Cultural Anthropology

at Arcadia University

Global Perspectives…Personal Attention…Real-World Integrative Learning Experiences

Faculty

Associate Professors
Dr. Jonathan Church (Director)

Assistant Professors
Dr. Jennifer Riggan (International Studies)

Instructor
Alex Otieno

Adjunct Professor
Dr. Carolyn Merritt

Degrees/Concentrations

Bachelor of Arts in Cultural Anthropology

Minors
Anthropology
Criminal Justice
Sociology
Women's Studies

Options
Minor in French, Spanish, German or Italian
Minor in International Studies
Minor in Religion
Minors in other departments, such as Business Administration

Pathways to Study Abroad in Sociology

Cultural Anthropology majors are strongly encouraged to study abroad, and many opportunities can complement studies in Anthropology. Because of the flexibility and breadth in the Cultural Anthropology program, study abroad can fit into the program and the Undergraduate Curriculum requirements.

Drawing upon the strength of Arcadia's College of Global Studies, Cultural Anthropology majors have the opportunity to study at universities around the world, including in Australia, China, Great Britain, Greece, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand South Africa, and Spain, as well as other locations. A study abroad experience is invaluable for Cultural Anthropology majors as they become ethnographically immersed in a different cultural situation, and benefit from taking courses that reflect different perspectives on anthropology from their host university. Many students use their study abroad courses to explore ethnographic perspectives on cultural issues that are particular to that area of the world resulting in their senior theses projects.

Students are encouraged to meet with their advisers to discuss their career interests and goals. It is important to have this discussion and formulate a plan early so that the international program is integrated with required and elective courses for the major. Cultural Anthropology majors typically study abroad during their sophomore or junior years because of the senior-year focus on research and thesis. Depending on whether a student studies aboard for a year of a semester, he or she will select a courses that substitutes for major requirements and electives. Studying abroad can provide students with the opportunity to take a course that is not available at Arcadia University.

Visit the University's Web site for Pathways to Study Abroad (www.arcadia.edu/pathways) and suggested course sequences. Since it is important that students plan ahead for study abroad, they should consult with their advisers as soon as possible and make their intentions known to the Program Director and the Director of International Services.

About the B.A. in Cultural Anthropology

- Preparation for graduate school
- Preparation for careers in government, international organizations, international business, law, and non-profit agencies
- Ability to design an individualized ethnographic concentration
- Senior research project
- Opportunities to study abroad at some of the top universities in the world

Cultural anthropology has rigorously sought to research, analyze and pursue theory on how global flows of peoples, information, ideas, images, politics, and economics both shape and are indigenized within the shifting locales of everyday life for different peoples of the world. The detailed lens of ethnographic thick description of peoples' local life-worlds is a mainstay for cultural anthropology, but this

ethnographic sensitivity to context and detail is nuanced by a sophisticated and theoretically informed vision of how both are affected by structural issues, especially political and economic at a global level.

The major in Cultural Anthropology provides students with an opportunity for study and experience away, either domestically or abroad, and is designed to leverage these experiences by providing a theoretically and methodologically sophisticated standing ground from which to explore, reflect upon, and share those various experiences during a two-semester capstone sequence during the senior year.

For those students who are unable to study away, the goal of the on-campus major is to provide rigorous training in ethnographic methods and anthropological theory so that graduate level training can take place. While the goal of the undergraduate program in cultural anthropology is to provide an excellent foundation for advanced study, the goal is not to be paraprofessional.

An undergraduate education in Cultural Anthropology provides a series of skills in qualitative data analysis and research design, quantitative reasoning, a stress on critical inquiry, experiential education regarding ethnocentrism, and cultural relativity. This training assists in application to other forms of graduate study such as law, economics, political science, peace and conflict resolution, social work, and public health. Students majoring in Cultural Anthropology also have found this course of study helpful in pursuing occupations in government services, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international organizations and international business.

