

ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Associate Professor Jennifer Perry, department chair

Professors Bolton, Gladney, Thomas

Associate Professor Perry

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Anthropology is based on cross-cultural, bio-cultural and holistic approaches to the scientific understanding of human behavior and society, both past and present. The discipline, noted for its considerable theoretical and methodological diversity, encompasses four major sub-fields: social and cultural anthropology, biological anthropology, archaeology and linguistic anthropology. Moreover, the emphasis on increasing knowledge in these areas of inquiry is complemented by a strong commitment to the application of anthropological knowledge to the solving of human problems. In recent years, some graduates have pursued advanced training in anthropology and related disciplines while others have entered the professions (medicine, law and teaching) and diverse public and private sector careers. The Anthropology Major provides an excellent background for a variety of jobs and vocations.

Requirements for the Major in Anthropology

The Anthropology Major is designed to offer breadth in the discipline. In addition to the six required courses, students majoring in anthropology must take a minimum of three electives chosen on the basis of individual interest, in consultation with their advisor. An approved statistics course and a senior exercise are also required. All courses taken for the major or a minor, or for the Public Policy Analysis/Anthropology Major, must be taken for a letter grade with achievement of a grade better than a C-. In the event of a failure to meet this requirement, if a student wishes credit toward the major (or minor) for the course, the student must repeat the course (additional course credit toward graduation is not earned in such a case).

All six required courses must be taken at The Claremont Colleges. Upon declaring a major in anthropology, a student must select an advisor from among the Pomona anthropology faculty. Anthropology majors are required to plan their programs in close consultation with their advisors.

Though not required, anthropology majors are encouraged to participate in the College's Study Abroad Program or a summer field program in order to gain experience in a culture other than their own. The Anthropology Department allows a maximum of two elective courses taken abroad.

The senior exercise may be based on library research or original fieldwork that may be conducted as part of a semester abroad. The senior exercise must be completed in the same subfield as that of the student's methods course. Students must have a minimum of two readers for the senior theses. One reader must be a Pomona Anthropology Department faculty member.

Exceptions or substitutions to these requirements must be approved by petition to the department chair.

1. Required anthropology (ANTH) courses:

- a. Social Anthropology (51)
- b. Archaeology (59)
- c. Methods in Anthropological Inquiry (105) or Archaeological Methods (110)
- d. Theory in Anthropology (109)
- e. Two courses from: Human Sexuality (52), Language, Thought and Culture (53) and either Applied Anthropology (102) or Medical Anthropology (107)

³On leave 2009-10

2. Electives. Any anthropology course at The Claremont Colleges may be chosen as an elective (three minimum), excluding courses having substantial overlap with the required courses listed above. Courses offered through other departments will be considered for elective credit on a case-by-case basis, as will transfer courses and up to two courses taken through study abroad.
3. Statistics. Students are required to take one full course in statistics chosen from an approved set of options, which includes such courses as ECON 57, MATH 58, POLI 90 and PSYC 158.
4. Senior Exercise. A senior exercise is required of all students. By the end of the junior year, each student must submit a senior exercise plan. The senior exercise requirement may be met by completing a thesis (191) or a project (192) such as a video or exhibition, or by participating in a senior apprenticeship involving collaborative work on a faculty-student project. Normally, work on the senior exercise will begin in the fall of the senior year.

Requirements for a Public Policy Major in Anthropology

Students interested in careers in which their anthropological training is applied to problems of public policy may choose to major in public policy analysis with an emphasis in anthropology. The requirements for this major include the five-course public policy sequence and an approved statistics course (see Public Policy Analysis Program); ANTH 51, 102, 109 and 105 or 110; two of the following: ANTH 52, 53, 55, 59; and one elective.

Requirements for a Minor in Anthropology

A minor in anthropology requires that students pass six courses: three required courses (ANTH 51, 109 and 105 or 110) and three approved electives in the discipline. Students must earn a grade better than a C- in all courses that count toward the minor. Students whose major requires a significant number of anthropology courses (e.g., the Public Policy Major in Anthropology) cannot also minor in anthropology.

