

Undergraduate Handbook

Department of Anthropology

2020-2021



WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY

What is anthropology?

At the most basic level, anthropology is the study of what makes us human.

Anthropology examines human life and variation in all of its forms, past and present. Anthropology considers the variety of customs, languages, and civilizations that make up humanity. Uniting diverse sciences such as biology and geology, with humanistic endeavors such as religious studies, philosophy, and history, anthropology has often been called the most scientific of the humanities and the most humanistic of the scientific disciplines.

Anthropological knowledge has never been more relevant and useful than in today's global society. It can help us to more effectively serve diverse peoples, achieve a clearer understanding of our heritage, and provides us the tools to understand both how the world is changing us – and how we can change the world. Whether supplying vital archaeological data to indigenous peoples in the Amazon to bolster their claims to save their lands from deforestation, to studying how world hunger is more a problem of social barriers to food distribution than actual food production, to a consideration of how the personal culture of a medical professional affects the interaction with patients from other cultures - anthropologists are on the forefront of today's social and cultural issues.

The events of our time remind us that our health, prosperity, and safety as individuals depend upon our local and global connections to the broader human family as never before. The ability of the many peoples, nations, religions, and societies to live in harmony will depend on the mutual and respectful understanding of custom, language, and heritage that anthropology seeks to foster.

*The purpose of anthropology
is to make the world safe for
human differences.*

– Ruth Benedict

Anthropology at Wayne State

The discipline of Anthropology consists of four sub-fields, each of which examines a separate facet of humanity. The Anthropology Department at Wayne State offers students comprehensive four-field training.

Archaeology

This field is the study of the human past and examines early peoples and civilizations through the physical remains they have left behind. In addition to research focused on locating and excavating ancient/historical remains, archaeology overlaps with museum studies, cultural heritage management, and the socio-political and legal issues surrounding the presentation and ownership of the archaeological record. Archaeological research includes the study pre-historical as well as contemporary societies. Many students have found participating in archaeological fieldwork projects, laboratory analysis, or community archaeology to be one of the high points of their academic careers.

Cultural anthropology

Also known as socio-cultural or social anthropology, cultural anthropology seek to understand the variations in customs and lifeways among contemporary peoples. Using the techniques of ethnographic fieldwork, cultural anthropologists immerse themselves in the communities of the people they study, collaborate with residents in their research, and through extended observation develop an in-depth understanding of the culture and social organization. Cultural anthropologists are concerned with how different societies relate to and interact with each other economically, politically, and in other ways.

Business and organizational anthropology, medical anthropology, and urban anthropology are sub-specialties of cultural anthropology in which several faculty in the Anthropology Department specialize. These areas of practicing and applied anthropology draw from the other fields of anthropology to solve contemporary problems in health, government, education, and global business. Practicing anthropologists have worked on such diverse problems as introducing new medical technology in remote villages, identifying user requirements for computer systems, and methods to guide economic aid programs in third world nations.

Linguistic anthropology

Studies in this field include the diversity of human languages and forms of communication. Thousands of languages and dialects are found around the globe today. Understanding the possibilities, limitations, and barriers to human communication is a vital issue for every member of a global society.

Biological anthropology

Also known as physical anthropology, bioanthropology examines human origins and the physical variation of modern populations. By understanding our origins as a biological species, physical anthropology makes important contributions to improving human health, nutrition, and adaptation to diverse environments.



From the exhibit on "The Secret Life of Things," WSU Grosscup Anthropology Museum

*Always remember that you
are absolutely unique.
Just like everyone else.*

- Margaret Mead

The Anthropology Major



Every undergraduate student must complete 120 credits in coursework to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences. These credits are divided into four parts: General Education Requirements, the Foreign Language Requirement for the College, a major, and a minor.

The undergraduate major in Anthropology requires a total of 34 credits, of which a minimum of 15 credits must be taken in residence at Wayne State. A maximum of 45 hours in Anthropology may be counted for the degree

Photo from an exhibit on cultural variations in body art.