Requirements for the B.A. in Cultural Anthropology

(51–58 credits as listed below, plus University-wide requirements and electives to total 128)

Common Curriculum

(30-34 credits as listed below). Either AN120 or AN150 serve as the entering required course for the major. All other courses listed, or approved substitutes from study abroad, are required for the major.

1. Six courses in Cultural Anthropology

AN	120	Cultural Anthropology
		or
AN	150	The Family
AN	230	Reading Ethnography
AN	250	Ethnographic Methods
AN	3XX	Anthropological Theory (pending approval)
SO	385	Social Theory
AN	4XX	Senior Seminar I (fall semester, Senior year, pending approval)
AN	4XX	Senior Seminar II (spring semester Senior year, pending approval)

2. One course in Mathematics

MA	141	Elementary Statistics

3. Additional Requirements (17-20 credits).
   In addition to the common curriculum, students select three electives from courses in Cultural Anthropology, one elective from courses in development and human rights, and one elective in a history or culture of a specific area. Approved substitutes from study abroad can fill these requirements.

   Three electives in Cultural Anthropology from the following:

AN	220	Social Issues (special topics vary)
AN	240	Ethnographic Film
AN	262	Myth, Magic and Religion
AN	272	Culture, Conflict and Power
AN	262	Myth, Magic and Religion
AN	285	Aesthetics
AN	320	From Ritual to Theater
AN	361	Social Change: Globalization and Culture
IS	330	The Social Life of War

   One elective in development and human rights from the following:

IS	160	Globalization, Development and Human Rights
PS	225	Politics of the Developing World
SO	286	Health and Human Rights
IS	320	Global Poverty and Inequality

One elective in history or culture of a specific geographic area from the following: All electives in modern languages have language prerequisites of 201.

HS	211	Modern Middle East
HS	216	Modern East Africa
HS	218	Modern Africa
HS	228	America as Empire
IS	130	The Modern Mediterranean
SP	205	Introduction to Spanish Culture
SP	206	Introduction to Latin American Culture
IT	205	Introduction to Italian Culture and Civilization
FR	205	Intermediate French Language and Culture
JA	202	Intermediate Japanese Language and Culture
GA	202	Intermediate German Language and Culture

Requirements for the Minor in Anthropology

(18–20 credits as listed below)

Students will be required to take (for 7–8 credits) AN 120 Cultural Anthropology and LB/SO 385 Social Theory. In addition to these two required courses, students must choose two Anthropology topic courses (for 7–8 credits) among those listed. Furthermore, students will choose to take either AN 220 Social Issues or SO 265 Inequality for 4 credits. No more than two courses can jointly fulfill the requirements for the Sociology major or minor and the Anthropology minor. A minimum of eight courses must be taken to receive a double minor in Sociology and Anthropology.

Common Curriculum

Required (7–8 credits)

AN	120	Cultural Anthropology
SO	385	Social Theory

Electives

Topics (Two of the following) (7–8 credits)

AN	150	The Family
AN	262	Myth, Magic and Religion
AN	272	Cultures, Conflict and Power
AN	361	Social Change: Globalization and Culture

Diversity (One of the following) (4 credits)

SO	265	Social Inequalities
AN/SO	220	Social Issues

Anthropology Courses (AN)

120
Cultural Anthropology
(4 credits, day)
(3 credits, evening)

Systematic study of the customs, social organization, environmental adaptation and belief systems of primitive and contemporary societies. Considers cultural variations in technology, economy, language, families, government and religion, with a special emphasis on social and cultural change and global relations. Non-majors may substitute this course as prerequisite for other courses in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice.

150
The Family
(4 credits, day)
(3 credits, evening)

Analysis of the family as a basic social institution in both Western and non-Western cultures. Exploration of various marriage arrangements, kinship, family life cycle, and issues and problems relating to societal change as it affects kinship and family structure.

