

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ANTHROPOLOGY UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK

September 2015

Introduction

You are about to enter one of the most exciting and dynamic fields of study in the University. Anthropology teaches about humanity in all its global complexity—from its earliest beginnings to the present. It is a holistic study of people in an increasingly fragmented and challenging world. Anthropology is comparative, seeking to understand cultural adaptation and change both diachronically through archaeology and ethnohistory and synchronically through studies of present cultures. Anthropologists engage with things as diverse as the urban environment, the sediments of ancient civilizations on through the most material and ephemeral of cultural phenomena.

Anthropology offers tools for the evaluation of societies' adjustments to their social and environmental situations. Those tools range from the most stringent of scientific methodologies to the most interpretive of strategies. Each subfield (see below) sheds a different and insightful light on some aspect of human existence. Archaeology, for example, with its long time span of analysis, is able to inquire into societal failures as well as achievements.

Later on, this handbook will outline the requirements for the degree and some general procedures for completing the course of study. It also gives some advice on how best to structure your program of study.

Anthropology at DU

Anthropology in the United States is conventionally considered to include 4 subfields¹:

- (1) **Cultural anthropology:** the study of variation in the lifeways of contemporary peoples. Within cultural anthropology, ethnography is the field study of other cultures, and ethnology is the systematic, synthetic study of the cultural variation revealed by ethnographers.
- (2) **Archaeology:** the study of cultural variation across time and space using the material remains left by past peoples.
- (3) **Biological anthropology:** the study of the physical variety of humankind, our evolutionary history, and our closest non-human relatives, the primates (monkeys and apes).
- (4) **Linguistic anthropology:** the study of languages, including their structure and history.

¹ (In some areas of the world (e.g. Europe), departments of archaeology are usually separate from departments of cultural anthropology. In the USA, however, if you have a primary interest in archaeology, you still major in anthropology.)

Anthropology is an evolving discipline, and today other subfields are recognized. **Museum anthropology** is the study of how people and their material culture are represented in contemporary museums. **Applied Anthropology** is the practical application of anthropological method and theory to the needs of society. Our department is particularly strong in the areas of **cultural anthropology, archaeology, museum anthropology, and applied anthropology**. However, there are courses available in other subfields and all majors are required to take an introductory-level course in biological anthropology.

Faculty of the Department of Anthropology

Dr. Mario Alejandro Cerón Valdés (Assistant Professor) is an anthropologist specializing in medical anthropology and indigenous health in Central America, with a focus on public health and human rights. Sturm 131, 303-871-2683, alejandro.ceron@du.edu.

Dr. Bonnie Clark (Associate Professor) is an archaeologist who specializes in the relationships between people, places, and things; and the historical archaeology of western North America. She is also the Director of Undergraduate Studies. Sturm 142, 303-871- 2875, bclark@du.edu.

Dr. Richard Clemmer-Smith (Professor) is a cultural anthropologist who specializes in Native American cultures and religions and the American Southwest and West. Dr. Clemmer-Smith is also Chair of the department. Sturm 141, 303-871-2679, rclemmer@du.edu.

Dr. Lawrence Conyers (Professor) is an archaeologist who specializes in high tech archaeological prospecting methods (especially ground-penetrating radar) and in the American Southwest, Latin America and many other areas around the world. He is also Director of Graduate Studies. Sturm 132, 303-871-2684, lconyers@du.edu.

Dr. Maria Dores Girao da Cruz (Assistant Professor) is an ethno-archaeologist who works in the fields of African and Historical Archaeology, Landscape Analysis, Ethnohistory and Ethnoarchaeology in Ghana, Mozambique, Portugal, as well as historic sites in the United States. Sturm 135, 303-871-2472, mdures.cruz@du.edu.

Dr. Esteban M. Gómez (Visiting Teaching Assistant Professor) is a museum anthropologist and archaeologist who researches colonial encounters in the Americas, post-colonial narratives, cultural representation, and rituals of citizenship performed at museums and heritage sites. Sturm 109, 303-871-2688, Esteban.gomez@du.edu.

Dr. James LaVita (Professor of Social Sciences, Division of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences) is a cultural anthropologist and folklorist who specializes in folklore, expressive culture, dance ethnology and the anthropology of technology. Sturm 119, 303-871-3304, lavita@du.edu.

Dr. Dean Saitta (Professor) is an urban anthropologist and archaeologist who specializes in North America. Sturm 105, 303-871-2680, dsaitta@du.edu. Dr. Saitta is also Chair of the department.

Dr. Sarah Nelson is a full-time Research Professor. Dr. Nelson is an archaeologist who specializes in gender studies and the pre-history of Asia (especially Korea and China). Sturm 128, 303-871-2682, snelson@du.edu.

Staff of the Department of Anthropology

Anne Amati is the NAGPRA Coordinator/Registrar for the University of Denver Museum of Anthropology. Sturm 118, 303-871-2687, anne.amati@du.edu

Brooke Rohde is Curator of Collections in the University of Denver Museum of Anthropology. Sturm 117, 303-871-2543, brohde@du.edu.

