

Anthropology Student Learning Outcomes 2016-2017

Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs):

Upon completion of an AA or AA-T degree in anthropology, students will be able to:

1. Describe the breadth of anthropology and be able to characterize anthropology's distinctive theoretical and methodological approaches with respect to other disciplines.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the historical development of the discipline and the centrality of the "four-field approach" in American anthropology.
3. Explain the basic processes of human biological evolution.
4. Describe modern human biological diversity and articulate an informed position on the question of race.
5. Define and critically analyze the concepts of culture and cultural relativism.
6. Demonstrate the ability to think holistically and comparatively in describing human cultural diversity.
7. Demonstrate an understanding of the processes of social and cultural change through time.
8. Discuss the politics of inclusion and exclusion both locally and globally.
9. Articulate an anthropological perspective in relation to contemporary issues and concerns.
10. Discuss the importance of the scientific method in anthropological research.
11. Identify the correct methods for the undertaking of ethnographic, linguistic, and/or archaeological fieldwork.
12. Identify the ethical responsibilities and concerns in the conducting of anthropological research.
13. Write concisely and logically, incorporating relevant data and knowledge.
14. Critically evaluate information sources about different peoples and cultures.

Anth 1: Biological Anthropology

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Define the scope of anthropology and discuss the role of biological anthropology within the discipline.
2. Discuss evolutionary theory, both before and after Charles Darwin, and how it relates to human origins and behavior.

3. Explain the differences between science and faith.
4. Describe the four forces, or biological mechanisms, of evolutionary change including mutation, gene flow, genetic drift, and natural selection.
5. Explain the origin and evolution of primates.
6. Distinguish between the different primate taxonomic groupings.
7. Compare and contrast the behavioral patterns found in the different primate taxonomic groups.
8. Use key fossils to demonstrate human evolution, particularly as it relates to anatomical changes associated with bipedalism, changes in the size and structure of the brain, and the development of culture.
9. Discuss theories of human origins using current fossil and genetic evidence.
10. Describe some of the adaptive reasons for human physical variation.
11. Articulate an anthropological perspective on biological ancestry and race.

Anth 1L: Biological Anthropology Lab

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the scientific method.
2. Employ principles of Mendelian genetics to determine genotype and phenotype probabilities.
3. Calculate gene, genotype, and phenotype frequencies using the Hardy-Weinberg Equilibrium formula.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of cell structure and functions.
5. Use common lab and anthropometric equipment such as a compound microscope and calipers.
6. Discuss primate evolution and the different adaptive radiations.
7. Compare and contrast members of the Primate order in terms of structure, behavior, and phylogeny.
8. Classify hominin species based upon selected traits such as anatomical changes associated with bipedalism, changes in the size and structure of the brain, and the development of culture.
9. Locate and describe the major bones of the human skeleton.
10. Identify characteristics of human skeletons or skulls such as gender, age, and ancestry.
11. Discuss current research in genome analysis of various hominid populations.

Anth 2: Cultural Anthropology

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of human cultural diversity.
2. Discuss the benefits and limitations of the various methodologies used by cultural anthropologists, especially fieldwork and participant-observation, including the ethical considerations that arise in the study of cultures different from one's own

3. Explain the importance of cultural relativism in the analysis of global diversity, and discuss how this perspective differs from ethnocentrism.
4. Define the concept of culture, and differentiate between cultural and individual perspectives of the world.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of holism, and the interrelationship between different aspects of a culture.
6. Identify and outline the anthropological framework of kinship, political, social, economic, and religious systems in a global context.
7. Critically analyze the process of globalization and its effects upon cultures around the world.
8. Articulate an anthropological perspective on current issues and concerns in the field of cultural anthropology.

Anth 3: Culture and Language

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the purview of linguistic anthropology, and outline the methodologies used in the field.
2. Define human language and discuss how it differs from other animal communications systems.
3. Discuss the interconnections between language acquisition and enculturation.
4. Explain the structure of language including phonology, morphology, and syntax.
5. Discuss cross-cultural variations in linguistic structure.
6. Identify the ways in which languages change through time and space.
7. Articulate an anthropological perspective on current issues and concerns in the field of linguistic anthropology, such as bilingualism, African American Vernacular English (AAVE), and language loss.
8. Apply concepts learned in class to transcribe a speech event.
9. Analyze a speech event from an anthropological perspective.

