

Department of

Anthropology

Courses of Study:
 Minor
 Major (BA)
 Combined BA/MA
 Master of Arts
 Doctor of Philosophy

Objectives

Undergraduate Major

Anthropology is the study of people, or more properly, of humankind. This exploration of what it means to be human ranges from the study of culture and social relations, to human biology and evolution, to languages, to music, art and architecture, and to vestiges of human habitation in the past. It considers why and how people from distant parts of the world and dissimilar cultures are different and the same, how the human species has evolved over millions of years, and the ways people make sense of and order their lives.

The Department of Anthropology offers courses covering the discipline's four major subfields: sociocultural anthropology, linguistic anthropology, biological anthropology, and archaeology. The major is structured to provide an introduction to the major concepts, methodologies, and theoretical issues of anthropology, while permitting each student sufficient latitude to pursue his or her own special interests.

Graduate Program in Anthropology

The graduate program in anthropology, leading to the MA and PhD degrees, is designed to produce scholars who will broaden our knowledge of culture and society. Graduate training is based on required courses in the history, theory, and methods of anthropology and on elective courses in the subfields of anthropology (sociocultural anthropology, archaeology, biological anthropology, and linguistic anthropology). Some graduates of the program accept appointments at colleges and universities; a number take employment in government, private institutions, or foundations. Intensive training for independent research is stressed, with particular emphasis on fieldwork and comparative studies.

How to Become a Major

Students who wish either to major in anthropology or to study for a minor in anthropology should see the undergraduate advising head, who will discuss specific interests and assign an adviser. Students may wish to study within the general anthropology program or to select the linguistic or archaeological anthropology track. ANTH 1a (Introduction to the Comparative Study of Human Societies) and ANTH 5a (Human Origins) should be taken early in their academic career. Students on the linguistic anthropology track should take ANTH 1a and LING 100a (Introduction to Linguistics) as early as possible. Majors are encouraged to select honors research projects, particularly those students considering graduate study in anthropology or other professional training.

The department sponsors credit-bearing internships (ANTH 92a and b) for junior and senior majors and minors. Internships combine off-campus and on-campus work that provides a significant anthropological learning experience and academic study supervised by a departmental faculty sponsor. Majors may substitute one internship for the ninth elective course option. Students doing summer internships register for course credit in the following fall semester. A minimum of a B+ grade point average in anthropology courses is required for eligibility. For information, see *Guidelines for Anthropology Internships*, available from the undergraduate advising head.

How to Be Admitted to the Graduate Program

The general requirements for admission to the Graduate School, specified in an earlier section of the *Bulletin*, apply to candidates for admission to graduate study in anthropology. Admission decisions are based primarily on the candidate's undergraduate academic record, letters of recommendation, writing sample, and the personal statement that is part of the application form. It is also advisable that the results of the Graduate Record Examination be submitted. A personal interview on campus is encouraged but not required.

MA Programs: Applicants to the master's program in anthropology or in anthropology & women's and gender studies need not have completed an undergraduate major in anthropology or sociology-anthropology. Students enrolled in the MA program in anthropology or anthropology & women's and gender studies may, after having completed the equivalent of their first semester's course work, apply for admission to the doctoral program. Their applications will be considered along with the pool of candidates from outside Brandeis seeking admission directly to the doctoral program. Candidates for the MA program in anthropology or in anthropology & women's and gender studies with demonstrated financial need may petition the graduate school for partial tuition scholarships.

PhD Program: Students may apply for admission directly to the doctoral program in anthropology. Preference will be given to those with an undergraduate background in anthropology or in sociology-anthropology. Applicants to the doctoral program must demonstrate that their anthropological interests are well defined and that these interests are congruent with and acceptable to those of the Brandeis anthropology department faculty. Full-tuition scholarships and cash fellowships may be awarded to students in the doctoral program. Assuming satisfactory progress in the doctoral program, scholarships and fellowships are renewable for five years.

Faculty

Sarah Lamb, Chair, Women's and Gender Studies Liaison

Social-cultural theory. Gender studies. Anthropology of aging. Understandings of personhood. Medical anthropology. Immigrant and transnational communities. South Asia. United States.

Mark Auslander (Director, Cultural Production Program)

Art and aesthetics. Museum studies. Religion. Kinship. Historical anthropology. Development. Africa. United States.

Elizabeth Emma Ferry, Director of Graduate Studies

Economic anthropology. Political anthropology. Commodities, mining, and mineral collecting. United States-Mexican transnationalism. Mexico.

Charles Golden, Undergraduate Advising Head

Archaeology of complex societies. Modern contexts of archaeological research. Mesoamerica. The Maya.

Justeen Hyde

Cultural constructions of risk, medicalization of social problems, adolescence, child welfare institutions, community-based participatory research and evaluation, politics of public health.

David Jacobson

Social anthropology. Urban social organization. Psychosocial transitions. Families and households. Computer-mediated communication. United States. Africa.

Smita Jassal (Madeleine Haas Russell Visiting Professor)

Gender. Cultural Studies. Development. Folklore. Partition Societies. South Asia.

