

## School of Arts and Sciences

## ANTHROPOLOGY

[www.pitt.edu/~pittanth/anthro.html](http://www.pitt.edu/~pittanth/anthro.html)

Anthropology is the study of the evolution of the human species and human societies, the differences and similarities among human cultures, and the cultural and biological reasons that begin to explain human behavior. By examining traditional and modern theories, methods, and findings in anthropology, students develop a broader understanding of our existence in the world.

The research and fieldwork of the Department of Anthropology's faculty emphasizes the geographic regions of Latin America, Asia and the Pacific Islands, Melanesia, Eastern Europe, and the United States.

The University offers impressive library collections, including anthropology collections on North America, Europe, the Pacific, East Asia, and Latin America. The Latin American collection is among the top 10 in the United States. Significant library collections on Andean and Caribbean countries, Bolivia, Cuba, Russia, and Eastern Europe are also available. The renowned Carnegie Museum of Natural History and Carnegie Library are located next to the Pitt campus.

The department's curriculum introduces students to the basic questions and issues of the four leading fields of anthropology:

1. **Archaeology** courses examine the prehistory of major geographic regions, with special emphasis on Latin America, Russia, North America, China, and Europe. Current theories and methods of archaeological analysis are highlighted. Different examples of the origins and development of complex prehistoric societies are investigated.

Students have access to local museum collections, including those from the nearby Carnegie Museum of Natural History, where several Pitt faculty hold positions. The department has laboratories for processing and analyzing prehistoric cultural remains. Students can also participate in archaeological fieldwork in the bi-annual summer field school.

2. **Physical anthropology** focuses on theories of evolution, human genetics, forensic anthropology, the archaeology of human and primate bones, and primate and human evolution, anatomy, and morphology. In the laboratory, students examine fossil casts and collections of human and nonhuman skeletal remains. An interest in physical anthropology can be complemented by related courses in the biological sciences, geology, and other disciplines. Faculty interests include morphology and behavior, development of cranio-facial structures, hominoid evolution, and the evolution of behavior.
3. **Social and cultural anthropology** courses explore cultural areas around the world including Latin America, China, Japan, the Pacific, South Asia, Eastern Europe, and the United States. Students examine aspects of society and culture from a cross-cultural perspective, including medical anthropology, ethnicity, family and kinship, food, sex roles, social and political organization, religion, symbolism, and folklore. Summer field training in cultural anthropology is available.
4. **Anthropological linguistics.** This field addresses the nature and structure of languages worldwide, and examines the relationship of language to other aspects of culture and society. Courses are offered in cooperation with the Department of Linguistics and are particularly focused on Gaelic, and Latin American Indian languages, including Gypsy language, and Mesoamerican culture and writing systems.



**Required Courses:** Anthropology majors are required to complete 30 credits in anthropology courses, distributed as follows:

**I. An introductory sequence** comprising three courses taken during the freshman or sophomore year:

ANTH 0582 Introduction to Archaeology (3 cr.)

This course examines how archaeologists piece together varied evidence to understand cultures of the past, trace our social and biological evolution, and ultimately help us understand ourselves better. Topics covered include world prehistory, dating techniques, the nature of archaeological information, and archaeological ethics.

ANTH 0680 Introduction to Physical Anthropology (3 cr.)

To introduce students to the issues, theories, and methods of studying humans and other primates, this course reviews the evolution of modern primates through their anatomy, distribution, behavior, and fossil histories. Recent debates and controversies regarding human evolution are emphasized.

ANTH 0780 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (3 cr.)

By examining the behavior and customs of people throughout the world, this course encourages students to consider what is "normal" and "natural" in human experience. Topics covered include family systems, political change, economic systems, gender, religion, and patterns of marriage. Lectures and recitations are supplemented with films, videos, and slide presentations.

**II. ANTH (various numbers) Undergraduate Seminar (3 cr.)**

Through discussion and research in a peer group environment, students examine how cultures around the world change over time from several anthropological perspectives.

**III. Electives:** The remaining 18 credits may be selected from all other anthropology courses. At least one class must be taken as a writing (W) course.

