

Anthropology

The Field of Anthropology

Anthropology is concerned with everything that is human, in all parts of the world, both present and past. Anthropology is interested in all human societies and views life as a complexly integrated whole that is more than the sum of its parts. It is the human experience as a whole that anthropology seeks to understand.

The breadth of anthropology is reflected in its four subfields. Physical anthropology studies biological evolution and how heredity conditions the way we conduct life. Cultural anthropology, by studying the enormous diversity of lifeways in contemporary cultures worldwide, attempts to explain both differences and similarities in the way different peoples carry out the process of living. Archeology explores the human past far beyond the range of written records, using specialized techniques to probe human prehistory. Linguistic anthropology investigates the nature of language and the critical role it plays in developing our unique intellectual capabilities and behavior. The central concept in anthropology is "culture." It is this vital idea which binds the subfields into an integrated discipline.

The Department of Anthropology

The anthropology program has three goals:

- Provide students with clear conception of human variability and its implications, enabling them to understand and deal with lifestyles other than those of mainstream America.
- Provide students with the intellectual skills which are essential to the wide range of professional careers.
- Provide students who wish to pursue a professional career in anthropology with a thorough preparation for graduate work.

Both the anthropology major and minor offer a varied but well-structured exposure to all four subfields of the discipline. The major consists of two parts: the core curriculum, which introduces data, theory, and anthropological field work, and the elective curriculum, which offers a wide selection of courses ranging from traditional topics to current issues in anthropology and the contemporary world. The minor is a balanced survey of the discipline designed to complement a major that requires understanding and dealing with people from differing cultural backgrounds.

The faculty members work closely with students to encourage intellectual growth as well as the development of personally satisfying skills that are in demand by employers in many career settings. Anthropology courses, especially at the advanced level, teach students to read critically, write fluently, organize information cogently, and interrelate ideas logically and creatively.

Careers in Anthropology

Career opportunities for anthropology graduates are numerous and varied. Many anthropologists are employed as researchers with government agencies such as the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Peace Corps, and the National Park Service. Others engage in research for private organizations specializing in international development. In recent years, anthropologists have become adept at securing high-level positions in the corporate world. These successes outside the traditional university setting indicate that employers appreciate the unique training and capabilities of professional anthropologists.

Future Education

Anthropological training at the undergraduate level is widely recognized as excellent preparation for advanced degrees in many professional fields. Graduates of this department

**California State
University, Fresno**

**Department of
Anthropology**

559.278.3002

**B.A. in
Anthropology**

**Minor in
Anthropology**

**Minor in American
Indian Studies**

**Minor in Asian
American Studies**

**Certificate in Southeast
Asian Studies**

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Anthropology

have completed graduate programs in medicine, law, social work, and international business and relations. Professional careers in anthropology usually require a doctorate.

Asian American Studies

The Asian American Studies Program offers a minor with classes that focus on the history and contemporary experience of Asians in the United States. A Certificate in Asian Studies is also offered. For assistance, please contact Asian American Studies Coordinator, Franklin Ng, Ph.D.

American Indian Studies Minor

The American Indian Studies Minor is designed to foster culturally appropriate knowledge and skills for those who may work for federal and/or state agencies having American Indian constituents, and/or tribes, tribal health centers, tribal organizations, urban Indian organizations, or national Indian organizations. For assistance, please contact American Indian Studies Coordinator, Charles Ettner, Ph.D.

Certificate in Southeast Asian Studies

The Certificate of Southeast Asian Studies requires a minimum of 12 units. Select from the following upper-division courses: ANTH 123,190; ASAM 110, 138,140,190; GEOG 177T; HMONG 100, 101; LING 190; SWRK 181.

The Minor and the Certificate in Southeast Asian Studies focus on the cultures and peoples of Southeast Asia, and on their communities outside Southeast Asia, especially those in the United States. For further information contact Dr. Franklin Ng, Department of Anthropology, at 559.278.3002.

General Preparation

Anthropology requires an inquiring mind, a strong sense of intellectual curiosity, and an appreciation for people of different cultures. Channeling these capacities, anthropology builds an understanding of the differences in our evolving species and its lifeways.

High School Preparation

Students should meet California State University's admission requirements in terms of college preparatory course

requirements, grade point average, and test scores. Development of reading, writing, and study skills is strongly encouraged.

College Program

Students should consult the university's *General Catalog* for specific major and university requirements. Community college transfers should consult their catalogs to ensure that courses taken are CSU transferable (baccalaureate level).

General Education

Students should complete as many of Fresno State General Education requirements as possible during the freshman and sophomore years, whether they are attending Fresno State or a community college. Community colleges can certify up to 39 of the units required in Fresno State's General Education pattern.

Course Requirements

Since program changes may occur, students should consult a Fresno State departmental adviser and the *General Catalog* prior to registering for courses in this major.

Lower Division

Freshman-Sophomore level courses
(may be taken at a community college)

Introduction to Prehistory and Physical Anthropology (ANTH 3)

Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
(Fresno State ANTH 2)

Upper Division

Junior-Senior level courses
(to be taken at Fresno State)

Archeology Field School/
Cultural Resource Management
Field Work in Cultural Anthropology
Anthropological Theory

Upper Division Electives

Courses such as:
Anthropology of Religion
Contemporary Archaeology
Human Variation
Medical Anthropology
Primates
Women: Culture and Biology
Prehistory of North America
Cultures of Southeast Asia

**For additional
information, write**

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Department of
Anthropology**

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PLEASE NOTE: This document is for general informational purposes only. The information is subject to change; consult the appropriate department or an academic adviser. Entering freshmen must follow the revised General Education program effective fall 1999 and thereafter. The university catalog and schedule of courses are available online at www.fresnostate.edu/ClassSchedule and www.fresnostate.edu/catalog.

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