The Anthropology Major:

Core Courses

(Must be completed with a grade of C or better)

ANT 1100	Introduction to Anthropology	3 cr.	
ANT 2110	Introduction to Physical Anthropology		3 cr.
ANT 3020	Introduction to Archaeology	3 cr.	
ANT 3100	World Cultures		3 cr.
ANT 3310	Language and Culture	3 cr.	
ANT 5210	Anthropological Methods	4 cr.	
ANT 5380	History of Anthropology		3 cr.
ANT 5996	Capstone Seminar in Anthropology	3 cr.	
ANT 5993	Writing Intensive Course in Anthropology (taken with ANT 5996 or ANT 3310)	0 cr.	

Total Credits in the Core: 25 cr.

Elective Courses

9 cr.

Total Credits in the Major 34 cr.

The Anthropology Minor

Minoring in Anthropology is a great way for students majoring in many areas to add a cross-cultural, comparative, or bio-cultural perspective on the study of human beings to their major emphasis.

The Anthropology minor is at least 18 credits. A maximum of 9 credits may be double-counted between the minor and any major.

Students must earn a grade of C or better in the required courses.

The Anthropology Minor

Core Courses

ANT 1100	Introduction to Anthropology	3 cr.
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Select two of the following

ANT 2100	Introduction to Physical Anthropology	3 cr.
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ANT 3100	World Cultures	3 cr.
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ANT 3020	Introduction to Archaeology	3 cr.
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ANT 3310	Language and Culture	<u>3 cr.</u>
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Total Credits in the Core:		8 cr.
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Elective Courses	9 cr
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Select three courses in Anthropology, with at least one course at the 5000-level.

Total credits in the minor	18 cr.
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*Our job is to understand the way people think,
the way they live in the world.
You just never know whom you're talking to.*

- Nancy Scheper-Hughes

The Archaeology Minor



Belt buckle from Detroit Corktown excavation.

Archaeology in its broadest definition studies past human cultures through their material remains.

Many students hold an image of an archaeologist from the movies or television, digging through the sand to uncover a lost Egyptian mummy. But archaeologists today are more likely to be a technology specialist – flying in an airplane mapping the remains of cities in Mesoamerica using lidar scanner or diving in the ocean to uncover the remains of human activity lining the coasts. Cultural resource management specialists work with national and local authorities to preserve the traditional and historic culture of its peoples – working to preserve artifacts in a museum, getting local governments to allow archaeologists access to building sites to preserve any underlying cultural remnants, or protecting the land of indigenous peoples from corporate development.

The Anthropology minor is at least 18 credits. A maximum of 9 credits may be double-counted between the minor and any major. Students must earn a grade of C or better in the required courses.

The Archaeology Minor

Core Courses

ANT 1100	Introduction to Anthropology	3 cr.
ANT 3020	Introduction to Archaeology	<u>3 cr.</u>
	Total credits in the Core:	6 cr.

Elective Courses

Select four courses from the following list.* One must be at the 5000-level.

ANT 2200	Lost Cities and Ancient Civilizations	3 cr.
ANT 2500	Archaeology of the Great Lakes	3 cr.
ANT 3220	The Inca and their Ancestors	3 cr.
ANT 5270	Concepts and Techniques in Archaeology	3 cr.
ANT 5280	Field Work in the Arch. Of the Americas	4 cr.
ANT 5500	Historical Archaeology	3 cr.
ANT 5510	Pre-Colombian and Mesoamerican Civilization	3 cr.
ANT 5565	Urban Archaeology	3 cr.
ANT 5600	Museum Studies	<u>3 cr.</u>
	Total credits in elective courses:	12- 13 cr.
	Total credits in the minor	18 cr.

*Additional Elective Course Possibilities

Students may substitute one of the 4 elective courses with one of the following specialty courses.

