in the Major: see departmental requirements below.
3. Comprehensive Honors: the highest degree awarded by the College of Letters & Science; it is a combination of the two above options.

ANTHROPOLOGY HONORS CHECKLIST:

Major Declaration form filed
 L&S Honors in the Major form filed

Required Courses	Semester Course Taken	Credits below 300*	Credits 300 or above*	Total Credits
Biology requirement: 105 or 107				
Biology lab: 106				
Cultural requirement: 300				
Archaeology requirement: 112, 231, 322 (pick two)				
Undergraduate seminar: 490				
3 (H) credits in Archaeology†				
3 (H) credits in Biology†				
3 (H) credits in Cultural†				
Second seminar course, 3 credits; can be 490, 600- level, or 900-level; note that an overall GPA of 3.5 is required for the latter.				
6 credits Senior Honors Thesis (681-682); note that 681 and 682 must be taken sequentially, not concurrently.				
Other Anthropology Courses				
	Sub-totals		(15)	
Minimum 30 and Maximum 40 credits	Total Credits			

Certification of Competence in Expository English

*At least 15 credits must be 300 level or above, but 361 or 362 count as elementary credits not above the 300 level because they are elementary language courses.

†Honors students must take 3 honors (H) credits in each of the three areas of Anthropology: Archaeology, Biology, and Cultural. These credits can be obtained in any of the required courses listed above, with the exception of 681 and 682; these credits do not have to come from extra courses.

MAJOR DECLARATION FORM

To declare a major in Anthropology, go to the Department office and pick up a Major Declaration Form. Complete the top box, check the box that indicates you are declaring the major, and sign the form at the appropriate place. Please include your e-mail address, so we can add you to our e-mail mailing list and send you announcements regarding funding, colloquia, field schools, etc.

If necessary, indicate on the appropriate places on the form if Anthropology is your second or third major. If you plan to pursue Honors study you must fill out the L&S Honors in the Major form and have it signed by your major advisor.

Take the Major Declaration Form to the Undergraduate Advisor who will assign you an advisor and sign the form. When this is done, return the form to the Undergraduate Coordinator in the Department office for processing.

CERTIFICATION OF COMPETENCE IN EXPOSITORY ENGLISH

All students in the College of Letters and Science must demonstrate proficiency in expository (written) English. In the Department of Anthropology, we utilize the course Anthropology 490: Undergraduate Seminar to fulfill this requirement because it is a writing intensive course. If you take Anthropology 490, then the Undergraduate Coordinator will take care of processing your English Competency Form. If you take another course in place of 490 (i.e. 690: Problems in Anthropology), then please see the Undergraduate Coordinator to complete the appropriate paperwork. If you have any questions regarding these forms, please contact the Undergraduate Coordinator.

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ADVISING

The Undergraduate Studies Advisor is available for new majors and other students to answer general questions about the Department, major, and field of Anthropology. New majors must meet with the Undergraduate Studies Advisor to complete the Major Declaration Form (available in the Department office) and select a faculty member to act as their individual major advisor.

You should meet with your assigned advisor at least once each semester, before registration, for discussion and planning of your academic schedule. Faculty members are also available at the Faculty Advising Service in South Hall during the semester for consultation. If your interests change, or if for any reason you would prefer another advisor, a different faculty member may be assigned after consultation with the Undergraduate Studies Advisor.

The College of Letters and Science offers counseling and advising services to students throughout the year in 70 Bascom Hall. Phone 262-2644 for further information.

COURSES OFF CAMPUS

Study Abroad:

If you plan to participate in a study abroad program, please see the Study Abroad office before you go to find out about transferring credit. If you are on a UW-Madison study abroad program you will receive residence credits and grades for all the work you complete on the program. However, you must be sure that you take at least 15 credits in your major while physically on the UW-Madison campus.

While abroad you will be asked to fill out a Course Equivalent Request Form (CERF) so the requests can be sent to the individual departments to evaluate. For the CERF you must provide the following information:

1. the number of classroom contact hours each week and whether the course is a semester or year-long course.
2. a very detailed syllabus outlining the titles of books/textbooks, authors, etc. being used for the course. The syllabus should also ideally have a general outline of the expectations for the semester/year.
3. a brief description of the class. Students should write up a description that includes information on field trips and other activities.

If a course does not have a formal syllabus, the student should create a syllabus that contains the information in 1-3 above.

If you participate in a non-UW-Madison program you will receive only transfer credits, not residence credits or grades, for work completed abroad. Also, if you participate in a non-UW-Madison program you must be careful that you fulfill the last 30 credits for your degree and the last 15 upper level credits in your major on the UW-Madison campus.

Archaeology Field Schools:

If you plan to participate in an archaeology field school run by a school other than UW-Madison, you should investigate beforehand whether you will get credit for it.