Laurie LaPorte

Globalization, identity and ethnicity, practice theory, migration, field methods, children and youth, gender studies, love, gossip, Cape Verde, African diaspora, Atlantic Islands.

Sophia A. Malamud

Linguistics. Formal semantics and pragmatics. Discourse functions of syntax. Game-theoretic approaches to language. Mathematical properties of linguistic formalisms.

Janet McIntosh (on leave 2008-2009)

Linguistic anthropology. Psychological anthropology. Religion. East Africa.

Richard Parmentier (on leave fall 2008)

Semiotic anthropology. Historical anthropology. Material culture. Language and communication. Oceania. Middle Ages. United States.

Ellen Schattschneider (Chair, International and Global Studies)

Religion. War and memory. Anthropology of the body. Commodification. Psychoanalytic theory. East Asia. Japan.

Javier Urcid (Chair, Latin American and Latino Studies)

Archaeology. Bioarchaeology. Complex societies. Writing systems. Comparative aesthetics. Mesoamerica.

Requirements for the Minor

Five semester courses are required, including the following:

A. ANTH 1a and ANTH 5a.

B. Three courses in anthropology, to be chosen in consultation with the student's adviser in the department.

C. A minimum of three of the five courses required for the minor must be taken from Brandeis anthropology faculty.

D. No course with a final grade below C- can count toward fulfilling the requirements for the minor in anthropology.

Requirements for the Major

A. Required of all majors: A minimum of nine semester courses in anthropology, to include ANTH 1a, ANTH 5a, and ANTH 83a (or ANTH 1a, 83a, 186b, and LING 100a for students on the linguistic anthropology track).

B. One of the nine courses required for the major must focus on the ethnographic or archaeological study of a particular area or region of the world (examples of these courses are: ANTH 112a, 118b, 131b, 133a, 134a, 135a, 135b, 137b, 147b, 149a, 168a, 178b). An area course taken as part of a study abroad program or at another institution may fulfill this requirement, with the permission of the Undergraduate Advising Head.

C. A student may petition to have a course taken in another department replace one anthropology course requirement, provided that course is clearly related to the student's program. An approved internship in anthropology, completed for credit, may be counted as fulfilling one course requirement for the major in place of a course taken in another department.

D. A minimum of five of the nine courses required for the major must be taken from Brandeis anthropology faculty.

E. No course with a final grade below C- can count toward fulfilling the requirements for the major in anthropology.

Honors candidates: Admission to the honors program in anthropology requires a GPA of 3.5 or higher in courses counting toward the major and completion of ANTH 1a and ANTH 5a by the end of the junior year. Students submit a thesis proposal to the departmental faculty for formal approval and, if accepted to the program, enroll in ANTH 99a and ANTH 99b. One semester course credit for this year-long, two-semester course may be counted toward the nine courses for the major.

General Anthropology Track

Anthropology majors who do not select the linguistic or archaeology track will be in the general anthropology program and can select a range of courses that fit their interests.

Linguistic Anthropology Track

The following alternative track is recommended to anthropology majors with a special interest in linguistics. The purpose of this program is to introduce major issues and ideas in the study of language, the study of sociocultural systems, and the study of relations between language, society, and culture. Students interested in linguistic anthropology should arrange their programs in consultation with Ms. McIntosh or the undergraduate advising head. Requirements are as follows:

- A. ANTH 1a and ANTH 83a.
- B. ANTH 186b and LING 100a.
- C. A minimum of four other anthropology courses chosen from those listed in the departmental offerings.
- D. A minimum of one other linguistics course from the LING listing (selection to be approved by the student's faculty adviser in anthropology).
- E. Candidates for a degree with honors must enroll in ANTH 99a and b during their senior year.

Archaeology Track

The following alternative track is designed to provide a coherent curriculum for anthropology students desiring to focus on archaeology. The curriculum is particularly recommended to those students considering the study of archaeology at the graduate level. Such students are encouraged to seek the advice of Mr. Urcid or Mr. Golden in designing their undergraduate programs.

- A. Basic course requirements for the archaeology track are the same as those described under *Requirements for the Major* (above) and include ANTH 1a, ANTH 5a, and ANTH 83a.
- B. Of the remaining courses required for the anthropology major, it is recommended (but not necessary) that students on the archaeology track include as many of the following as possible in their program: ANTH 60a, ANTH 60b, ANTH 110a, ANTH 115b, ANTH 116a, ANTH 123a, ANTH 136a, ANTH 141b, ANTH 147b, ANTH 149a, ANTH 153a, ANTH⁹168a, ANTH 187a, and ANTH 188b.
- C. Candidates for a degree with honors must enroll in ANTH 99a and b during their senior year.

Combined BA/MA Program

The four-year BA/MA degree program in anthropology is designed to enable exceptional undergraduates to earn two degrees simultaneously during their period of study at Brandeis University. The program provides a strong academic grounding for students who aspire to a professional career in anthropology. Applications are normally considered after six semesters of undergraduate study. The program is reserved for students who have already demonstrated the capacity to undertake sustained and independent graduate-level academic work. Students must submit a two- to three-page proposal, discussing their planned thesis project, in which they demonstrate a high level of theoretical sophistication and serious engagement in relevant anthropological literatures. It is expected that a student accepted into this program will have already developed a close working relationship with one or more department faculty members who will serve as his or her mentor/adviser during this intensive year of graduate study.

