About Us

Anthropology studies human biological and cultural diversity through time and space and the interplay between culture and biology. It encompasses our closest relatives and the human experience from our earliest known bipedal ancestors to the modern world, from the smallest human groups to empires and multinational corporations.

The PSU Anthropology Department supports three of Anthropology’s traditional subdisciplines: Social-cultural Anthropology, Archaeology and Biological Anthropology. We offer the BA, BS and minor in Anthropology (with over 250 majors), and the MA and MS in Anthropology (28 students currently).

Our department is committed to research and scholarship in “Applied Anthropology” – where anthropological scholarly products address “real world” problems; and knowledge is returned to the peoples and places where the research is conducted. Our work contributes to public policy and answering questions about significant cultural, social, and environmental issues.

Undergraduate Students

An anthropology major must meet the department’s minimum requirements of 52 credit hours, including courses in biological anthropology, archaeology, social-cultural anthropology and electives. Second-year proficiency in a foreign language and a linguistics course is required for the BA. Statistics is required for the BS.

Graduate Students

The Anthropology graduate program is designed to give the student a graduate level of competence in general anthropology, including archaeology and physical and social-cultural anthropology. Students have the option of choosing either the thesis track or the applied/policy track to pursue a special interest in one of the subfields. The applied track prepares students for professional employment related to applied anthropology, and the thesis track requires students to prepare a thesis in an area of special interest.

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Anthropology Student Association
https://orgsync.com/12974/chapter

National Anthropology Honors Society
https://sites.google.com/site/labpdx/
Teaching & Mentoring

Our curriculum includes over 60 courses for majors, graduate students, and other PSU students who want to learn more about the field. Our courses address a huge range in topics and emphasize writing, critical thinking, research methods and ethics. We host lecture-type classes, on-line courses, small seminar-discussion classes, ethnographic field methods, lab-based classes (zooarchaeology, artifact/feature analysis, human osteology, paleoanthropology) and field based courses, such as the Fort Vancouver Archaeological Field School and the Primatology Field School at the Myakka City Lemur Reserve in western Florida.

Internships

The Anthropology Department offers students the opportunity to complete internships with a variety of private and public institutions in the community and region. In addition, many Anthropology courses involve community-based learning and serve as classroom internships.

Jobs

Anthropology students have a number of paths upon graduation. Our program has had great success placing students in a range of settings: government agencies (U.S. Department of Transportation, National Park Service, Oregon State Police, Peace Corps), private corporations (Intel, ICF-International), non-governmental organizations, and others (Oregon Health Sciences University).

Tenure-Line Faculty

Shelby Anderson Complex hunter-gatherers, social and technological change, ceramics, environmental archaeology, public archaeology, cultural resource management, Arctic, Sub-Arctic, Pacific Northwest. ashelby@pdx.edu

Virginia L. Butler Community archaeology, zooarchaeology, cultural ecology, applications of zooarchaeology to conservation biology and education, western North America. One Current Project: Impacts of abrupt environmental change on coastal communities using zooarchaeology. virginia@pdx.edu

Michele R. Gamburd Cultural anthropology, transnationalism, globalization, migration, alcohol consumption, disaster studies, violence, gender, aging, political economy, Sri Lanka, West Asia, South Asia. Michele Gamburd recently completed a book manuscript entitled The Golden Wave: A Political Ethnography of Sri Lanka’s Tsunami Disaster. gamburdm@pdx.edu

Charles Klein Applied medical anthropology; gender/sexuality/queer theory; urban anthropology; sexual & reproductive health; social movements; non-governmental organizations; health disparities; food justice; Brazil; Latin America; North America. charles.klein@pdx.edu

Jeremy Spoon Local ecological knowledge and understanding, political economy, environmental sustainability, mountainous protected areas, place-based spirituality, ethics, mixed methods; South Asia, Native North America, East Africa. jipspoon@pdx.edu

Natalie Vasey Professor Natalie Vasey’s long-term work on the behavior, ecology, and reproduction of variegated lemurs on Madagascar’s Masoala Peninsula is yielding enormous practical knowledge to assist in the conservation of these critically endangered primates in the island’s eastern rain forests, while simultaneously contributing to our understanding of their evolutionary history. mvasey@pdx.edu

Affiliated Faculty

Jennifer Aengst Cultural and Medical Anthropology, reproduction, population studies, fertility politics, gender, Ladakh, Himalayas, South Asia. aengst@pdx.edu

Ken Ames Archaeology, method and theory, cultural ecology, complex hunter-gatherers, social archaeology; northeast Asia, North America. amesk@pdx.edu

Kori Barnum Biological anthropology; human osteology; human bone microstructure; forensic science (forensic biology, DNA, firearms). korbarnum@yahoo.com

Doug Deur Cultural and political ecology, cultural landscapes, indigenous peoples, ethnobiology, Northwestern North America. deur@pdx.edu

Nancy Beaini Cultural Anthropology, marriage & kinship, gender, ethnicity, religion & healing. Middle East, Mediterranean, Africa. nsbeaini@pdx.edu

William Cornett Political Ecology, Power and Resistance, Ethnographic Writing, Archaeological Fieldwork Methods. cornettw@pdx.edu

Silas N.T. Crowfoot Cultural anthropology; historical ethnography, the socio-cultural construction of race, ethnicity, class, and gender. crowfoot@pdx.edu

Arunima Kashyap Archaeology; starch grain analysis; lithic use-wear analysis; corporate ethnography and user research; South Asia; Pacific Northwest. akashyap@vancouver.wsu.edu

Anne Mertl Millhollen Ringtailed lemur visual and olfactory communication, food resources, gallery forest ecosystems, Madagascar. amillhol@pdx.edu

David Lee Moore Cultural Anthropology; Southeast Asia, South Asia, Nationalism, Ethnicity, Globalization, Historical Anthropology. b5dm@pdx.edu

Cameron M. Smith Archaeology; spatial analysis; lithic use-wear analysis; European and North American prehistory; evolution. smithcm@pdx.edu

Sarah Sterling Predynastic and Old Kingdom Egypt, North American prehistory, geoarchaeology, evolutionary theory, ceramic analysis, sster@pdx.edu

Doug Wilson Historical archaeology; method and theory; public archaeology; cultural resource management; North America. douwilton@nps.gov

Eric Wynkoop Cultural anthropology, globalization, urbanization, food culture, South Asia, East Asia. wynkoop@pdx.edu