1. Pick up a CERF (course equivalency request form) from the Office of Undergraduate Admissions on the third floor of the Armory (716 Langdon St.). Filling out this form will ensure that a file is set up for you. See above under Study Abroad for the information required on a CERF.
2. Before you go, discuss the field school with the Undergraduate Advisor in Anthropology. If possible, submit a syllabus so the Undergraduate Advisor can determine how much credit you should receive and any course equivalencies. The Undergraduate Advisor can then write or e-mail Undergraduate Admissions with this information. (This may also be done after you return, but you should still speak with the Undergraduate Advisor before you leave to be sure that the field school will be approved.)
3. Once you have completed the field school you should have your transcript sent to Undergraduate Admission at UW-Madison. If the department has already approved the program, the field school will automatically appear on your transcript *unless* you already have 90 or more credits. If this is the case, you will have to see the Dean regarding a residency requirement exception. (The last 30 credits of your degree must be in residence at Madison unless you receive an exception from the Dean's Office.)

If you have any questions about either study abroad or field schools, see the Undergraduate Advisor or the appropriate UW-Madison office *before you go*.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Several sources of useful information are available in the department office, 5240 Social Science Building. Resources available in the office include:

- previous semesters' syllabi. Readings, assignments, and examinations are also discussed on many of the syllabi.
- job opportunities in Anthropology on a clipboard in the department office and posted on a bulletin board. Although these jobs generally require a Ph.D., there are occasional opportunities for students with a B.A. or M.A. in Anthropology.
- brochures and flyers describing Summer field school offerings in archaeology. If you are interested in a field school, consult these listings.
- references such as the American Anthropological Association's Guide to Departments of Anthropology.

CLUBS/GROUPS/COLLOQUIA

The AnthroCircle is a student group that provides a means for social and academic gatherings of majors in anthropology. AnthroCircle generally meets once a month and organizes films, lectures, and discussions revolving around the various disciplines of the field. If you are interested in joining or helping organize the AnthroCircle, leave a message in the department office.

The Charles E. Brown Chapter, Wisconsin Archaeological Society invites all interested individuals to join the local chapter of the State Archaeological Society. Meetings are held monthly during the academic year in the Sellery Room of the State Historical Society. Talks are given by local and outside archaeologists. Notices of the meetings are posted around the department.

The Archaeological Institute of America has a local chapter that sponsors speakers throughout the year. The AIA offers student memberships. Information on the organization and Madison chapter can be found on the web page at: <http://polyglot.lss.wisc.edu/classics/Madisonaia.html>. Announcements of upcoming lectures are posted on the web site and around the department.

The department also holds public colloquia on a regular schedule featuring speakers on topics of interest to anthropologists. Graduate students in the Archaeological and Cultural sections host weekly brown bag sessions with topics more specific to those areas. You are most welcome to attend these talks and presentations.

ANTHROPOLOGY WEB PAGES

A number of web sites provide information about anthropology and its subdisciplines. The following sites provide information on some of the professional associations within anthropology as well as information on careers in the various subdisciplines. These organizations usually have student memberships available.

The *American Anthropological Association's* web page can be found at:

<http://www.aaanet.org>.

Click on the 'careers' link to find much more information on careers in anthropology. You can find out about the various divisions and sections within the AAA here.

The *Society for American Anthropology's* web page can be found at:

<http://www.saa.org>.

This site also has a link for careers in anthropology as well as one for archaeology fieldwork opportunities around the world. Other sites of interest to archaeologists include:

ArchNet: <http://archnet.uconn.edu/>

Where the jobs are: <http://www.nku.edu/~anthro/careers.html>

The Archaeological Institute of America: <http://www.archaeological.org/>

The *American Association of Physical Anthropologists* has a web page at:

<http://www.physanth.org>

The *Society for Applied Anthropology* has a web page at:

<http://www.sfaa.net>

The *Linguistic Society of America* has a web page at:

<http://www.lsadc.org/>

SPECIAL RESOURCES

The university and vicinity provide many opportunities and facilities for training and research including specialized area and language programs, accessible American Indian reservations, significant archaeological sites, and important archaeological collections. Anthropological field work is conducted in various parts of the world and there is normally an archaeological field school every second summer. The department has major laboratories for biological anthropology and archaeology and collaborates with the Center for Climatic Research. The Laboratory of Archaeology maintains comparative collections, microscopes, a thin-section lab, a lab of archaeological chemistry, computerized drafting equipment, and modern drafting, computing, and analytical equipment for research and teaching. Facilities for training and research in biological anthropology include well-equipped laboratories for forensic anthropology, human and other primate osteology anatomy, plant chemistry, stable isotope analysis, and bone histomorphometry in addition to two large teaching laboratories. A photographic darkroom is also available.