Courses

Anthropology (ANTH) courses satisfy Area 2 of the Breadth of Study Requirements. For additional offerings, see the catalogs of Pitzer and Scripps colleges.

51. **Social Anthropology.** *Mr. Gladney, 2009; Ms. Mahdavi, 2010.* Study of the structure and dynamics of human culture and social institutions from a comparative perspective. Diversity in ways of life and patterns of social organization explored through ethnographic materials from societies around the world. Each fall.
52. **Human Sexuality.** *Mr. Bolton.* Survey of knowledge about human sexual and reproductive behavior, attitudes, concepts and values, with attention to the biological, psychological and sociocultural dimensions of sexuality. Special consideration of “safer sex” and AIDS prevention, and an examination of controversial issues surrounding sexuality in contemporary America. Each spring.
53. **Language, Thought and Culture.** *Mr. Thomas.* Explorations of proposals that language either determines or constrains thought, shapes perception or experience; reasoning and discourse; language and information processing; cross-cultural study; attention to universals. Fall 2009, Fall 2010.
54. **Human Interactions with the Pre-industrial Environment.** *Ms. Perry.* Prehistory and history of human interactions with the environment from global colonization to the Industrial Revolution. Examines how humans have manipulated and been shaped by their environment. Emphasis on the environmental, historical and cultural contexts of the agricultural revolution and later developments, and their relevance to contemporary problems and solutions. Spring 2011; offered alternate years.

- 55. Power, Politics & Culture.** *Mr. Thomas.* Is it possible to create a more just world or are humans inherently competitive, violent and hierarchical? Do nation states reduce conflict or produce it? How do different cultural systems influence politics? Examines political arrangements in different settings, including those in the U.S.; it gives attention to new social movements that have arisen to challenge the dominance of states. Spring 2010, Spring 2011.
- 59. Archaeology.** *Ms. Perry.* Anthropology of material culture. Introduction to the archaeological study of prehistoric and historic societies. The relevance of the past to understanding contemporary issues, including how and why humans differentiate themselves. Examples are drawn from a variety of contexts including foraging societies, chiefdoms and states throughout the world. Spring 2010, Fall 2010.
- 102. Applied Anthropology.** *Ms. Mahdavi.* Fall 2012.
- 105. Methods in Anthropological Inquiry.** *Ms. Mahdavi.* Introduction to ethnography, the major mode of investigation in anthropology. Emphasis on systematic inquiry and inference. The vicissitudes of fieldwork and what it means to learn about human ways of life using the “technology” anthropologists have developed to gather, record and use data. Spring 2011.
- 107. Medical Anthropology.** *Ms. Mahdavi.* History, theory, methodology and application of anthropology in various health settings. Concepts of health, illness and healing in diverse cultural contexts. Critical assessment of conventional biomedical assumptions. Use of anthropology to solve health problems. Spring 2011.
- 109. Theory in Anthropology.** *Mr. Thomas.* To be announced.
- 110. Archaeological Methods.** *Ms. Perry.* Archaeological field and laboratory methods. Formulating research designs. Consideration of archaeological theories and other relevant approaches and techniques. Training in archaeological survey, site documentation and excavation through field trips to the Channel Islands. Field safety, research ethics, indigenous concerns and government legislation are also addressed. May be repeated once for credit. Prerequisite: 59 or 1PZ. Spring 2011.
- 120. Altered States of Consciousness.** *Ms. Perry.* Throughout time and space, humans have used deprivation, meditation, trance and psychotropic substances to produce altered states of consciousness. This course explores how altered states are achieved, in what contexts and by whom; what purposes such mindsets are believed to serve; and how these practices are manifested in art, ritual performance and other media. Fall 2009; offered alternate years.
- 124. The Seacoast in Prehistory.** *Ms. Perry.* Prehistory and history of humans in coastal settings. Climate change, migration and colonization; population growth and resource stress; trade, exchange and boat technology; and wealth and status. Complexity among coastal hunter-gatherer and agricultural societies. Regions of focus vary, but include the Arctic, Pacific Northwest, Polynesia and the Caribbean. Spring 2010; offered alternate years.
- 129. Native California.** *Ms. Perry.* Through archaeology, ethnohistory and ethnography, this course examines the diversity of indigenous cultures and societies in California between 15,000 and 100 years ago. Cultural continuity and change, land-use patterns, subsistence and technology, political and economic systems, religion and how people related to their specific regional environments. Fall 2010.
- 130. Sexuality and Sexual Politics of the Middle East.** *Ms. Mahdavi.* Looks at emerging and changing sexual cultures and how they affect and are affected by changes in politics, culture, tradition and the question of modernity in the Middle East. Examines questions of gender, sexuality, health and human rights amongst peoples of the Middle East from an anthropological lens. Fall 2010; offered alternate years.
- 135. The Social Life of Media.** *Mr. Thomas.* Social and cultural nature of media. Special attention to problems of value and influence in aesthetic, moral and political terms, in news reporting and commentary, sitcoms and movies, advertising uses of media in education. Fall 2010.