BIO 2870	Anatomy and Physiology
BIO 3500	Ecology and the Environment
BIO 3800	Botany
CHM 1220	General Chemistry I
CHM 1240	Organic Chemistry I
GEL 3400	Principles of Sedimentology and Stratigraphy
GEL 3650	Field Geology
GEL 4200	Geomorphology
GEL 5210	Environmental and Applied Geophysics
GKM 3590	Byzantine Civilization
GPH 3600	Introduction to Geographic Information Systems
HIS 3650	History of Detroit
HIS 3995	Special Topics in History (selected topics)
PHY 2170	University Physics for Scientists I

*Anyone can produce a new fact;
the thing is to produce a new idea.
- E. E. Evans-Pritchard*

The Global Health and Social Medicine Minor



The Global Health and Social Medicine minor explores the relationship between human rights and health, paying special attention to the factors contributing to health inequities locally and globally.

As a minor within the Department of Anthropology, students are encouraged to consider cross-cultural and biosocial approaches to explore the complexities of today's medical arena. How have social structures and ingrained racism in America impacted American medicine? From the uneven efforts to fight COVID-19, the Flint water crisis, and the lessened availability of health care in communities of color, health disparities are a growing concern across the country. At the international level, several studies place the problem of global hunger in the social boundaries preventing adequate distribution of resources rather than in the depletion of foodstuffs. And the availability of clean drinking water remains a socially and politically-bound problem.

The world needs students in health-related fields to develop proficiency in diagnosing the cultural factors preventing health equality.

The global health and social medicine minor is 18 credits. A maximum of 9 credits may be double-counted between the minor and any major. Students must earn a grade of C or better in the required courses.

The Global Health and Social Medicine Minor

Core Courses

ANT 1100	Introduction to Anthropology	3 cr.
ANT 3400	Introduction to Medical Anthropology	3 cr.
ANT/GLS/PH 3410	Global Health	3 cr.
ANT 5400	Anthropology of Health and Illness	<u>3 cr.</u>
Total credits in the core		12 cr.

Elective Courses

(Select two of the following courses)

ANT/GLS 3700	Globalization: Theories, Practices, Implications	
ANT 5410	Anthropology of Age	
ANT 5700	Applied Anthropology	
ECO 5550	Economics of Health Care	
ECO 5600	Introduction to Development Economics	
HIS/SOC 3440	American Medicine in the 20 th Century	
HIS 3585	Science, Technology, and Society	
PH 3100	Social and Behavioral Aspects of Public Health	
PH 3300	Epidemiology	
PH 4600	Special Topics in Health Disparities	
PHI 1110	Ethical Issues in Health Care	
PS 3450	Environmental Policy and Politics	
PS 5560	Biopolitics	
PS 5850	Human Rights	
PSY 2410	Health Psychology	
PSY 3380	Human Sexuality	
PSY 3490	Psychology of Adult Development and Aging	
SOC 5360	Introduction to Medical Sociology	
SOC 5760	Health and Life Course	
SOC 6750	Sociology of Urban Health	
	Total Elective Credits	6 cr.
	Total Credits in the Minor	18 cr.

*Research is formalized curiosity.
It is poking and prying with a purpose.*

- Zora Neale Hurston

Department Statement in Support of George Floyd Protests – Summer of 2020



June 5, 2020

We are living in a **pivotal moment in American history**, in which thousands of people have taken to the streets, often at great personal risks to themselves, to protest the oppressive and racist structures that the discipline of anthropology has helped to create.

The murder of **George Floyd** was but one heinous instance in a long-running pattern of police-initiated and institutional violence that continues to repeat itself through ongoing assaults on peaceful protestors in the aftermath of Floyd's murder. You do not have to be an anthropologist to understand the degree to which institutionalized anti-Black, anti-Brown, and anti-Indigenous racism underlies both these patterns of violence as well as efforts to delegitimize and silence those who speak out against it. As individuals we all react to these events in the ways we deem necessary.

As an anthropology department in **the nation's largest majority Black city**, hit hard by COVID-19 and with an important legacy of civic protests, it is important to express solidarity with impacted communities and those in the streets-but we must also **do more**.

