Anthropology Degree

Anthropology is the study of humankind around the world and throughout time, with the goal of understanding our evolutionary origins, our biological distinction as a species, and our diverse manifestations of culture. This degree provides students with basic skills in critical analysis, application of the scientific method, and cross-cultural understanding.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this program, the student will be able to:

• apply the science of anthropology towards a holistic understanding of human nature.
• synthesize the principles that form the foundation of anthropology.
• analyze social and ethical issues related to the field of anthropology and its practical applications.
• analyze the cultural, physical, and linguistic diversity expressed in our species.

Career Opportunities

This degree provides students with a solid foundation in anthropology as well as the standard prerequisites for upper division coursework leading to the baccalaureate degree. Anthropologists with graduate degrees work in occupations ranging from archaeological excavation, exploration, and museum management to the analysis of cultures, linguistics, forensics, primatology, teaching, and consulting with governmental and educational institutions.

Requirements for Degree

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Associate Degree Requirements: The Anthropology Associate in Science (A.S.) Degree may be obtained by completion of the required program, plus general education requirements, plus sufficient electives to meet a 60-unit total. See ARC graduation requirements.

Anthropology A.A. for Transfer (AA-T) Degree

The Associate in Arts degree in Anthropology for Transfer provides students with a major that fulfills the general requirements of the California State University for transfer. Students with this degree will receive priority admission with junior status to the California State University system.

The Associate in Arts degree in Anthropology for Transfer (AA-T) may be obtained by the completion of 60 transferable, semester units with a minimum 2.0 GPA, including (a) the major or area of emphasis described in the Required Program outlined below (earning a C or better in these courses) and (b) either the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) or the California State University General Education Breadth Requirements.

Anthropology is the study of humankind around the world and throughout time, with the goal of understanding our evolutionary origins, our biological distinction as a species, and our diverse manifestations of culture. A degree in anthropology provides the student with basic skills in critical analysis, application of the scientific method, and cross-cultural understanding.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this program, the student will be able to:

• apply the science of anthropology towards a holistic understanding of human nature.
• synthesize the principles that form the foundation of anthropology.
• analyze social and ethical issues using anthropological concepts and methods.
• assess the cultural, physical, and linguistic diversity expressed in our species.

Career Opportunities

The AA-T degree provides students with a solid foundation in anthropology as well as the standard prerequisites for upper division coursework leading to the baccalaureate degree. Anthropologists with graduate degrees work in archaeological excavation and museum management, the analysis of cultures, linguistics, forensics, primatology, and education. They also consult with governmental, business, and educational institutions.

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Anthropology Major Prep Electives

ANTH 303 Introduction to Forensic Anthropology (3)
ANTH 330 Magic, Witchcraft, and Religion (3)
ANTH 333 American Indians of California (3)
ANTH 334 Native Peoples of North America (3)
ANTH 341 Introduction to Linguistics (3)

General Electives

ANTH 319 Visual Anthropology: Introduction to Ethnographic Film (3)
ANTH 321 Ancient Technology (3)
ANTH 335 Research Methods in Anthropology (3)
ANTH 370 Primatology (3)
GEOG 310 Human Geography: Exploring Earth’s Cultural Landscapes (3)
GEOI 300 Physical Geology (3)
and GEOI 301 Physical Geology Laboratory (1)
GEOI 305 Earth Science (3)
and GEOI 306 Earth Science Laboratory (1)
MUFL 330 World Music (3)
SOC 320 Minorities in America (3)

Associate in Arts for Transfer Degree Requirements: The Associate in Arts in Anthropology for Transfer (AA-T) degree may be obtained by completion of 60 transferable, semester units with a minimum 2.0 GPA, including (a) the major or area of emphasis described in the Required Program, and (b) either the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) or the California State University General Education-Breadth Requirements.

ANTH 300 Physical Anthropology 3 Units

Advisory: Eligible for ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312 AND ENGW 300; OR ESLR 340 AND ESLW 340
General Education: AA/AS Area IV; CSU Area B2; IGETC Area 5B
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course covers the concepts, methods, and theory of biological evolution and its application to the human species. There is a specific focus on molecular, Mendelian, and population genetics as well as on the mechanisms of evolution primatology, paleoanthropology, biocultural adaptations, human variation, and current biocultural issues. The philosophy of science and the scientific method serve as foundations to this course. This course is not open to students who have completed ANTH 480.