Eligibility for the program is normally limited to anthropology majors who have maintained a minimum 3.5 GPA overall and a 3.67 (A-) GPA in anthropology courses for their first six semesters of undergraduate study. Students admitted to the program must fulfill all the requirements for a major in anthropology *with honors*, as well as the special requirements of the Department of Anthropology for the combined BA/MA. Specifically, they must complete the following:

- A. A minimum of three years residence on campus, one of which must be at the graduate level.
- B. A total of 38 courses (versus the 32 required for the bachelor's degree).
- C. Six anthropology courses at the graduate level (100+ numbered courses), including ANTH 201a, beyond the nine (ten in honors) required for the major in anthropology, with a minimum grade of B- in each.
- D. A master's research paper/senior thesis awarded honors or higher, evaluated by the student's adviser, one additional anthropology faculty member, and a faculty member outside the department.

All candidates for the combined BA/MA must complete all the requirements for the program by the end of their eighth semester (for entering freshmen). If the requirements for the MA portion are not complete at that time, the student is eligible only for the BA degree.

Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts

Program of Study

Students admitted to the MA program in anthropology must fulfill the Graduate School residence requirement of one full year of course work. Course requirements include the foundational course, ANTH 201a (History of Anthropological Thought). In addition, all candidates for the MA must meet the following requirements:

- A. Complete a program consisting of seven elective courses designed around their anthropological interests, selected with the approval of a faculty adviser to be assigned to each student upon matriculation.
- B. Master's research paper requirement: Completion of a master's research paper of professional quality and length (normally twenty-five to forty pages). The paper will be evaluated by two faculty members.
- C. There is no foreign language requirement for the master's degree in anthropology.

Requirements for the Joint Degree of Master of Arts in Anthropology & Women's and Gender Studies

Students pursuing the joint MA in anthropology & women's and gender studies combine their interests in anthropology and the study of women, gender, and/or sexuality. Candidates may undertake a freestanding terminal joint master's degree or complete the joint master's as they work toward a doctoral degree.

The terminal master's degree can be achieved in one year, but students may benefit from the rich array of course offerings by extending their studies into a second year. Doctoral students in the anthropology program may enroll in the joint master's degree program at any time during their graduate studies with the approval of their adviser and of the women's and gender studies program.

Students interested in the joint degree program should consult with Ms. Lamb, the anthropology department women's and gender studies liaison.

Program of Study

Candidates for the joint MA in anthropology & women's and gender studies must fulfill the residence requirement of one full year of course work (eight semester courses), and complete the following course requirements:

- A.** The graduate foundational course ANTH 201a (History of Anthropological Thought).
- B.** ANTH 144a (Anthropology of Gender).
- C.** WMGS 205a or another course designated as a graduate foundational course in women's and gender studies.
- D.** A course in feminist research methodologies (WMGS 198a, the Feminist Inquiry course offered through the Graduate Consortium in Women's Studies, or an approved alternative).
- E.** Four elective graduate courses, including one in women's and gender studies from a field other than anthropology, selected with the approval of the student's faculty adviser.
- F.** Participation in a fall semester noncredit women's and gender studies graduate proseminar.
- G.** Joint MA paper requirement: Completion of a master's research paper of professional quality and length (normally twenty-five to forty pages) on a topic related to the joint degree. The paper will be read by two faculty members, one of whom is a member of the anthropology department, and one of whom is a member of the women's and gender studies core or affiliate faculty.

Language Requirement

There is no foreign language requirement for the joint master's degree.

Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy**Program of Study**

Flexibility in the curriculum allows doctoral students to organize a program of study around their particular anthropological interests. At the same time, the program is structured so that a broad familiarity with the anthropological discipline is achieved. Students must complete ANTH 201a (History of Anthropological Thought) during their first year of residence. ANTH 202b (Designing Anthropological Research) and ANTH 203b (Contemporary Anthropological Theory) must also be completed within the first two years of residence. These three graduate foundational courses in anthropology emphasize epistemological issues in cross-cultural research and the relationship between scientific and humanistic modes of inquiry. Additional courses may be required as determined by the student's advisory committee. From their courses and outside reading, students must obtain a high level of competence in a specific topical field of anthropological research and in at least one culture area.

Graduate-level course offerings at Brandeis are augmented by the university's participation in a cross-registration program with Boston College, Boston University, Tufts University, and Wellesley College. Anthropology students are eligible to take courses at these institutions with the approval of their adviser. Students with an interest in archaeology may also take courses offered through the Center for Materials Research in Archaeology and Ethnology, a Boston-area consortium comprising faculty from Brandeis, Boston University, Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Museum of Fine Arts, Tufts University, University of Massachusetts, Boston, and Wellesley College. Students interested in gender and women's studies may enroll in interdisciplinary courses offered through the Graduate Consortium in Women's Studies.