The coming months will be a time for us, as a department, to reflect, rethink, rework, and push the limits of what we believe our discipline has to offer to our **students and our community**. As anthropologists who **stand against systemic violence, police brutality, bigotry, and the structures of white supremacy** that underlie these forms of oppression, we want to seize upon this moment to challenge ourselves, our students, our colleagues, and our university to do more than merely diagnose and analyze.

As a department, we have a role to play in support of the current protests, and the long-term struggle towards the emancipation of which they are a part. We challenge ourselves as a collective to mobilize anthropology into a proactive discipline that can help to heal and rebuild our world going forward.

A call for action

This work begins in the settings where **Wayne State anthropologists** work: our classrooms, labs, and in our fieldwork. Our department already describes teaching anthropology as an "anti-racist science" as a program-wide goal.

In the days ahead, we propose to establish a working group that leads a department-wide effort to shift our teaching and curriculum towards justice and healing. These efforts will include strengthening our training as a faculty so that we reorient ourselves and students not to simply do an "anthropology of" but an "anthropology for" through a **series of concrete interventions** in the way we teach at Wayne State.

Interventions

- **Decolonize our curriculum** centering the work of Black, Brown, and Indigenous scholars as part of the anthropological canon and interrogating knowledge production as a political, historical, and cultural process. *This includes, but is not limited to...*
 1. Foregrounding the work of Black anthropologists such as William Willis, St. Clair Drake, and Zora Neale Hurston (among others) in the way we teach the history of our discipline.
 2. Analyzing and undoing the ways that anthropology's colonial past continues to shape its present.
- **Create specific practice-based, hands-on learning opportunities with community organizations.** *This should include...*
 - Ensuring that our communities are a part of the knowledge production process at our university.
 - Building our students' competence in applying anthropological tools and theories to improve the lives of the communities impacted by racism.
 - Identifying new mediums, outlets, and forms of communication to make anthropological knowledge a freely accessible community resource.
- **Call for faculty to participate in university-sponsored trainings/workshops on inclusive, anti-discriminatory, and anti-racist practices to improve their capacity as mentors and teachers**
- **Arrange access for our students to participate in anti-racist and implicit bias workshops/trainings by the university**
- **Establish guiding principles for our department that state our departmental position on inclusivity, anti-racism, and tolerance.**

- **Focus on our annual faculty retreat in September on Anthropology's responsibilities as a voice in anti-racist training and research.**
- **Position our museum, the Grosscup Museum of Anthropology, as a centerpiece for community-involved research, with exhibits focused on social justice topics and a space for dialogue.**
- **Utilize anthropology to make the underlying causes of COVID-19's differential lethality transparent and changeable**
- **Develop curricula and syllabi to:**
 1. Meet the intellectual, practical, psychological, and emotional needs of our students.
 2. Cultivate anthropologists who have the skills, knowledge, and resources to create a better and more just society.

Today's nationwide protests are comparable to Detroit's '67 rebellion in many respects. One of the most important and overlooked aspects of that uprising was what it engendered in the following months and years: **a constellation of civil society organizations along with a cohort of leaders that continues to shape Detroit today.**

Our department can and must challenge itself to be relevant to serve the new generation of leaders that are emerging in this moment.

"... but we must also do more."

Links and resources

- [President Wilson's message concerning the death of George Floyd](#)
- [American Anthropological Association Statement](#)
- [Society for the Anthropology of North America Statement](#)
- [Society for Historical Archaeology Statement](#)
- [JSTOR's Institutionalized Racism Reading List](#)
- [On Decanonizing Anthropology](#)

Wayne State University rests on Waawiyaataanong, also referred to as Detroit, the ancestral and contemporary homeland of the Three Fires Confederacy. These sovereign lands were granted by the Ojibwe, Odawa, Potawatomi, and Wyandot nations, in 1807, through the Treaty of Detroit. Wayne State University affirms Indigenous sovereignty and honors all tribes with a connection to Detroit. With our Native neighbors, WSU can advance educational equity and promote a better future for the earth and all people