Órla McInerney is the Assistant to the Chair for the Department of Anthropology. Sturm 146, 303-871-2677, orla.mcinerney@du.edu.

The Department's Mission

Faculty in the Department of Anthropology are dedicated to analyzing human differences in the context of the material (political and economic) conditions of life. We are concerned with the interaction of gender, race, ethnicity, class, and other variables in human affairs, and with the consequences of these relationships for social change and development. We investigate the tangible and intangible environments that societies construct through narratives, art and other forms of human expression. Drawing on the resources of our Museum of Anthropology, we are concerned with how the material world expresses and sustains human relationships and ways of thinking.

The Anthropology Department at the University of Denver is a friendly department, committed to our students and their learning. Anthropology is inherently holistic so we seek to make bridges to other disciplines at the university, enriching both. Each faculty member is dedicated to research and scholarship which contribute in important ways to the discipline, and to the lives of the people we study. Every member of the department seeks to make the department, the university, the region and the world a better place through our teaching, publications, and service.

Anthropology as a department also contributes to the declared mission of the University of Denver by being international in scope with a global perspective, by addressing issues of diversity in gender, race, ethnicity, class, and by having an ethical dimension, fostering values of human rights.

Anthropology Program Student Learning Outcomes

After completing the requirements for the BA degree in Anthropology (detailed below), students should be able to:

1. Describe the distinguishing features of an anthropological perspective.
2. Explain key concepts of culture, race, adaptation, evolution, ethnocentrism, cultural relativism, and others.
3. Identify the most important arguments of a text and evaluate the quality and strength of evidence used to support them.
4. Frame a research problem and identify the critical information required to investigate it.
5. Construct coherent and engaging essays and other expressive forms that reflect skill in finding information and organizing content.

Requirements for the BA degree in Anthropology

(Important Note: Immediately after you declare anthropology as a major it is important to meet with Dr. Clark who will assign you one of the above faculty members as an advisor. This assignment will be based on your interests in the field of anthropology.)

The degree requirements reflect our most recent judgment concerning the best method of training you in anthropology while also meeting your individual interests and needs. We trust that you will find sufficient flexibility within the basic structure of the major so that you, together with your advisor, can tailor a program of study that best suits your personal objectives and interests.

The anthropology major requires a minimum of 44 credit hours of anthropology classes. No more than 60 credit hours taken in anthropology can be counted toward the 183 total credit hours required for graduation from DU. These are the four basic required courses, which should be taken prior to taking more advanced courses in these subjects:

(1) Fundamentals of Archaeology (ANTH 2310):

An introduction to the study of archaeology as a way to study historic and prehistoric peoples and cultures.

(2) Cultural Anthropology (ANTH 2010):

An exploration of the varied aspects of ethnographic methods and the study of cultures around the world.

(3) Human Nature (ANTH 2105):

A basic course in human evolution, primatology, and human biological variation and behavior.

(4) Museums and Public Culture (ANTH 2600):

The introduction of museum practices in anthropology.

(5) Pioneers of Anthropology (ANTH 2000): The development of anthropology as a field of study, which includes important thinkers, ideas and relationships between the discipline and its wider intellectual and societal context.

The following courses are also required for all anthropology majors:

(6) Capstone Seminar in Anthropology (ANTH 3800)

The topic of the seminar depends on the specialty interests of the faculty member teaching it. The seminar brings your knowledge of anthropology to bear on topics of special significance in contemporary anthropological research. It serves to assess your grasp of the key concepts, theories, and insights of anthropology, and critically reflects on the nature and history of the discipline. Enrollment in this course assumes that you have completed all or most of the other requirements for the major.

(7) Other Anthropology Electives: 20 hours.

The remaining 20 hours of classes for the anthropology major may be fulfilled with anthropology courses of the student's choosing. These can include special topics seminars designated as ANTH 3701, 3702, or 3703. Courses taught by anthropologists in the University CORE Curriculum may be counted either for CORE or for department credit, but not both. *Students must have taken at least three 3000-level courses as electives (including the capstone) at the time of graduation.*

Independent Anthropological Research Project (Senior thesis):

Students must complete some type of outside research project during their undergraduate studies. This project must include documentation and personal reflection on a “real life” experience involving some type of anthropological research. This “real life” experience can include topics related to any one of the following areas of study common at D.U.:

- Study Abroad classes and experiences
- Internships in museums or other organizations in Denver or elsewhere
- Civic Engagement scholarship programs through the university
- Service Learning classes or experiences through the university
- Partners in Scholarship (PINS) research
- Professional or volunteer work in an applied setting (e.g. CRM or museum work)

Students should consult early with faculty about their project, especially if it will be related to study abroad. Students must submit a draft of their senior project to the Anthropology Department's Director of Undergraduate Study (Dr. Clark) and their project advisor at the start of Spring Quarter. A final version will be due May 1. The final product is usually a paper but could be an oral presentation or other written product approved by the student's advisor or the director of undergraduate studies (Professor Clark). This outside research is intended to be work that is done *in addition to* general class work required as part of the undergraduate major. The type of final product and any possible independent study credits for the experience must be negotiated between the student and the student's advisor prior to undertaking the experience. Thesis ideas will be explored and refined in the Capstone class senior year.