Candidates for the doctoral degree work closely with an advisory committee consisting of at least two anthropology department faculty members, one of whom, the principal adviser, is in a field of specialization related to the interests of the student. The advisory committee has the following responsibilities: (1) to aid the student in constructing a coherent program of coursework leading to a high level of competency in one or more areas of anthropological theory and methodology; (2) to make certain that the courses selected include exposure to other areas within the discipline; (3) to ensure that a component of interdisciplinary study is included; and (4) to ensure that the student is knowledgeable in the anthropology of one or more of the world's culture areas. The department faculty meet annually to evaluate the progress of students in the doctoral program.

Teaching Requirement

Students will be required to serve as teaching fellows as part of their PhD training.

Residence Requirement

Candidates for the PhD in anthropology are required to meet the residence requirement as set forth by the Graduate School.

Qualifying Procedure

Upon completion of course requirements (normally by the end of the third year of full-time study), students must take a General Examination that tests their overall theoretical, topical, and area knowledge based on a reading list developed in consultation with their advisory committee. Subsequently, they engage in independent study in their areas of specialization and complete additional coursework, including reading courses and language training, as needed. Students then write an extended dissertation proposal that demonstrates mastery of relevant theoretical issues, historical and ethnographic material, and epistemological problems relevant to the proposed dissertation research. The proposal clearly articulates a research problem, specifies the kinds of data to be elicited, and proposes a cogent research design. Following preliminary approval by their advisory committee, students formally defend their proposals at a hearing before the department faculty. Students then normally apply for research grants to fund their project, engage in fieldwork and/or data gathering, and, finally, write and defend a doctoral dissertation.

Language Requirement

A reading knowledge of at least one foreign language must be demonstrated by written examination.

Dissertation and Defense

The completed dissertation must be successfully defended in an oral examination, as required by university regulations, before it can be formally accepted. At that point the department will recommend to the dean of arts and sciences that the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in anthropology be awarded to the candidate.

Courses of Instruction

(1–99) Primarily for Undergraduate Students

ANTH 1a Introduction to the Comparative Study of Human Societies

[nw ss]

Examines the ways human beings construct their lives in a variety of societies. Includes the study of the concept of culture, kinship and social organization, political economy, gender and sexuality, religion and ritual, symbols and language, social inequalities and social change, and globalization. Consideration of anthropological research methods and approaches to cross-cultural analysis. Usually offered every semester. Mr. Auslander, Ms. Lamb, or Mr. Urcid

ANTH 5a Human Origins

[ss]

Studies major transformations of humanity from early hominids to civilizations. Fossils and archaeological evidence serve to highlight the origins of bipedalism and language, the shift from foraging to agricultural economies, and the inception of urban life and large-scale political centralization. Usually offered every year.

Mr. Golden or Mr. Urcid

ANTH 26a Communication and Media

[ss]

An exploration of human communication and mass media from a cross-cultural perspective. Examines communication codes based on language and visual signs. The global impact of revolutions in media technology, including theories of cultural imperialism and indigenous uses of media is discussed. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. McIntosh

ANTH 33b Crossing Cultural Boundaries

[ss]

An examination of situations where individuals, either actually or imaginatively, willingly or unwillingly, cross over the boundaries separating their own culture and other cultural traditions. The understandings and misunderstandings that result from these encounters are examined in primary texts and images and in scholarly reconstructions. Transient experiences are compared with sites that develop over a long period of time (colonial settlements, plantations, frontiers). Potentials for reflexive self-understanding and meaningful dialogue are sought in fictional and nonfictional representations of boundary crossings. Usually offered every second year. Mr. Parmentier

ANTH 55a Anthropology of Development

[nw ss]

This course combines an examination of the historical development of “development” concepts and institutions with case studies of particular developmental projects in the United States and abroad. Throughout the course, we will sustain a dynamic interplay between development theory and practice. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Ferry

ANTH 60a Archaeological Methods

[ss]

Focuses on the exploration of archaeological sites on and near campus to offer a practice-oriented introduction to field methods, including surface-survey, mapping, and excavation of archaeological features. Other topics include principles of stratigraphy and relative/chronometric dating methods. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Golden or Mr. Urcid

ANTH 60b Archaeological Analysis

[ss]

Introduces techniques applied in the analysis of archaeological remains. Topics include cataloging, classification and taxonomy, conjoining and reconstruction of objects, electronic databases, quantitative and qualitative analysis, statistical techniques, spatial analysis, archaeological illustration, reporting, and exhibition of archaeological materials. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Golden or Mr. Urcid

ANTH 61b Language in American Life

[ss]

Examines the relations between language and some major dimensions of American social life: social groupings (the structures of ethnic, regional, class, and gender relations); social settings (such as courtrooms, workplaces, and homes); and social interaction. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. McIntosh

ANTH 80a Anthropology of Religion

[nw ss]

An introduction to the anthropological study of human religious experience, with particular emphasis on religious and ritual practice in comparative perspective. Examines the relationship between religion and society in small-scale, non-Western contexts as well as in complex societies, global cultures, and world historical religions. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Lamb or Ms. Schattschneider

ANTH 83a Anthropological Inquiry

[ss wi]

Prerequisite: ANTH 1a or ANTH 5a.

An ethnographic and comparative survey of key paradigms of anthropological explanation. Examination of links between exemplary theoretical statements and empirical case studies. Relationship of anthropological models to contemporary social theory. Usually offered every year.

