What Is Anthropology?

Anthropology is the study of humankind. It deals with our origins, physical and cultural development, biological characteristics, social beliefs, and customs of peoples and cultures. It connects to psychology, sociology, biology, chemistry, medicine, history, and just about every other social and physical science. Anthropology has a holistic and broad approach that makes it unique in comparison to other sciences.

Anthropology can be broken up into 5 sub-fields:

**Cultural Anthropology**
The scientific study of the origins and development of modern cultures based on social, linguistic, and archaeological data. Cultural anthropology analyzes and explains social and cultural similarities and differences. You will learn to look at family life, neighborhoods, social and ethnic groups and larger social phenomena to help understand how people work together to build networks.

**Linguistics**
The descriptive, comparative, and historical study of language and of linguistic similarities and differences.

**Physical/Biological Anthropology**
The study of human physical variation. Includes evolution, genetics, growth and development, and primates, our closest relatives in the animal world.

**Archaeology**
The study of past human life and culture by the recovery and examination of remaining cultural material, such as ceramics, buildings, tools, and art.

**Applied Anthropology**
The application of anthropology to help solve contemporary social problems.

Archaeology

Dr. Siegel leading Field Methods in Archaeology students in the excavation of Van Reyper-Bond House grounds on Valley Road.

Careers in Anthropology

Anthropologists work in laboratories, classrooms, communities, and corporate settings. We work for hospitals, museums, boards of education, community organizations, police departments, city and state governments, foreign aid organizations, environmental groups, and many others.

Majoring in Anthropology at MSU will prepare you for positions in a wide variety of non-academic jobs or for graduate study leading to a career in university teaching and research.

Internships and employment of recent MSU undergraduates

- Study of cultural aspects of mainstreaming deaf and hearing-impaired children in New Jersey schools
- Teaching social studies in high school or middle school
- Research on hate crimes against Asian Indian immigrants in Jersey City
- Questionnaire design for AIDS councils in New York City
- Pain amelioration research at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York
- Study of environmental racism in location of New Jersey municipal waste incinerators
- Evaluating programs for the blind
- Assisting doctors in understanding social aspects of type II diabetes treatment
- Service Learning Classes that focus on solving community problems by working at local nursing homes, schools, and community centers.
- Non-profit Community development work
Student Opportunities
Anthropology Club
Lambda Alpha National Honor Society
Service Learning Classes
Internships
Study abroad
Grants up to $2,500 for field work

Some of Our Courses
Anth 105 Intro to Disability Studies
Anth 110 Multicultural America
Anth 125 The Anthropology Of Globalization
Anth 135 Anthropology Of Conflict and Violence
Anth 155 Urban Anthropology
Anth 330 Anthropology Of Food & Nutrition
Anth 380 Anth of Gender and Sexuality
Anth 370 Experimental Archaeology
Anth 410 Archaeology in Montclair
Anth 421 Communities in Transition
Anth 423 Community and Health
Anth 422 Environment and Community
Anth 429 Building Sustainable Communities

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Buildings Sustainable Communities students with Professor McCaffrey at the EcoVillage at Ithaca, Spring Break 2010

Undergraduate

♦ Anthropology Major
♦ Anthropology Major, Elementary School Teacher Certification (K-5)
♦ Anthropology Major, Community Development Concentration
♦ Anthropology Minor
♦ Archaeology Minor