Some commonly offered, 3-credit courses include:

ANTH 0538 Archeologist Looks at Death  
ANTH 0630 Intro to Forensic Anthropology  
ANTH 1443 American Indian Languages  
ANTH 1525 Eastern North American Archaeology  
ANTH 1528 South American Archaeology  
ANTH 1530 Origins of Cities  
ANTH 1534 Archaeological Data Analysis  
ANTH 1601 Structure and Function  
ANTH 1603 Human Origins  
ANTH 1606 Primate Anatomy  
ANTH 1731 Women and Gender in the Third World  
ANTH 1737 Branding and Consumer Culture  
ANTH 1737 Endangered Languages  
ANTH 1750 Archeology of Warfare and Violence  
ANTH 1751 People and Environment of Amazonia  
ANTH 1752 Anthropology of Food  
ANTH 1755 Urban Anthropology  
ANTH 1760 Anthropology of Law  
ANTH 1761 Medical Anthropology  
ANTH 1764 Cultures and Societies of India  
ANTH 1770 Kinship and the Family  
ANTH 1771 Religion and Culture  
ANTH 1775 Myth, Symbol, and Ritual  
ANTH 1784 Japanese Society  
ANTH 1792 Population and Culture

**Recommended Courses**

Linguistics and quantitative analysis courses are not required for the major but are highly recommended.

Although the anthropology major has no additional language requirement beyond the School of Arts and Sciences language requirement, students are strongly urged to attain competency in one foreign language if they plan to do graduate work in anthropology.

**Related Area:** Students must complete 12 credits in any field outside of anthropology approved by the student's anthropology faculty advisor.

### **Double Majors**

Students may pursue a double major from among a variety of other disciplines such as geology, history, and psychology.

### **Practical Experience Through the Department of Anthropology**

Many students find opportunities to work directly with faculty on research projects including archaeological investigations in New York State and elsewhere, study of skeletal remains, laboratory research in anatomy and physiology, and observation of human behavior in many contexts.

### **Career Opportunities**

Anthropology is an excellent choice for any career in which understanding human behavior and society is important. An anthropology program provides a solid basis for a future in such areas as urban planning, environmental engineering, human resources, social work, international nongovernment organizations, and public health. Few anthropology majors continue on to study anthropology in graduate school. Some majors pursue graduate work in sociology, political science, or public administration, and a significant percentage go on to law, medical, business, or other professional schools.

### **Noteworthy Achievements Attained by Faculty in the Department of Anthropology**

The University of Pittsburgh's Department of Anthropology is known around the world. Faculty conduct research in many areas including North and South America, Europe, India, China, Japan, and New Guinea, and study diverse topics ranging from Neanderthals to the origin of civilizations to gender roles. The department's specialities include medical anthropology, applied anthropology, archaeology of Latin America, and cultures of the Pacific. Department professors have recently translated some of the earliest writing known for the New World, excavated an Iroquois village, studied blood-sucking witchcraft in Mexico, and discovered a new species of primate. These and other research experiences are directly communicated to students because nearly all anthropology courses in the School of Arts and Sciences are taught by faculty.

The Department of Anthropology also offers a departmental honors program.

#### **For advising information, please contact:**

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Department of Anthropology  
Dr. Kathleen Allen  
3123 Wesley W. Posvar Hall  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260  
412-648-7511  
E-mail: [kmallen@pitt.edu](mailto:kmallen@pitt.edu) ; [anthroug@pitt.edu](mailto:anthroug@pitt.edu)

#### **For information on other majors, please contact:**

University of Pittsburgh  
Office of Admissions and Financial Aid  
Alumni Hall, 4227 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260  
412-624-PITT  
E-mail: [oafa@pitt.edu](mailto:oafa@pitt.edu)  
[www.oafa.pitt.edu](http://www.oafa.pitt.edu)

## **Special Programs**

**The Undergraduate Anthropology Club** helps students get to know others who are interested in anthropology, as well as faculty in the department. The club arranges workshops, informal discussions, films, and field trips.

**Lambda Alpha** is the national collegiate honor society for anthropology majors who maintain a high grade point average, alumni, and faculty. Two nationwide scholarships are awarded to members each year.

### **Fieldwork**

The summer field school in archaeology is taught every other year and focuses on prehistoric sites in the Northeast. Students learn mapping, surveying, and excavating techniques by participating in field research while earning course credits.

### **Internships**

Internships give students the opportunity to participate, for credit, in ongoing research led by faculty members in all aspects of anthropology.

### **Study Abroad**

Studying abroad is an exciting way to strengthen the international perspective of your undergraduate education and your credentials as a graduate. While earning credits toward your degree or certificate, you also broaden your personal experience and deepen your appreciation of other cultures.