Ms. Ferry

ANTH 92a Internship and Analysis

No more than one departmental internship for credit.

The department sponsors internships for junior and senior majors and minors. Internships combine off-campus and on-campus work that provides a significant anthropological learning experience and academic study supervised by a departmental faculty sponsor. Majors may substitute one internship for the ninth elective course option. Students doing summer internships register for course credit in the following fall semester. A minimum GPA of B+ in anthropology courses is required for eligibility. For information, see the Guidelines for Anthropology Internships, available from the undergraduate adviser. Usually offered every year.

Staff

ANTH 98a Individual Readings and Research in Anthropology

Individual readings and research under the direction of a faculty supervisor. Usually offered every year.

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Individual readings and research under the direction of a faculty supervisor. Usually offered every year.

Staff

ANTH 99a Senior Research

Seniors who have a 3.5 or higher GPA in anthropology courses and who wish to be considered for honors submit a thesis proposal to the department faculty and, if accepted, enroll in this course with permission of the instructor. Usually offered every year.

Staff

ANTH 99b Senior Thesis

Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of ANTH 99a. Does not count toward the major in anthropology.

Seniors who wish to complete a senior honors thesis normally enroll in this course. Usually offered every year.

Staff

(100–199) For Both Undergraduate and Graduate Students

ANTH 105a Myth and Ritual

[nw ss]

Studies myth and ritual as two interlocking modes of cultural symbolism. Evaluates theoretical approaches to myth by looking at creation and political myths. Examines performative, processual, and spatial models of ritual analysis through study of initiation, sacrifice, and funerals. Usually offered every second year.
Ms. Schattschneider

ANTH 108b History, Time, and Tradition

[ss]

Explores topics relating to the historical dimension of societies in cross-cultural and interdisciplinary perspectives: the cultural construction of the past, temporal and calendrical systems, the invention of tradition, ethnohistorical narrative, cultural memory and forgetting, historical monuments, and museums. Usually offered every third year.
Mr. Parmentier

ANTH 109a Children, Parenting, and Education in Cross-Cultural Perspective

[ss]

Examines childcare techniques, beliefs about childhood and adolescence, and the objectives of school systems in different areas of the world, in order to illuminate cross-cultural similarities and differences in conceptions of personhood, identity, gender, class, race, nation, and the relationship between the individual and society. Usually offered every third year.
Ms. LaPorte

ANTH 110a Human Evolution

[qr ss]

Looks at evolutionary principles that shape human physical characteristics and generate variability of human groups around the world. Explores the fossil record, biological and behavioral relationships of humans and nonhuman primates, and current changes in the genetic composition of human populations. Usually offered every third year.
Staff

ANTH 112a African Art and Aesthetics

[ca ss]

The visual arts and aesthetics of sub-Saharan Africa and the African Diaspora, with attention to the spiritual, social, and cultural dimensions of art and performance. Special emphasis on the historical dynamism and cultural creativity of “tradition-based” and contemporary African artists. Usually offered every third year.
Mr. Auslander

ANTH 114b Verbal Art and Cultural Performance

[ss]

Cross-cultural and interdisciplinary study of genres of verbal art and oral performance. Complex social uses of verbal arts in festival, drama, ritual, dance, carnival, and spectacle. Difficulty of reconstructing original context of narrative, oratory, poetry, and epic. Usually offered every third year.
Mr. Parmentier

ANTH 115b Space and Landscape

[ss]

Human behavior is framed by and creates the spaces and landscapes in which we live. This seminar examines archaeological and ethnographic understandings of the relationships between culture, space, and landscapes through readings and technologies of spatial analysis such as GIS. Usually offered every second year.
Mr. Golden

ANTH 116a Human Osteology

[sn ss]

Junior and senior majors have priority for enrollment.

Skeletal anatomy and application of forensic techniques to archaeological problems. Hands-on laboratory sessions focus on methods of estimating age, determining sex, assessing variability, distinguishing bone disorders, and identifying cultural and natural modifications to bony tissue. Case studies exemplify bioarchaeological approaches. Usually offered every second year.
Mr. Urcid

ANTH 118b Peoples and Societies of the Middle East

[ss]

An anthropological introduction to the peoples and societies of the Middle East. Focuses on Islam, family and kinship, communal identities, gender, and youth culture. Reading critical ethnographies develops sensitivities in understanding the variety of experiences in the Middle East. Usually offered every fourth year.
Staff

ANTH 123a Directions and Issues in Archaeology

[ss]

An examination of concepts involved in the archaeological study of the human past. Selected readings will be discussed as illustrations of major theoretical and methodological issues. Usually offered every second year.
Mr. Golden or Mr. Urcid

ANTH 126b Symbol, Meaning, and Reality: Explorations in Cultural Semiotics

[ss]

Provides a historical survey of the development of theories of signs and symbols; comparison of Peircean and Saussurean foundations of modern semiotics; the structure of cultural codes (language, art, and music); and the possibility of cross-cultural typologies. Usually offered every second year.
Mr. Parmentier

ANTH 127a Medicine, Body, and Culture

[nw ss]

