

Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures

Undergraduate Coordinator: Dr. Anna Osterholtz

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Anthropology is the study of humans as biological and cultural beings. Its subfields include archaeology, biological anthropology, cultural anthropology, and linguistics. Students majoring in anthropology may undertake course work in all four subfields, with concentrations offered in archaeology and cultural and biological anthropology.

Anthropology is a particularly broad major, designed for students who are preparing for employment with research organizations or museums, cultural research management for administrative and research positions with state or federal governments (such as state highway departments, medical examiner's offices, and the National Park Service), and with human service agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGO's), or organizations that involve work in both the U.S. and foreign countries. The undergraduate major in anthropology also prepares students for graduate training in professional fields such as environmental and sustainability studies, planning, law, medicine, public health, forensics, and public administration, as well as for graduate training in anthropology leading to college and university teaching and research positions.

A student wishing to pursue a program leading to a Bachelor of Arts with a major in anthropology is required to complete the program of study outlined on this page. Students are encouraged to take elective courses in related fields which will strengthen their academic training and job skills. These may include courses in history, human biology, disease, and anatomy, soils, geology, criminology, and geographic information systems (GIS).

Students are eligible for membership in the Alpha chapter of Lambda Alpha, the national anthropology honor society. In order to be considered, a student must have at least a 2.50 overall GPA, with a 3.00 GPA in anthropology courses, and have earned a minimum of 12 semester hours credit in anthropology. Part-time jobs are available for anthropology majors through the Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures and through the Cobb Institute of Archaeology.

The Anthropology faculty and staff are housed in the Cobb Institute of Archaeology. Facilities include archaeology, bioarchaeology, and forensics laboratories and a museum. The museum houses artifacts from Mississippi and the Middle East, including replicas of large-scale relief sculptures and statues from Assyria and Egypt.

Anthropology may be used as a minor field of study at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Fifteen hours (nine hours must be 3000 level or above), including AN 1103, constitute an undergraduate minor. Requirements for an anthropology minor at the graduate level will be established in consultation with the anthropology graduate advisor. Courses taken for an undergraduate or graduate minor must be taught by anthropology faculty.

General Education and College Requirements

English Composition

EN 1103	English Composition I	3
or EN 1104	Expanded English Composition I	
EN 1113	English Composition II	3
or EN 1173	Accelerated Composition II	

Foreign Language

Foreign Language I	3
Foreign Language II	3
Foreign Language III	3

Humanities

Literature	A&S core	3
History	A&S core	3
Philosophy	A&S core	3
Humanities Elective ¹		9

Mathematics

MA /ST 2113	Introduction to Statistics	3
or MA 1323	Trigonometry	
or MA 1613	Calculus for Business and Life Sciences I	
or MA 1713	Calculus I	

Fine Arts

See A&S Core List	3
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Natural Sciences

Physical Sciences w/lab - A&S core	3-4
Life Science w/ lab - A&S core	3-4
Natural Science Elective - A&S core	3-4

Social Sciences

A&S core	6
Social Sciences Electives ²	12

Major Core

AN 1143	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	3
AN 1344	Biological Anthropology: The Making of Us	4
AN 1543	Discovering Archaeology: Past Meets Present	3
AN 3513	Artifact Analysis	3
AN 3563	Data Analytics for Anthropology	3
AN 4123	Anthropological Theory	3
Anthropology Elective		3
Anthropology Upper Division Electives		18

Oral Communication Requirement

Satisfied with AN 4123 in the major

Jr/Sr Writing

Satisfied with AN 4123 in the major

General Electives

Consult advisor	14-17
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Total Hours	123
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Note: Students must complete 31 upper division hours in A&S in residence at MSU.

¹ Humanities electives must be courses in A&S and must cover two disciplines.

² Social Science electives must be courses in A&S. The total 18 hours in Social Science must cover four disciplines; maximum of 6 hours per discipline; only one EC and one CO from A&S core list allowed.

Middle Eastern Studies Minor

The Middle Eastern Studies (MES) minor is offered to MSU students as formal acknowledgement of the completion of a specialized program of study over and above their normal degree requirements that leads to greater proficiency in areas related to Middle Eastern Studies. The MES minor requires a minimum of 18 credit hours. Students must complete at least 9 hours (3 courses) from the Core Course List, and 9 hours (3 courses) from the Elective Course List. Only one Special Topics (2990, 4990) or Directed Individual Study (4000) in Middle Eastern Cultures, Religion, or Anthropology will be accepted for completion of this minor.

Students must choose three of the following:

AN 3553	Near Eastern Archaeology	9
or MEC 3553	Near Eastern Archaeology	
or REL 3553	Near Eastern Archaeology	
HI 4403	The Ancient Near East	9
or MEC 4403	The Ancient Near East	
or REL 4403	The Ancient Near East	
HI 4413	Ancient Greece and Rome	9
MEC 3473	Islam	
or REL 3473	Islam	
MEC 4000	Directed Individual Study ¹	9

Students must select three of the following:

AN 1143	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology	9
AN 3533	Rise of Civilization	
AN 3553	Near Eastern Archaeology	
or MEC 3553	Near Eastern Archaeology	
or REL 3553	Near Eastern Archaeology	

AN 3540	Archaeological Travel and Participation Program
FLH 1113	Greek I
FLH 1123	Elementary Ancient Greek II
FLL 1113	Latin I
FLL 1123	Latin II
GR 4283	Geography of Islamic World
HI 4403	The Ancient Near East
or MEC 4403	The Ancient Near East
or REL 4403	The Ancient Near East
HI 4413	Ancient Greece and Rome
MEC 3473	Islam
or REL 3473	Islam
REL 1213	Introduction to the Old Testament
REL 1223	Introduction to the New Testament
REL 2233	Introduction to Old Testament Archaeology
or MEC 2233	Introduction to Old Testament Archaeology
REL 3203	The Prophets of Ancient Israel
REL 4143	Classical Mythology
or FL 4143	Classical Mythology
Total Hours	18

¹ May use only one Directed Individual Study/Special Topic. This also includes AN/REL 2990, 4000, and 4990.