

Why Anthropology at Brandeis?

Brandeis offers students the opportunity to explore the diversity of human cultures across time and space, from humanistic, comparative, and scientific perspectives. Brandeis anthropology faculty carry out research in Latin America, Oceania, Africa, East Asia, South Asia, and the United States.

Curriculum Overview

The Department of Anthropology offers courses in the discipline's four subfields:

- Sociocultural anthropology
- Linguistic anthropology
- Archaeology
- Physical anthropology

The major is divided into three tracks:

- General anthropology
- Linguistic anthropology
- Archaeology

Honors students carry out independent research leading to a thesis, which is defended at the end of the senior year.

The minor in anthropology

The minor consists of five courses, including introductory courses in sociocultural anthropology and archaeology.

Electives for the major and minor cover a wide range of topics, including economic and political anthropology, religion and ritual, language and symbolism, gender and the body, evolution and history, cognitive and psychological anthropology, osteology and archaeology, and theoretical and methodological issues.

Qualified undergraduates may enroll in graduate-level courses in anthropology.

Combined BA/MA program

Exceptional undergraduates with strong academic grounding and professional aspirations may apply to the combined BA/MA program and receive both degrees in four years.

Other Academic Features

Opportunities for research

Students may receive course credit for summer and semester-long field research projects and for internships. Archaeology students work as field research assistants for departmental faculty. Students may do independent research in the Archaeology Laboratory and in the Material Culture Study Center.

Greater Boston Anthropology Consortium (GBAC):

Undergraduates have the opportunity to present the results of their research at the annual Student Research Conference sponsored by GBAC, consisting of the faculties of Brandeis, Tufts University, and Wellesley College.

Center for Materials Research in Archaeology and Ethnology (CMRAE):

Advanced students may take specialized courses at Massachusetts Institute of Technology from distinguished Boston-area faculty who participate in CMRAE.

Career Options

Students completing the BA in anthropology pursue a variety of career paths and additional professional training. Anthropological skills are in demand in research, health, legal, and corporate organizations engaged in global activities.

Faculty

Following is a list of department faculty members and their areas of specialization:

- **Mark Auslander**
Art and aesthetics, museum studies, religion, kinship, historical anthropology, development, Africa, United States
- **Elizabeth Emma Ferry**
Economic anthropology; political anthropology; exchange, property, and value; Latin America
- **Charles Golden**
Archaeology of complex societies, modern contexts of archaeological research, Mesoamerica, the Maya
- **Sarah Lamb**
Social-cultural theory, gender studies, anthropology of aging, medical anthropology, immigrant and transnational communities, South Asia, United States
- **Janet McIntosh**
Linguistic anthropology, cognitive anthropology, psychological anthropology, religion, East Africa
- **David Jacobson**
Social anthropology, urban social organization, psychosocial transitions, families and households, computer-mediated communication, United States, Africa
- **Sophia A. Malamud**
Linguistics, formal semantics, discourse functions of syntax, game-theoretic approaches to language, mathematical properties of linguistic formalisms
- **Richard Parmentier**
Semiotic anthropology, historical anthropology, material culture, language and communication, Oceania, Middle Ages, United States
- **Ellen Schattschneider**
Religion, war and memory, anthropology of the body, commodification, psychoanalytic theory, East Asia, Japan
- **Javier Urcid**
Archaeology, bioarchaeology, complex societies, writing systems, comparative aesthetics, Mesoamerica