220
Social Issues
(4 credits)
In-depth analysis, from a social science perspective, of a substantive social issue confronting modern societies. Emphasizes pertinent social structure, values and attitudes, and the effects on the individual. Topics vary from year to year. May be repeated for credit.

230
Reading Ethnography
(4 credits, Fall)
This course present students with an exploration of the genre of data presentation unique to cultural anthropology, the ethnographic monograph. Students explore the difficulty of translating ‘emic’ perspectives to ‘etic’ analysis, as well as becoming knowledgeable with the tropes of contemporary ethnographic writing. Also, students will become familiar with the ways that cultural anthropologists use contemporary social and anthropological theory to frame questions and provide analysis. Finally, the course explores the ethical dilemmas usually

encountered and recounted within ethnographic monographs.

240
Ethnographic Film
(3 credits, evening)

Ethnographic film explores the history and impact of documentary films made by anthropologists and the issues and ethical dilemmas involved in this type of storytelling. Classes consist of lectures, readings, screenings and discussions concerning the style and content of the major ethnographic films, and anthropological and documentary film theory.

250
Ethnographic Methods
(4 credits)

This course introduces students to ethnographic methods, strategies of participant observation, interviewing techniques, the writing of field notes, qualitative research design and analysis. One of the foci of the course is on autoethnograhy so that the student may trace his or her own human journey from an ethnographic perspective.

262
Myth, Magic and Religion
(4 credits)

This course studies human belief systems in their varied forms, the nature of religious understanding and the interplay between religious forms of life, and political structures using anthropological concepts. Consideration includes the resurgence of religious belief in modern culture. This course assumes a basic familiarity with Anthropology.

272
Cultures, Conflict and Power
(4 credits)

This course examines how systems of power are established through the imposition and contestation of symbolic practices both within and between cultural groups. Beginning with an examination of how the powerless have historically used deception and feigning deference as a political strategy to confront a sovereign state, central emphasis of the course is on understanding “symbolic violence,” the establishment of a sense of the “natural” to cultural constructions of identity and practice. Utilizing this notion of symbolic violence, the course investigates how the historical formulations of racial, gender and class hierarchies were developed as modern classificatory schemas of identity within the colonial context. The course ends with an ethnographic examination of power within a contemporary ethnographic situation of cultural conflict.

285
Aesthetics
(4 credits)

Through the intersection of the disciplines of Anthropology and Theatre, performance research, this course examines the dramatic aesthetic and cultural shifts that have occurred with the advent of what Jameson has called “late advanced capitalism.” Starting with an examination of the decade of the ‘70s, this course charts the explosion of particular cultural aesthetics into worlds of entertainment, economics and politics. A significant concern of the course is for students to understand the degree to which everyday life has become a mediated reality with the concerns of marketing, hype and profitability being central to that reality.

320
Ritual to Theatre
(4 credits)

This course begins by examining the place of ritualization as part of our biological heritage, and then explores the cultural uses of ritual, performance and ceremony in both informal and formal interaction from a cross-cultural vantage point. Finally, the course examines a number of avenues by which traditions of performance may be integrated into the artistic investigation of self and society.

3XX
Anthropological Theory
(4 credits)

Pending approval.

361
Social Change: Globalization and Culture
(4 credits; Spring)

Designed for the advanced Anthropology student or International Business and Culture major, this course examines the recent re-territorialization of the world known as “globalization.” Using a critical anthropological perspective that addresses the cultural dimensions of globalization, the course examines the organized and disjunctive social processes by which local and transnational identity have emerged.
Prerequisite: AN 120 or SO 261. Majors in International Business and Culture should have more than 90 credits.

389
Independent Study
Individual research or directed in-depth reading at an advanced level devoted to specific topics in anthropology.
Prerequisites: Approval of the Director and instructor concerned.

4XX
Senior Seminar I

(4 credits, fall)
Pending Approval

4XX
Senior Seminar II
(4 credits, spring)
Pending Approval