Examines main areas of inquiry in medical anthropology, including medicine as a sociocultural construct, political and economic dimensions of suffering and health, patients and healers in comparative medical systems, and the medical construction of men’s and women’s bodies. Usually offered every year.
Ms. Lamb

ANTH 128a Meaning and Material Culture

[ss]

Investigates the relationship between cultural meaning and material objects. Central objects are emblems of social identity (fabric, houses, monuments), objectifications of value (money, valuables, commodities), and aesthetic representations (images, icons, statues). Usually offered every second year.
Mr. Parmentier or Mr. Urcid

ANTH 129b Global, Transnational, and Diasporic Communities

[ss]

Examines social and cultural dimensions of globalization from an anthropological perspective. Topics include the impact of global capitalism upon indigenous communities, global forms of popular culture and consumerism, transnational migration and diasporas, changing inequalities and gender systems, global sexual cultures, and the AIDS pandemic. Usually offered every second year.
Ms. Ferry or Ms. Lamb

ANTH 130b Visuality and Culture

[ss]

Explores the nature of the visual image in sociocultural theory and in ethnographic representation. Topics include the history of ethnographic film, development of indigenous arts, visuality in popular culture and mass consumption, and film in postcolonial representation. Usually offered every second year.
Ms. Schattschneider

ANTH 131b Latin America in Ethnographic Perspective

[ss wi]

Examines issues in contemporary Latin America and the Spanish Caribbean from the perspective of sociocultural anthropology, based primarily on books and articles drawing on long-term ethnographic research. Topics may include: the Zapatista Rebellion in Mexico; tin mining and religion in Bolivia; mortuary cannibalism in the Amazon; the role of the Virgin of Guadalupe in Mexican national identity; love and marriage among young migrants from Mexico and the United States; weaving, beauty pageants, and jokes in Guatemala; and daily life in revolutionary Cuba. Usually offered every year.
Ms. Ferry

ANTH 132b Representing Ethnography

[ss]

Drawing on classic and contemporary examples of ethnographic writing and ethnographic film, the class examines the representation of anthropological knowledge. The goal of the course is to enable students to comprehend and evaluate ethnographic accounts. Usually offered every third year.
Mr. Jacobson

ANTH 133a Culture and Power in Africa

[nw ss]

Explores the variety and richness of indigenous African social and cultural forms, such as the organization of the family; indigenous political systems; rank and slavery; traditional economics; ideas about magic, witchcraft, and religion; and the arts. Usually offered every third year.
Mr. Auslander

ANTH 134a South Asian Culture and Society

[ss nw]

May be repeated for credit if taught by different instructors.

Examines the diversity and richness of the cultures and societies of South Asia, with a focus on India. Concentrates on the lived experiences of class, caste, gender, religion, politics, and region in people's everyday lives. Usually offered every third year.
Ms. Lamb or Ms. Jassal

ANTH 136a Kingdoms, Empires, and City-States: State Formation in Comparative Perspective

[ss]

Archaeological research and theory provide a unique perspective on the nature of states including the Aztec, Maya, Sumerians, Egyptians, and others through 5000 years of human history. This course is a comparative, multidisciplinary seminar examining the development of complex societies in the ancient world and the significance of the state in modern society. Usually offered every second year.
Mr. Golden

ANTH 137b Gender and the Sacred in Asia

[ss]

Ritual, violence, gender, religion, and cultural creativity in Asia, especially East Asia and South Asia. Religious movements, sacrifice and patriliney, and the ritualization of state power through religious imagery and institutions. Roles of religious leaders and spiritual movements in conflict resolution and peacemaking. Usually offered every second year.
Ms. Schattschneider

ANTH 138a Social Relations in Cyberspace

[ss]

Provides an introduction to various forms of computer-mediated communication (e.g., instant messaging, blogging, social networking, online dating) and the ways in which people interact in these different contexts of cyberspace. Students are expected to do online research. Usually offered every year.
Mr. Jacobson

ANTH 139b Language, Ethnicity, and Nationalism

[ss]

It is often assumed that language differences divide people, while a common language unites them. To what extent is this true? Taking cross-cultural and historical approaches, we examine the role of language in creating concepts of tribe, ethnicity, and nation. Explores what kinds of social groupings these terms might label, some ideologies connected with their use, and their relationship with communication systems. Usually offered every second year.
Ms. McIntosh

ANTH 142a AIDS: Science, Society, and Policy

[ss]

An examination of the AIDS pandemic from cross-cultural and anthropological perspectives. Topics include biosocial approaches to disease, epidemiology of transmission, national and international institutions, prevention and treatment, and ethical issues; case studies from the Americas, Asia, and Africa. Usually offered every third year.
Staff

ANTH 144a The Anthropology of Gender

[nw ss wi]

Anthropology majors have priority for enrollment.

