

ANTHROPOLOGY

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Anthropology is a three-year major subject which may be studied for degree curricula in the Faculties of Humanities, Commerce and Science. One or two courses in anthropology are allowed as credits for degree curricula in the Faculty of Law.

Anthropology 1

This year provides an introduction to the wide scope and contemporary relevance of anthropology. Ethnographic examples are drawn from Southern Africa, as well as from the rest of the world.

Introduction to Anthropology

Defining anthropology and its key concepts: culture and society.

Bio-Socio-Cultural Aspects

Human origins; race and ethnicity; sex and gender; youth and ageing.

Socio-Cultural Institutions

Kinship and marriage; economics and politics; religion and ideology -- these basic institutions of any society are studied in relation to each other and with reference to wide-ranging studies of (mainly) pre-industrial peoples.

Case-Studies

Regional case studies in which the interrelatedness of socio-cultural institutions are studied in greater detail.

Anthropology 2

During this year the concerns of anthropology are explained in greater analytical and methodological depth, with a focus on specialist ethnographic and thematic topics. The following courses are usually taught but the offered topics change depending on the availability of staff.

Power and Wealth

An exploration of the interplay of power and wealth in the modern world, including the impact of the market economy and globalization on local societies in the developing world.

Peoples and Cultures of the Pacific

This course offers an introduction to the ethnography and peoples of the Pacific Islands. It investigates past and current sociocultural and ecological issues.

Environmental Anthropology

This course explores the relationship between humans and the natural environment and the ways in which this relationship is mediated by culture, technology, and global economic and political trends. When the relevant lecturers are available, a course on marine anthropology may be offered.

Comparative and Regional Ethnographic Studies

These vary from year to year, and include a focus on regions such as Europe, the Indian Ocean littoral and islands, the Pacific islands, the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa, or may involve a theme, such as resettlement and refugees in Africa as a whole.

Urban Anthropology

An exploration of the socio-cultural and politico-economic dynamics of the urban domain especially as it affects relative newcomers to the urban experience and cities in developing societies; anthropological theoretical and methodological perspectives are emphasized but this is an interdisciplinary field.

The Anthropology of Tourism

Currently one of the world's largest industries, and far and away the largest in many developing countries, tourism as a field of study came late to anthropology, but now there is a large and growing literature from anthropology's unique perspective.

Anthropology 3

During this seminar-focused year students are introduced to additional ethnographic perspectives, they pursue the analysis of institutions in greater depth and more emphasis is placed on changing and contemporary societies as well as on the application of anthropology and its career opportunities. The theoretical aspects of the discipline are also underscored more overtly. The following courses are usually taught but the offered topics change depending on the availability of staff.

Fieldwork and Practice

A semester long analysis of key readings in the development of anthropological theory and ethnographic practice, including training in research methodology and preparation for an independent field research project to be undertaken during the second and third terms.

Medical Anthropology

Examines various theoretical approaches to understanding the epidemiology of disease. It explores cross-cultural perspectives on illness and healing, with an emphasis on HIV/AIDs in Africa.

Applied Anthropology

Examines how anthropologists have applied their knowledge and insights across a broad range of social fields.

Indigenous peoples, knowledge, and bio-cultural diversity

Critically examines the notions of indigenous peoples and their knowledge, and how these inform contemporary discourses on bio-cultural diversity.

Transnational Subjects, Local Lives

Students are introduced to the burgeoning field of transnational migration, and the various iterations thereof in the global south and the global north.

Examinations**Anthropology 1, 2 and 3 are whole year courses.**

In each year, courses taken in the first semester (terms one and two) are written off in the June examination and courses taken in the second semester (terms three and four) are written off in the November examination.

Examinations count for 60% of the final year mark while course work (such as test and essays) count for 40% of the mark. In any given course at either the undergraduate or Honours levels, the department may offer take-home, open-book, pre-allocated questions or standard exams.

Anthropology Honours

The Honours course is completed in the fourth year of study. The year consists of three/four papers and a research essay. Subject to student preferences and the availability of staff, the topics for the papers are selected from the following:

Advanced Ethnographic Research; Anthropology of Childhood; Anthropology of the Eastern Cape; Social Change and Modernization; Development and Resettlement; Environmental Anthropology; Ethnicity and cultural minorities; Indigenous peoples and knowledge; Landscapes and Sacred Sites; Matters of Spirit in Anthropology; Medical Anthropology; Transnational Migration; Anthropology of Performance; Theory; Marine Anthropology.

A research essay of about 15 000 words, incorporating original fieldwork, is written during the year on a topic chosen by the candidate and approved by the Departmental Research Committee.

Joint Honours

Combining Anthropology with another subject is not encouraged (as Anthropology Honours is so intensive) but it is allowed by the Faculty. From the Anthropology side, this consists of either two taught papers or one taught paper and the research essay.

Interdisciplinary Honours Degree

Subject to demand and the availability of staff, the above papers may be offered towards interdisciplinary honours degrees, or as option papers towards honours degrees in cognate disciplines.

MA and PhD Degrees

A thesis (for which fieldwork will normally be required) on any approved topic within the field of Social or Cultural Anthropology. Periods of residence for consultation with the supervisor are required over the period (usually two years for the MA, three years for the PhD).