Sequencing Courses in the Anthropology Major

It is desirable for students to take Anthropology: Humankind in Context (ANTH 1010) as well as

the four required introduction anthropology courses before proceeding to other upper-level anthropology courses in those sub-fields of anthropology. ANTH 1010 will count toward Common Curriculum credit *but it not strictly required for anthropology majors*. Beyond this there are no strict rules for sequencing elective anthropology courses. Faculty advisors can help their students plan a reasonable sequence of courses within the major based on their interests and schedules. Finally, ANTH 3800 (Capstone Seminar) presumes that students have senior standing and have completed all of their lower-level requirements. This course should be taken last in the required class sequence and also acts as a primer and workshop for researching and writing your senior thesis.

Student Assessment

The department is committed to monitoring your progress through the degree program. In addition to course evaluations and grades, the Anthropology Department's Director of Undergraduate Study (Dr. Clark) and each student's project advisor will assess their achievement in relation to the five learning outcomes outlined above. Student assessment has three components. A first component of student assessment relates to the progress they make prior to their senior year, and student work should reflect progress towards achieving the five learning outcomes outlined above. The second component of student assessment consists of a test that evaluates students understanding of essential anthropological concepts. This test will be conducted during the Capstone Seminar. The final element regards the Senior project and the extent to which it reflects achievement in the five learning outcomes.

Distinction in Anthropology

Students who perform exceptionally well in their anthropology courses—achieving a GPA of at least 3.75 within anthropology, and 3.30 in their overall college coursework overall—will graduate with Distinction in Anthropology.

University Honor Code

All anthropology students are expected to adhere to the University Honor Code which stipulates the following:

All members of the University community are entrusted with the responsibility of observing certain ethical goals and values as they relate to academic integrity. Essential to the fundamental purpose of the University is the commitment to the principles of truth and honesty. The Honor Code is designed so that responsibility for upholding these principles lies with the individual as well as the entire community. The Honor Code fosters and advances an environment of ethical conduct in the academic community of the University, the foundation of which includes the pursuit of academic honesty and integrity. Through an atmosphere of mutual respect we enhance the value of our education and bring forth the highest standard of academic excellence. Members of the University community, including students, faculty, staff, administrators and trustees, must not commit any intentional misrepresentation or deception in academic or professional matters.

Getting the Most Out of Your Anthropology Major

The BA requirements discussed above give you broad exposure to the discipline and allow you to experience classes with different professors on the faculty. After these, you are free to focus on one or another subfield of the discipline. If you focus on archaeology, you are strongly encouraged to take the Summer Field School in Archaeology (ANTH 3990) when it is offered or a comparable field school taught at another university. Our cultural anthropologists can direct students to off-campus experiences similar to archaeological field school around the world in this area of anthropology.

While it is fine in your coursework for you to emphasize one subfield over another, you should strive to sample the diversity of anthropology at higher levels as well. We often hear from graduating seniors that they wish they had taken more archaeology, or more cultural anthropology. The beauty of anthropology is its holism-- the way it links, in novel ways, culture and biology, people and nature, past and present. Fully appreciating this aspect of the discipline requires more than just passing familiarity with the diversity of anthropology. Your faculty advisor can help you tailor a program of study that satisfies your particular interests without losing sight of the connections between the different subfields, and between anthropology and other academic disciplines at the university, at least one of which should be your required minor degree.

Appendix 1.

Bachelor of Arts Degree, Anthropology

Common Curriculum University Requirements

First Year Seminar.....	4 hours
Writing and Rhetoric	8 hours
Language Proficiency.....	4-12 hours
Ways of Knowing (Analytical Inquiry: Natural and Physical World).....	4 hours
Ways of Knowing (Analytical Inquiry: Society and Culture).....	8 hours
Ways of Knowing (Scientific Inquiry: Natural and Physical World).....	12 hours
Ways of Knowing (Scientific Inquiry: Society and Culture).....	8 hours
Advanced Seminar.....	4 hours

Anthropology Major Requirements (44 hours minimum, 60 hours maximum)

Fundamentals of Archaeology (ANTH 1103)	4 hours
Cultural Anthropology (ANTH 2010)	4 hours
Human Nature (ANTH 2105)	4 hours
Museums and Public Culture (ANTH 2600)	4 hours
Pioneers of Anthropology (ANTH 2000)	4 hours
Capstone Seminar in Anthropology (ANTH 3800)	4 hours

Other Electives.....20 hours

[Note: Courses taught by anthropologists as part of the University Advanced Seminar (ASEM) Requirements may be counted either for ASEM or for department credit, but not both. Students must have taken at least three 3000-level courses (including the Anthropology Capstone Seminar) at the time of graduation.]

Minor Requirements	20 hours
Other Electives	30-50 hours
Total Quarter Hours Required for BA	183 hours