- 150. Understanding Religion.** *Mr. Thomas.* Religious experience in differing societies. Questions about religious practices in relation to practitioners' thoughts, feelings, values and social circumstances: development of approaches helpful in exploring religious life; attention to worldview, myth, ritual, witchcraft, taboo, shamanism and pollution; special attention to new, revitalizing and politicizing religious movements. Spring 2010, Spring 2011.
- 151. Gender in Prehistory.** *Ms. Perry.* Gender ideology and dynamics in different sociocultural contexts in the past. Origins of gender-based division of labor. Definitions and categories of gender in traditional societies. Matriarchal and matrilineal societies. Examples will be drawn from a variety of contexts ranging from the earliest humans to indigenous societies to historic empires. Fall 2009; offered alternate years.
- 152. Ethnic Nationalism.** *Mr. Gladney.* Spring 2012; offered alternate years.
- 153. Comparative Muslim Societies in Asia.** *Mr. Gladney.* Course surveys and analyzes the wide diversity found among Muslim communities and Islamic societies. Issues of the requirement of the pilgrimage, the centrality of the mosques, the finding of Muslim mates in many non-Muslim areas and the religio-political movements. Spring 2011; offered alternate years.
- 155. Globalization.** *Mr. Thomas.* The nature of globalization and of claims made about it; examination of neoliberalism; transnational labor, media, tourism and youth culture; regional and world systems historically and cross-culturally; opposition movements; impacts on local communities. Fall 2009; offered alternate years.
- 162. Andean Cultures.** *Mr. Bolton.* Focusing on highland South America, this course explores cultural continuities and changes in contemporary Andean communities, with special emphasis on the Lake Titicaca region of the Peruvian Altiplano. Ethnographic readings and lectures will cover religion, gender, subsistence, health, environment, politics, tourism and ethnohistory. Spring 2011; offered alternate years.
- 168. Seminar: Gay and Lesbian Ethnography.** *Mr. Bolton.* There has been an explosion of anthropological and sociological writings on the lives of gay men and lesbians in diverse cultures. Examines ethnographic and historic perspectives on homosexualities in the United States and other societies. Spring 2010; offered alternate years.
- 191. Senior Thesis.** *Staff.* May be taken for half-course in both semesters of the last year, or as full course in either semester of the senior year.
- 192. Senior Project.** *Staff.* Course or half-course. May be taken for half-course in both semesters of the last year or as full course in either semester of the senior year.
- 99/199. Reading and Research in Anthropology.** *Staff.* Prerequisite: permission of instructor or department chair. 99, lower-level; 199, advanced work. Course or half-course. May be repeated. Each semester. (Summer Reading and Research taken as 98/198.)

ARABIC

The learning goals of the Arabic Program, which is operated by Claremont McKenna College, are to develop a high level of proficiency in the major language functions of speaking, listening, reading and writing, and to foster an understanding of Arabic culture, history, and society.

Courses

CM ARBC 1. Introductory Arabic. *Mr. Frangieh.* Introductory Arabic is designed for students who do not have any Arabic language background. Emphasis is placed on the fundamentals of the four basic language skills—listening, speaking, reading and writing—through an integrated and comprehensive method. The course provides an understanding of Arabic phonology, morphology and syntax. The course will be taught in Arabic. Each fall.