Anth 4: Native American Cultures

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and critically evaluate from an anthropological perspective the historical representations and stereotypes, in both academia and the media, of Native Americans.
2. Demonstrate an awareness of the archaeological record of Native American cultures.
3. Describe the major cultural areas of Native North America.
4. Describe the linguistic diversity and complexity of Native North America.
5. Articulate an anthropological understanding on current issues and concerns of Native American cultures.

Anth 5: The Anthropology of Latin America – Culture, Identity, and Power

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify the primary cultures of Latin America.
2. Discuss the differences between the stereotypical images of Latin America and the contemporary realities.
3. Describe the significance of the colonial legacy for Latin American cultures.
4. Discuss how issues of culture, identity, and power have shaped the region.
5. Identify important issues pertaining to Latin American identities, especially in relation to ethnicity, race, religious affiliation, gender, sexuality, and class.
6. Outline the cultural and political significance of major social movements in Latin America.
7. Articulate the anthropological perspective on current issues in the study of Latin America, such as the intersection of race, class, and gender, violence and terror, and resistance and change.

Anth 6: Global Issues in Anthropological Perspective

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the history of culture contact and its effects on different cultures around the world.
2. Explain the culture of capitalism and the ways in which other cultures have articulated with it.
3. Analyze globalization and its effects.
4. Compare and contrast the ways in which indigenous cultures have responded to the challenges of culture contact and globalization.
5. Use research skills and critical analysis in determining and outlining the effects of globalization on a particular indigenous culture.

Anth 7: Native American Cultures of Southern California

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain and illustrate the variety of anthropological approaches to the study of human populations in general and to Southern California Native American populations specifically.
2. Identify the name, geographical location, and cultural characteristics of the major Native American tribes in southern California.
3. Compare and contrast the cultural variations found among Southern California Native American cultures.
4. Explain the concept of tribal sovereignty and how it relates to Indian gaming in California.
5. Articulate an anthropological understanding on current issues and concerns of Native Americans in southern California.

Anth 8: World Prehistory

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Outline the major episodes that define human prehistory in terms of location, relative dates, and contributing circumstances.
2. Develop an awareness of the uniqueness of human biological and cultural evolution.
3. Recognize human culture as an adaptive system.
4. Trace and understand major events in human prehistory which lead to the modern day human condition.
5. Analyze the rise of social complexity and the emergence of the state.
6. Explain the relationship between the environment and cultural adaptations in prehistory.
7. Outline the different theories related to the origins of sedentism, agriculture, and state systems.
8. Critically analyze and evaluate interpretations of archaeological data and current debates within archaeology.

Anth 9: Introduction to Archaeology

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the nature of scientific inquiry and its application in archaeological research.
2. Discuss the history of archaeology with respect to paradigm shifts and the development of theoretical understandings.
3. Define and discuss the key terms, theories, and concepts used in archaeology.
4. Identify a basic outline of major archaeological cultures and the related evidence.
5. Demonstrate the process of archaeological excavation and artifact retrieval through actual fieldwork experience.
6. Identify the methods used by archaeologists in the reconstruction of human culture from archaeological evidence.
7. Describe the principles of archaeological ethics and stewardship.
8. Articulate the goals, and the legal, operational, and ethical framework of cultural resource management and heritage preservation.
9. Discuss the relationship between anthropology and archaeology.

Anth 10: Celtic Cultures

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Distinguish the cultural elements that define Celtic culture as distinct from other, ancient Eurasian cultures.
2. Define and analyze the historical relations between Celtic cultures and cultures of the ancient world.