ANTH 301 Physical Anthropology Laboratory 1 Unit

Corequisite: ANTH 300
General Education: CSU Area B3; IGETC Area 5C
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LAB

This introductory laboratory course provides opportunities to become familiar with the scientific methods of biological anthropology by investigating topics in laboratory and field situations. Topics covered in the course include the scientific method, sources of biological variation and forces of evolution, human osteology, human variation, taxonomy and comparative osteology of the primates, and the fossil evidence for human evolution. Field trips may be required. (C-ID ANTH 115L)

ANTH 303 Introduction to Forensic Anthropology 3 Units

Advisory: BIOL 102, BIOL 115, BIOL 430, OR ANTH 300 and 301; AND eligible for ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312 AND ENGW 300; OR ESLR 340 AND ESLW 340.
General Education: AA/AS Area IV; CSU Area B2; IGETC Area 5B
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course is an overview of forensic anthropology, an applied field of physical anthropology. Forensic anthropology uses the analysis of human skeletal remains to answer medico-legal questions. This course emphasizes current techniques used in analysis of human skeletal remains, medico-legal procedures, and the role of the anthropologist in the investigative process. It examines the basics of bone biology, methods of skeletal analysis, and recognition of bone pathology and trauma.

ANTH 310 Cultural Anthropology 3 Units

Advisory: Eligible for ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312 AND ENGW 300; OR ESLR 340 AND ESLW 340
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D1; IGETC Area 4A
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course explores the various customs, traditions, and forms of social organizations from a global perspective. Topics include subsistence methods, belief and religious systems, linguistics, trade and economic systems, arts, kinship systems, marriage and family systems, technology, and changes due to internal and external forces. Gender, race, and ethnic identity are examined as well as the role of society in defining these terms. Using ethnographic case studies, this course examines how anthropological ethics, method, and theory are applied to the study of human culture. This course is not open to students who have already completed ANTH 481. (C-ID ANTH 120)

ANTH 319 Visual Anthropology: Introduction to Ethnographic Film 3 Units

Advisory: Eligible for ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312 AND ENGW 300; OR ESLR 340 AND ESLW 340
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b) (effective Summer 2014); CSU Area D1
Course Transferable to CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course provides an introduction to the use of film by anthropologists as a research and educational tool. A series of films depicting different cultures from around the world are viewed and evaluated. Various attributes of ethnographic film and their treatment by a number of anthropological filmmakers are examined.

ANTH 320 Introduction to Archaeology and World Prehistory 3 Units

Advisory: Eligible for ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312 AND ENGW 300; OR ESLR 340 AND ESLW 340
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); CSU Area D1; IGETC Area 4A
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC

This course is an introduction to the theories, concepts, and methods employed by the archaeologist in the study of human history and pre-history. The development and diverse evolution of social and cultural systems are emphasized. The challenges and achievements of non-literate and traditional cultures, diverse communities, and social classes over time are also explored. (C-ID ANTH 150)
ANTH 321  Ancient Technology  3 Units
Advisory: ANTH 320; Eligible for ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312 AND ENGRD 300; OR ESLR 340 AND ESLW 340
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b)  Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course examines technological capabilities of pre-industrial societies using ethnographic and archaeological examples and an experimental approach. Topics include construction techniques of temporary and permanent structures, pottery construction, glasmaking, metallurgy, textile production, as well as bone, stone, wood, and other technologies crucial to human survival. Field trips may be required.

ANTH 330  Magic, Witchcraft, and Religion  3 Units
Advisory: Eligible for ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312 AND ENGRD 300; OR ESLR 340 AND ESW 340
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); AA/AS Area VI; CSU Area D1; IGETC Area 4A  Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course is a cross-cultural study of supernatural beliefs and associated rituals in traditional societies. Emphasis is on understanding the role of beliefs within the broader social context. In addition, this course examines the general functions of ritual and mythology in reinforcing cultural ideals and ethics. Similarities and differences between traditional beliefs and world religions are also explored.

ANTH 333  American Indians of California  3 Units
Advisory: Eligible for ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312 AND ENGRD 300; OR ESLR 340 AND ESLW 340.
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); AA/AS Area VI; CSU Area D1; CSU Area D3; IGETC Area 4A  Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course surveys the sociocultural systems of California Indians from the prehistoric period to the present. In addition to offering an overview of the diversity and complexity of aboriginal California, it includes environmental adaptations, material culture, social structure, ideology, and response to change. Field trips may be required.

ANTH 334  Native Peoples of North America  3 Units
Advisory: Eligible for ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312 AND ENGRD 300; OR ESLR 340 AND ESLW 340.
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); AA/AS Area VI; CSU Area D1; IGETC Area 4A  Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course is an introductory survey of traditional Native American societies. It describes the peoples and cultures of North America and emphasizes native ecological adaptations, languages, social organizations, religions, mythologies and world views, and artistic representations. It also explores the interrelatedness of Indigenous Native American groups through trade, intermarriage, and other forms of cultural exchange. Field trips may be required.

