Introducing

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

1. Communication. Students will master communication in a number of modalities
   a. Writing. Students should be able to write well. Their skills in this area should include, at a minimum, the ability to craft a well-structured argument, appropriately create and use introductions and conclusions, write paragraphs with topic and summary sentences, and reliably and accurately use citation and reference formats. They should have mastery of the conventions suitable for their chosen subfield of anthropology.
   b. Numeracy. Students should be able to understand numerical data; craft tables, charts, and graphs; and present scientific data through appropriate means of scientific illustration.
   c. Oral presentation. Students should have competency in presenting information orally (with and without visual support such as PowerPoint). They should understand how to target their presentations for specific audiences, including specialists and non-specialists. They should be able to facilitate discussions and work in groups.
2. **Critical thinking.** Students should show mastery of analytic thinking. They should be able to distinguish between fact and opinion, demonstrate mastery of content by crafting descriptive summaries, deploy evidence to support or refute arguments, and understand the relationship between theory and data.

3. **Professional competence.** Students should develop interpersonal skills and etiquette such as the ability to interact appropriately in group work and community engagement. Students should know how to apply their anthropological skills and knowledge in professional settings.

4. **Research.** Students should show mastery of research in the following modalities
   
a. **Library research skills.** Students should demonstrate the ability to locate information using library resources (search engines, key words, Boolean operators) and write a literature review.

**Research design.** Students should know the difference between inductive and deductive reasoning, understand how to put together and implement a good research project, grasp how to select appropriate methodologies, and identify ethical considerations when dealing with archaeological materials and human and animal subjects.