

# Anthropology

Anthropology offers the opportunity to study human existence in the present and the past and to explore how and why humans vary in their behaviors, cultures, and biology. Students choose to study anthropology because they want to understand some of the most intriguing and troubling issues faced by modern society: the origin and meaning of ethnic and gender differences; the role of institutions in social, political, and economic life; learned vs. innate behavior; the similarities and differences among human societies; and the meaning of religion, community, and family.

The Department of Anthropology offers courses in three subdisciplines of anthropology: archaeology, biological anthropology, and sociocultural anthropology.

The faculty in the anthropology department are active in research around the world and bring a diversity of experiences to their teaching.

- Archaeology faculty study the origins of food production, human responses to environmental change, early social complexity, and urbanism on five continents (Asia, Africa, Europe, North America, South America) over the past 15,000 years. Methods include geoarchaeology, bioarchaeology, GIS, paleobotany, stable isotopic analysis, and zooarchaeology.
- Biological anthropology faculty focus on the evolution of humans; on the normal biological variation of living human populations; and on the ecology, behavior, and evolution of nonhuman primates.
- Sociocultural faculty conduct research on issues globally and domestically pertaining to political and economic structures and ideologies, development and globalization, institutions, medicine, psychology and healthcare, disability, the body and embodiment, gender and sexuality, the construction of knowledge, aging and dying, humanitarian interventions and migration, the natural environment and food. Methods include qualitative and ethnographic work, experimental methods, and cultural and historical demography.

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