

Anthropology

Anthropology

Anthropology Degrees

Anthropology Major (BA)

Assistant Professors: Jason Kennedy and Matthew Lebrato

Anthropology examines the full scope of human diversity from the remote past to contemporary times. Drawing on humanistic and scientific knowledge, anthropologists explore humans as biological and cultural beings. At Lyon College, students gain a holistic understanding of humans as a biocultural species and immerse themselves in the critical themes, theories, concepts, and methods of contemporary anthropology. Through personalized attention and academic rigor, the Anthropology Program strives to produce students who are informed and engaged global citizens.

NOTE: To graduate with a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree from Lyon College, students must successfully complete a minimum of 120 semester credit hours comprised of our required Core curriculum (44-48 hours), the requirements of at least one major (credit hours vary per major), and a selection of our Liberal Arts electives. They must also earn at least a 2.00 cumulative grade point average for all work taken at Lyon College and a 2.00 cumulative grade point average in their major, minor, and concentration.

Summary of Requirements for a Major in Anthropology

Item #	Title	Credits
ANT 101	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	3
ANT 115	World Prehistory	3
ANT 140	Language and Culture	3
ANT 205	Human Origins	3

Anthropology Electives (18 hours)

Item #	Title	Credits
ANT 201	Borders & Boundaries	3
ANT 202	Anthropology and Social Justice	3
ANT 282	Special Topics	3
ANT 305	Indigenous Knowledge in the Americas	3
ANT 320	Human Variation and Adaptation	3
ANT 323	Globalization	3
ANT 331	Gender and Culture	3
ANT 382	Special Topics in Anthropology	3

Anthropology Research and Capstone (6 hours)

Item #	Title	Credits
ANT 307	Ethnographic Methods	3
ANT 450	Senior Seminar	3
ANT 480	Field Study in Anthropology	1-3

CORE CURRICULUM

Item #	Title	Credits
	Core Curriculum Requirements (In addition to Major hours)	44-48
	Total Credits	36

Anthropology Minor

The anthropology minor is a group of courses designed as a second field for students interested in exploring humans and human culture. There are four subfields in anthropology: biological anthropology, archaeology, linguistic anthropology, and cultural anthropology.

NOTES

* Students may use ANT 101 to satisfy core requirements.

Summary of Requirements for a Minor in Anthropology

Item #	Title	Credits
ANT 101	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	3
	Anthropology Electives (6 credits) - Group A	6
	Anthropology Electives (9 credits) Group B	9
	Total Credits	18

Anthropology Electives (6 credits) - Group A

Select two of the following:

Group A (6 credits)

Item #	Title	Credits
ANT 115	World Prehistory	3
ANT 140	Language and Culture	3
ANT 205	Human Origins	3
ANT 282	Special Topics	3

Anthropology Electives (9 credits) Group B

Select three of the following:

Group B (9 credits)

Item #	Title	Credits
ANT 201	Borders & Boundaries	3
ANT 202	Anthropology and Social Justice	3
ANT 282	Special Topics	3
ANT 305	Indigenous Knowledge in the Americas	3
ANT 307	Ethnographic Methods	3
ANT 320	Human Variation and Adaptation	3
ANT 323	Globalization	3
ANT 331	Gender and Culture	3
ANT 382	Special Topics in Anthropology	3
ANT 450	Senior Seminar	3
ANT 480	Field Study in Anthropology	1-3

Anthropology (ANT) Courses

ANT 101: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

An introduction to cultural anthropology with emphasis on human behavior within a cultural context. Topics include religion, gender, social organization, and subsistence.

Credits 3

ANT 115: World Prehistory

Examination of the major cultures of the world before the advent of writing with emphasis on archaeological issues such as the origins of agriculture and the first civilizations.

Credits 3

ANT 140: Language and Culture

An introductory to anthropological linguistics that looks at language from several perspectives, ranging from phonology (the study of the smallest units of sound) to the ways people use language in varying cultural contexts.

Credits 3

ANT 201: Borders & Boundaries

What is a border? How do lines, real or imaginary, bring us together or divide us? What happens to those who don't fit comfortably on one side or the other, but rather inhabit the space of the border itself? This class will examine how boundaries—racial, ethnic, linguistic, socioeconomic, scientific, sexual, and otherwise—are constructed, maintained, crossed, challenged, and lived within. Not repeatable for credit.

