

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ANTHROPOLOGY UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK

September 2018

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 materials of ancient civilizations, and virtual communities.

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 5 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.
- (5) **Museum anthropology:** the study of how people and their material culture are represented in contemporary museums.

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.)

Here at DU, the Department of Anthropology is particularly strong in the areas of **cultural anthropology**, **archaeology**, and **museum anthropology**. Our faculty is expert in 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 are also involved with the tangible and intangible expressive environments that societies construct, with narratives and art as well as the material productions of life.

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.

Students may also sample introductory and upper-level courses in biological anthropology, and a basic introductory course in linguistic anthropology.

Faculty of the Department of Anthropology

Dr. Mario Alejandro Cerón Valdes (Assistant Professor) is an anthropologist specializing in medical anthropology, applied anthropology and health inequalities in Central America. Sturm 131, 303-871-2683, alejandro.ceronvaldes@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, bonnie.clark@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. Sturm 141, 303-871-2679, Richard.clemmer-smith@du.edu.

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

Dr. Esteban M. Gómez (Assistant Professor) focuses on digital anthropology, archaeology, and heritage with expertise in Latin America and community engaged research. Sturm 140, 303-871-2472, Esteban.gomez@du.edu.

Dr. Christina Kreps (Associate Professor) is Director of the DU Museum of Anthropology. She studies the anthropology of museums with a specialization in international approaches and indigenous curation. Sturm 109, 303-871-2688, christina.kreps@du.edu.

Dr. Dean Saitta (Professor) teaches urban anthropology, evolutionary anthropology, and North American archaeology. He is Director of the university's Urban Studies program. Sturm 105,

303-871-2680, dsaitta@du.edu.

Dr. Sarah Nelson is an Emeritus 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

Jennifer Foxcroft is the Assistant to the Chairs of Anthropology and Economics. Sturm 146, 303-871-2677, Jennifer.Foxcroft@du.edu.

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

Jamie Dinneen is the Program Coordinator for the Departments of Anthropology & Economics, Sturm 246, 303-871-2243, Jamie.dinneen@du.edu .

The Department's Mission

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.

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 discuss the major requirements with you. She will serve as your major advisor, unless you have a specific interest in working with another faculty member).

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)*

This seminar, which will typically be taught in the Winter quarter, will center on anthropology as a public and professional practice. Building on knowledge gained throughout your time at DU, you will explore topics in the public sphere through an anthropological lens. You will also learn skills for presenting your own anthropological explorations to various audiences. This course will also help you transition into the world of professional anthropological practice. Enrollment in this course assumes that you have completed all or most of the other requirements for the major and should be taken in your senior year.

*Please note: We are currently in the midst of changing the Capstone course to two segments: one 2 credit independent study taken with your Capstone project advisor (see below for more information) and one 2 credit seminar taken in your senior year. We will work with you to make the transition fit with your graduation schedule.

(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 Capstone Project:

Students must complete some type of applied or 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
- Expansion of research projects begun during regular coursework
- Internships in museums or other organizations
- Civic Engagement or 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)

A draft of your capstone is due at the beginning of the quarter in which you intend to graduate. Shaped by the feedback on that draft, students must submit a final capstone product to their advisor and the Anthropology Department’s Director of Undergraduate Study *one month* before graduation. This written product is usually a document but could be an oral presentation or other 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 capstone advisor prior to undertaking the experience.

In the Spring of your senior year, you will present a poster at a Capstone Fair held in early May. If you graduate early, we hope you return for the event, however, you can provide a digital poster to represent your work.

Sequencing Courses in the Anthropology Major

It is desirable for students to take the four required introduction anthropology courses before proceeding to other upper-level anthropology courses in those sub-fields of anthropology. Many students also take Anthropology: Humankind in Context (ANTH 1010). 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.

Undergraduate 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) will assess your achievement primarily through analyses conducted in your senior year. One element consists of a test that evaluates students' understanding of essential anthropological concepts. This test will be conducted during the Capstone Seminar. Another element regards the Capstone project and the extent to which it reflects achievement in anthropology. Neither of these assessments will impact your grades, rather the assessment plan allows faculty to determine our success and whether we need to make any changes to the degree program.

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 Inquire: 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 2310) | 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**