An examination of gender constructs, sexuality, and cultural systems from a comparative perspective. Topics include the division of labor, rituals of masculinity and femininity, the vexing question of the universality of women's subordination, cross-cultural perspectives on same-sex sexualities and transsexuality, the impact of globalization on systems, and the history of feminist anthropology. Usually offered every year.
Ms. Lamb or Ms. Schattschneider

ANTH 145a Anthropology of the Body

[ss]

Explores a range of theories that use the body to understand society, culture, and gender. Topics include how social values and hierarchies are written in, on, and through the body; the relationship between body and gender identity; and experiences and images of the body cross-culturally. Usually offered every third year.
Ms. Lamb or Ms. Schattschneider

ANTH 147b The Rise of Mesoamerican Civilization

[nw ss]

Traces the development of social complexity in pre-Columbian Mesoamerica, from initial colonization in the Late Pleistocene to the Spanish conquest in the sixteenth century. Reviews major societal transformations like agriculture, the inception of village life, and the rise of civilizations. Usually offered every third year.
Mr. Golden or Mr. Urcid

ANTH 149a Archaeology of Egypt and Canaan in Ancient Times

[ss]

Surveys the major archaeological sites in Egypt and Asia from 2200 BCE to 600 BCE. Some twenty sites in modern-day Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria form the focus of lectures and discussions. Particular attention is given to interpreting the cultural remains in light of historical and literary evidence. Usually offered every fourth year.
Staff

ANTH 153a Writing Systems and Scribal Traditions

[nw ss]

Compares graphic forms of communication, ranging from semasiographic to alphabetic systems, from archaeological and ethnographic perspectives. Explores the social functions of early writing systems, the linkage of literacy and political power, and the production of historical memory. Usually offered every second year.
Mr. Urcid

ANTH 155b Psychological Anthropology

[ss]

An examination of the relationship between sociocultural systems and individual psychological processes with a critical evaluation of selected theories and studies bearing on this problem. Usually offered every second year.
Ms. McIntosh

ANTH 156a Power and Violence: The Anthropology of Political Systems

[nw ss]

Political orders are established and maintained by varying combinations of overt violence and the more subtle workings of ideas. The course examines the relationship of coercion and consensus, and forms of resistance, in historical and contemporary settings. Usually offered every second year.
Ms. Ferry

ANTH 157a Families and Households

[ss]

Describes and analyzes several family types and households in contemporary American life, interpreting them in their cultural contexts and comparing them with similar arrangements in other cultures. Usually offered every second year.
Mr. Jacobson

ANTH 158a Urban Anthropology

[ss]

Comparative study of strategies used in coping with the complexity of urban life. Attention will be given to analyzing and evaluating the theories, methods, and data anthropologists and others use in their studies of urban social organization. Usually offered every second year.
Mr. Jacobson

ANTH 159a Museums and Public Memory

[ss]

Explores the social and political organization of public memory, including museums, cultural villages, and memorial sites. Who has the right to determine the content and form of such institutions? Working with local community members, students will develop a collaborative exhibition project. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Auslander

ANTH 163b Production, Consumption, and Exchange

[nw ss]

Prerequisite: ANTH 1a or ECON 2a or permission of the instructor.

We read in newspapers and books and hear in everyday discussion about "the economy," an identifiably separate sphere of human life with its own rules and principles and its own scholarly discipline (economics). The class starts with the premise that this "commonsense" idea of the economy is only one among a number of possible perspectives on the ways people use resources to meet their basic and not-so-basic human needs. Using extensive cross-cultural case studies, looks at the satisfaction of these needs (which we might call economic activity) as they interact with other aspects of life: gender, kinship, ideas of morality and taste, spirit possession, politics, and so on. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Ferry

ANTH 168a The Maya

[ss]

Explores the culture of the Maya in Mexico and Central America through nearly 3000 years of history. Using archaeology, ethnohistory, and ethnography, studies their ancient past and their modern lives. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Golden

ANTH 174b Virtual Communities

[ss]

Prerequisite: ANTH 138a or permission of the instructor.

A research seminar dealing with a selected problem in the social organization of online communities. Possible topics include impression formation in cyberspace, social control in virtual communities, the concept of presence in computer-mediated communication, and the transition between online and offline relationships. Students will do online fieldwork. Usually offered every third year.

Mr. Jacobson

ANTH 178b Culture, Gender, and Power in East Asia

[nw ss]

Explores the relevance of social theory to the dynamics of culture, gender, and power in East Asia. Topics include exchange, personhood, ideology, and historical consciousness. Students will read detailed ethnographic studies set in urban and rural East Asia and view several contemporary films. Usually offered every third year.

Ms. Schattschneider

ANTH 184b Cross-Cultural Art and Aesthetics

[nw ss]

A cross-cultural and diachronic exploration of art, focusing on the communicative aspects of visual aesthetics. The survey takes a broad view of how human societies deploy images to foster identities, lure into consumption, generate political propaganda, engage in ritual, render sacred propositions tangible, and chart the character of the cosmos.

Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Auslander or Mr. Urcid

ANTH 186b Linguistic Anthropology

[ss]

Advanced topics in linguistic anthropology, including the study of linguistic meaning in context, pragmatics, the construction of social relationships through language, language and authority, language and religion, and linguistic ideologies. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. McIntosh or Mr. Parmentier

ANTH 187a Materials Research in Archaeology, I

[ss]

Enrollment limited to advanced undergraduate and graduate students. Signature of Mr. Golden, the Brandeis coordinator, required. Topics vary from year to year, and the course may be repeated for credit.