Credits 3

ANT 202: Anthropology and Social Justice

For over a century, anthropology in the United States has been founded on the twin principles of scientific objectivity and humanitarian equality. Anthropology has championed the fundamental equality and unity of all humans, even when politicians, the law, and mainstream society maintained segregation and inequality. Nonetheless, the role of anthropology as a discipline that “speaks for” marginalized groups is ambiguous. In this course, students will explore, reflect on, and debate the potential for anthropological research (and social science research broadly) to promote greater social justice. Not repeatable for credit.

Credits 3

ANT 205: Human Origins

Examination of several aspects of physical anthropology, including the history of scientific thought, fossil records, human adaptation, and micro- and macroevolution.

Credits 3

ANT 282: Special Topics

Focuses on an in-depth, intermediary topic of particular anthropological concern.

Credits 3

ANT 305: Indigenous Knowledge in the Americas

This course provides a cross-cultural introduction to diverse forms of knowledge and ways of knowing, focusing on indigenous peoples of America. Our inquiry is guided by three sets of questions: What are indigenous knowledge frameworks and how can we understand them on their own terms? Why are some forms of knowledge viewed as legitimate or even universal, while others are marginalized? How are individuals and groups negotiating and translating indigenous and western forms of knowledge? Not repeatable for credit.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

ANT 101

Or permission of the instructor.

ANT 307: Ethnographic Methods

This course examines ethnography, the primary research methodology used by cultural and other anthropologists. Each semester, the course will focus on a particular world region in order to highlight the diversity of ethnographic techniques and studies emanating from that region while providing a detailed knowledge of regional culture and history. In the process, students will learn about and practice ethnographic methods including sampling techniques, participant observation, interviews, surveys and various kinds of data analysis. We will examine traditional and less traditional forms of ethnography including autoethnography, visual ethnography and testimonio or life-history, and students will select one form to carry out and write-up for their own final grade in the course.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

ANT 101

ANT 320: Human Variation and Adaptation

Exploration of the origins and processes of human biological variation and adaptation with emphasis on complex human behavior (culture) and how humans respond and adapt to the environment. These responses are viewed within a biocultural perspective; that is, with the knowledge that human biology must always be explored within behavioral and cultural contexts. Sources of variation are developmental, phenotypic, hereditary, gender, individual, population, evolutionary, ecological, sociocultural, and random (in probabilistic terms).

Credits 3

ANT 323: Globalization

This course examines historical and contemporary studies of 'globalization,' a term that has become commonplace in popular and academic discourse. We consider globalization in terms of an apparently increasing velocity in the spread of ideas, commodities, laborers and capital around the world, but we take an anthropological approach to understanding this, meaning that we couple top-down or macro-level theory with deep attention to local experience through ethnographic research. The first part of the course focuses on what is meant by social scientists when we use terms like globalization, the second is devoted to 20th century histories, particularly development ideology, and the last third examines commodification and the global and local natures of consumption.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

ANT 101

ANT 331: Gender and Culture

In this course we examine the social construction of gendered identities in different times and places. We study culturally specific gendered experiences, 'roles,' rights and rebellions around the world, discussing the concepts of gender acquisition, individual and social consequences of gender, and the interrelationships between gender and other categories for identity including race, class, age, ethnicity, occupation and sexuality. We also examine gender 'at home,' and take a critical approach to understanding gender inequality and gender-based violence, as well as the role of Western expectations about gender in science, in discourses about politics, economics and global exchange, and in the arts and media.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

ANT 101

ANT 382: Special Topics in Anthropology

Course content changes from year to year but focuses on a cultural issue or in-depth examination of the culture of a specific group or geographic area. Students may take this course twice for credit toward an anthropology minor.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

ANT 101 or permission of instructor.

ANT 399: Anthropology International Studies Course: Variable Topics

Study of varying topics in anthropology. Includes a two-week Nichols trip. Prerequisites will vary.

Credits 1

ANT 450: Senior Seminar

Focused research project on a selected topic.

Credits 3

Prerequisites

Anthropology Major or Permission of Instructor

ANT 480: Field Study in Anthropology

Anthropological research outside the classroom. Students will learn first hand which methods to utilize when conducting research and the potential problems they may encounter. Students must prepare a report regarding the complexities of applying anthropological concepts in research situations.

Credits 1-3

Prerequisites

ANT 101 and permission of instructor.