3. Identify and analyze the major historical periods of Celtic culture.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the cultural commonalities in modern peoples who consider themselves Celts.
5. Identify key myths, symbols, and rituals of the Celtic belief system.
6. Describe how the Celtic renaissance has affected modern-day perceptions of the Celts, including ethnic and religious identity.
7. Articulate an anthropological perspective on current issues such as the Celtic peoples struggle for linguistic, political, and economic rights.

Anth 13: Magic, Witchcraft, and Religion

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Discuss the variety of religious beliefs and practices cross-culturally.
2. Describe and compare the beliefs, institutional structures, and ethical systems of various religions.
3. Utilize anthropological concepts and theories in the analysis of religious beliefs and practices.
4. Analyze the interaction of religion with political, economic, and social systems and institutions.
5. Demonstrate an awareness of how religion has been an important arena in the formulation of gender, class, and racial identities throughout the world.

Anth 14: Introduction to Visual Culture

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify the differences in theoretical approaches to recording culture.
2. Compare and contrast the various mediums visual anthropologists have used to record human culture.
3. Critically evaluate ethnographic films by looking at such elements as image framing, juxtaposition, narration, and soundtrack.
4. Discuss the politics of representation in the visual portrayal of other peoples and cultures.

Anth 15: The World of Primates

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Distinguish between the different primate taxonomic groupings.
2. Identify and describe the evolutionary processes that have shaped primate adaptations.
3. Compare and contrast the behavioral patterns found in the different primate taxonomic groups.
4. Describe the impact of the ecology on sociality and behavior in primate species.
5. Identify the feeding ecology and foraging behavior of a selected group of primates.

6. Outline the causes of and solutions for the extinction of primate species around the world.
7. Compare and contrast the different methodologies used in primatological research.
8. Articulate an anthropological understanding of current issues and concerns in the field of primatology.

Anth 16: Archaeological Field Methods

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Effectively participate in a long-term research project designed to produce specimens, records, and data that will support further laboratory analysis.
2. Develop a thorough understanding of how their work in the field relates to the overall research design of a field project.
3. Identify the necessary steps involved in carrying out an archaeological excavation.
4. Apply basic techniques and methods in conducting archaeological field survey and limited test excavations.
5. Identify artifacts, features and sites from the prehistoric through historic eras.
6. Demonstrate relevant techniques for laboratory analysis.
7. Survey for archaeological sites and know how to record and map them on official state site forms.

Anth 17: The Biological Evolution of Human Nature

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Discuss the theory of evolution and how it applies to human behavior.
2. Compare and contrast the theories of key individuals in the field of evolution and human nature.
3. Critique the concepts of biological determinism and Neo-Darwinism.
4. Outline the application of evolutionary theory to current areas of research such as violence, altruism and mate choice.

Anth 19: Forensic Anthropology

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify the bones of the human skeleton.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the differences between human versus non-human remains.
3. Outline the procedures for the search and recovery of human skeletal remains.
4. Identify the various techniques used in determining sex, age, and ancestry of human skeletal remains.
5. Identify the techniques used in determining trauma and pathological conditions of human skeletal remains.
6. Describe the impact of taphonomic agents on human skeletal remains.

7. Explain how time since death is estimated.
8. Outline the role of the forensic anthropologist and learn how to work in a cooperative manner with law enforcement officials.
9. Conduct themselves ethically and with respect for human rights.
10. Summarize and provide examples of the application of forensic anthropology to historical and human rights cases.
11. Articulate an anthropological understanding of current issues and concerns in the field of forensic anthropology.

Anth 21: Women, Gender, and Culture - Cross-Cultural Perspectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Differentiate between the concepts of sex and gender.
2. Critique the androcentric bias of past anthropological research and ethnographic studies.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of how categories of gender and sexuality are culturally constructed, and therefore vary throughout the world.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the role of colonialism and imperialism in the creation of gender categories.
5. Analyze the situation of women in a particular culture using the theories discussed in class.
6. Use the analytical and critical skills learned in class to interrogate and deconstruct assumptions about sex and gender cross-culturally.
7. Articulate an anthropological perspective on contemporary issues such as veiling, domestic violence, female genital modification, and sexual identity.