Introduction
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. Anthropologists deal with prehistoric, historic, and contemporary peoples and with such topics as human evolution, subsistence and settlement systems, family, urban development, transnationalism, globalization, social conflict, gender, symbolic systems, and human ecology. Anthropologists apply the knowledge gained from diverse theoretical perspectives to practical human problems in settings such as health care, educational development, and natural and cultural resource management, among others. As scholars, we are committed to the highest quality teaching in the classroom and the field; to ongoing research both in Portland and abroad; and to active engagement in wider university and community programs.

The curriculum in anthropology is designed to develop an understanding of human life from these various perspectives. It does this by providing, both in general survey courses (Anth 101, 102, 103) and in its departmental major program, a balanced view in terms of the anthropological subfields of biological anthropology, archaeology, linguistics, and socio-cultural anthropology. The departmental major program is of benefit to the liberal arts student in providing the most broadly based view of human adaptation, variation, and achievement. A variety of ethnographic courses is offered for persons with particular regional or area interests, such as East Asia, South Asia, Latin America, and the Pacific Northwest. Finally, the major provides the necessary general anthropological background for those interested in graduate study in the discipline.

Undergraduate Program Learning Outcomes

Ability to think critically, including ability to view problems from multiple points of view

Writing conforms to basic rules of English grammar, syntax, and spelling. Appropriate format for citations and references. Understand and apply principles of academic honesty.

Understand and apply research methods appropriate to at least one subfield of Anthropology

Understanding of how the interplay among theory, research questions, methods, and data shapes our knowledge and/or interpretations of the human past and present

Students will understand the relevance of anthropology in and to contemporary public issues.

Students will understand the ethical codes appropriate to each subfield of anthropology.

Students will understand theoretical frameworks fundamental to the subfields of Anthropology.
Students will understand how and why the subfields of anthropology (i.e. sociocultural anthropology, anthropological archeology, and biological anthropology) interrelate.

Sociocultural Anthropology: Students will understand the concept of culture, defined as the social construction of meaning. Students will also understand that the culture concept has changed over time. Students will be able to identify the specific theories of culture that share ethnographic interpretation and be able to assess these theories critically.

Sociocultural Anthropology: Students will understand the interconnection between social structure (kinship, gender, class, nation, race) and culture, and how social power is a dimension of all cultural phenomena.

Anthropological Archaeology: Students should demonstrate an understanding that archaeology is the materialist study of long term culture change, and that culture change is mediated by biological, ecological, and cultural processes. Culture is minimally defined as shared, learned behavior that is transmitted through time and across space.

Biological Anthropology: Students will understand the biological history of the human species, including the mechanisms responsible for biological variation and adaption in contemporary human populations, their living relatives, and their fossil ancestors.

Biological Anthropology: Students will understand the varied meanings of the term “race” with respect to history, biology, and anthropology. They will understand that the historical and cultural lay-usage of this term is entirely incompatible with modern understanding of the mechanisms responsible for biological variation in human populations.

Anthropologic Theories: Students will show mastery of theories fundamental to the subfields of Anthropology.