ANTH 335  Research Methods in Anthropology  3 Units
Prerequisite: ANTH 300 or 310 with a grade of “C” or better  Course Transferable to CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course introduces research methods for the field of anthropology. Familiarization with specific observational research methods and the practical application of these methods in a contemporary setting is emphasized. Field trips may be required.

ANTH 336  Anthropology of Sex, Sexuality and Gender  3 Units
Advisory: Eligible for ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312 AND ENGRD 300; OR ESLR 340 AND ESLW 340.
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); AA/AS Area VI; CSU Area D1; CSU Area D3; IGETC Area 4A  Course Transferable to CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
The course is an introductory overview from a global anthropological perspective of the relationship between sexual behavior and sexuality as well as gender and other socially ascribed statuses. Diverse modern and past human and non-human primate communities are compared bioculturally. Integrating the basic branches of anthropology – cultural, biological, linguistic and archaeological anthropology – the course examines the role, function, and evolution of sex in the human primate. It examines the relationship between sex, sexuality, gender to adaptation as well as to social behavior and to cultural variation. The implications of research methodologies and theory in investigating sex, sexuality, culture and biology are evaluated.

ANTH 341  Introduction to Linguistics  3 Units
Advisory: Eligible for ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312 AND ENGRD 300; OR ESLR 340 AND ESW 340.
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); AA/AS Area II(b); AA/AS Area VI; CSU Area D1; IGETC Area 4A  Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This introductory course serves as a foundation for understanding language from an anthropological perspective, addressing such core questions as how, what, when, where, why, and with whom humans communicate. The course topics are formed along three core areas: 1. structural linguistics, which include phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics; 2. historical linguistics, which include language origin and evolution, structural change, and language genetics; and 3. sociocultural linguistics, which include child and adult language acquisition, and cultural and psychological constraints within the context of linguistic ethnography.

ANTH 370  Primatology  3 Units
Advisory: ANTH 300  Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course provides an analysis of nonhuman primate comparative morphology, behavior, and ecology. Areas of study include general primate morphology, diet and ecology, behavior including reproduction and social systems, cognition and intelligence, and primate conservation issues. Primates in both captive and free-ranging settings are examined. Field trips for primate observations may be required.

ANTH 372  Primatology Field Studies  2 Units
Advisory: ANTH 300 and 480; AND eligible for ENGRD 310 or ENGRD 312 AND ENGRD 300; OR ESLR 340 AND ESLW 340.
Course Transferable to CSU
Hours: 36 hours LEC
This course provides practical experience in non-human primate observational studies. The Sacramento Zoo serves as the field site where observations on non-human primates are conducted. Focus is on training in research methodology and observational techniques. Field trips to the Sacramento Zoo are required.
ANTH 480  Honors Physical Anthropology  3 Units
Prerequisite: Placement into ENGWR 480 through the assessment process.
General Education: AA/AS Area IV; CSU Area B2; IGETC Area 5B
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course is an introduction to the science of physical anthropology. This seminar-style honors course approaches the topical material through class discussion which encourages problem solving techniques focusing on current anthropological issues. Weekly topical issues are presented in a case study format. Critical thinking skills are emphasized in responding to these issues. The following topics are included in the course: evolutionary theory, heredity, human variation, taxonomy and behavior of the living primate and the fossil evidence of human evolution. This course is not open to students who have completed ANTH 300. (C-ID ANTH 110)

ANTH 481  Honors Cultural Anthropology  3 Units
Prerequisite: Placement into ENGWR 480 through the assessment process.
General Education: AA/AS Area V(b); AA/AS Area VI; CSU Area D1; IGETC Area 4A
Course Transferable to UC/CSU
Hours: 54 hours LEC
This course is an introduction to the various customs, traditions, and forms of social organization in both Western and non-Western societies. Multicultural perspectives are examined for such topics as subsistence methods, belief and religious systems, linguistics, trade and economic systems, arts, kinship systems, marriage and family systems, technology, and changes due to internal and external forces. This seminar-style honors course approaches the topical material through class discussion which encourages problem-solving techniques focusing on current anthropological issues. This course is not open to students who have completed ANTH 310. (C-ID ANTH 120)

ANTH 495  Independent Studies in Anthropology  1-3 Units
Course Transferable to CSU
Hours: 162 hours LAB
Independent Study is an opportunity for the student to extend classroom experience in this subject, while working independently of a formal classroom situation. Independent study is an extension of work offered in a specific class in the college catalog. To be eligible for independent study, students must have completed the basic regular catalog course at American River College. They must also discuss the study with a professor in this subject and secure approval. Only one independent study for each catalog course will be allowed.