A series of courses, each focusing on a specific topic, such as archaeological analysis of animal or plant remains; the analysis of lithic materials, pottery, or metals; GIS; and statistical analysis. Courses are offered each semester, taught by faculty from the Center for Materials Research in Archaeology and Ethnology, a consortium that includes Brandeis, Boston University, Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Museum of Fine Arts, Tufts, University of Massachusetts, Boston, and Wellesley College. Usually offered every year.

Staff

ANTH 188b Materials Research in Archaeology, II

[ss]

Enrollment limited to advanced undergraduate and graduate students. Signature of Mr. Golden, the Brandeis coordinator, required. Topics vary from year to year, and the course may be repeated for credit.

See ANTH 187a for course description.

Usually offered every year.

Staff

(200 and above) Primarily for Graduate Students**ANTH 201a History of Anthropological Thought**

A historical examination of major ideas and perennial problems in social thought that have led to the development of modern theory and method in anthropology.

Usually offered every year.

Mr. Parmentier or Ms. Schattschneider

ANTH 202b Designing Anthropological Research

Survey of principal methodological issues in anthropological fieldwork and analysis, including research design, technologies of data collection, and ethnographic representation. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Jacobson

ANTH 203b Contemporary Anthropological Theory*Prerequisite: ANTH 201a.*

Intensive survey of the major theoretical trends in contemporary anthropology. Examination of comparative, semiotic, materialist, Marxist, feminist, poststructuralist, post-colonial and phenomenological approaches, as well as core concepts: culture, social change, practice, agency, structure, power, modernity and the global. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Lamb

ANTH 205b Anthropological Approaches to Development

Explores "development" as a concept and as a set of practices, techniques, and institutions; different schools of development within their historical contexts; and development practices and institutions as ethnographic objects. Usually offered every fourth year.

Ms. Ferry

ANTH 207b Trauma: Theory and Experience

Explores the intellectual history of the concept of trauma and considers the salience of the concept for contemporary social and cultural theory and for research on the aftermath of mass violence, state terror, genocide, and torture. Offered every fourth year.

Ms. Schattschneider

ANTH 225a Readings and Research in Cultural Analysis

Mr. Auslander or Mr. Parmentier

ANTH 226a Readings and Research in Archaeology

Mr. Golden or Mr. Urcid

ANTH 227a Readings and Research in Linguistic Anthropology

Ms. McIntosh

ANTH 228a Advanced Readings in Method and Theory

Staff

ANTH 228b Advanced Readings in Archaeological Method and Theory
Mr. Golden or Mr. Urcid

ANTH 229a Readings and Research in Ritual and Performance in Africa
Mr. Auslander

ANTH 231a Readings in Cognitive Culture
Ms. McIntosh

ANTH 232a Readings and Research in Development
Ms. Ferry

ANTH 235a Readings and Research in Latin American Cultures
Ms. Ferry, Mr. Golden, or Mr. Urcid

ANTH 238a Readings and Research in Urban Anthropology
Mr. Jacobson

ANTH 241a Readings and Research in New World Ethnohistory
Mr. Golden or Mr. Urcid

ANTH 243a Readings and Research in Anthropology of Body
Ms. Lamb or Ms. Schattschneider

ANTH 247b Readings and Research in Human Development
Ms. Lamb

ANTH 250a Readings and Research in Psychological Anthropology
Ms. McIntosh

ANTH 251a Readings and Research in Colonialism/Postcolonialism
Ms. McIntosh

ANTH 252a Readings and Research in Anthropology of Art
Mr. Urcid

ANTH 253a Readings and Research in Economic Anthropology
Ms. Ferry

ANTH 255a Readings and Research in African-American Studies
Mr. Auslander

ANTH 255b Readings and Research in East Asian Anthropology
Ms. Schattschneider

ANTH 256a Readings and Research in Religion
Ms. Schattschneider

ANTH 257a Readings and Research in Families and Households
Mr. Jacobson

ANTH 258a Readings and Research in Computer-Mediated Communication
Mr. Jacobson

ANTH 259a Readings and Research in Ethnography and Arts
Mr. Auslander

ANTH 280a Readings and Research in Modernity and Culture
Mr. Auslander or Ms. Lamb

ANTH 283a Readings and Research in Fieldwork
Mr. Jacobson

ANTH 284a Readings and Research in Archaeological Methods
Mr. Golden or Mr. Urcid

ANTH 285a Readings and Research in Gender and Sexuality
Ms. Lamb or Ms. Schattschneider

ANTH 286a Readings and Research in South Asia
Ms. Lamb

ANTH 287a Readings and Research in Medical Anthropology
Mr. Jacobson or Ms. Lamb

ANTH 288a Readings and Research in Immigrant and Transnational Communities
Ms. Lamb

ANTH 289a Readings and Research in Biological Anthropology
Mr. Urcid

ANTH 300a Master's Thesis Research
Staff

ANTH 304a Readings and Research in Anthropological Field Methods
Staff

ANTH 305d Anthropology Colloquium
Staff

ANTH 400d Dissertation Research
Specific sections for individual faculty member as requested.
Staff