

# Cultural Anthropology

## at Arcadia University

*Global Perspective...Personal Attention...Real-World Integrative Learning Experiences*

### Faculty

#### Associate Professors

Dr. Jonathan Church (Director)

#### Assistant Professors

Dr. Jennifer Riggan (International Studies)

#### Instructor

Alex Otieno

#### Adjunct Professor

Dr. Carolyn Merritt

Dr. Joan Severino

### Degrees/Concentrations

#### Bachelor of Arts in Cultural Anthropology

##### Minors

Anthropology

Criminal Justice

Sociology

Gender and Women's Studies

##### Options

Minor in French, Spanish, German or Italian

Minor in International Studies

Minor in Religion

Minors in other departments, such as  
Business Administration

### Pathways to Study Abroad in Cultural Anthropology

Cultural Anthropology majors are strongly encouraged to study abroad, and many opportunities can complement studies in Anthropology. Because of the flexibility and breadth in the Cultural Anthropology program, study abroad can fit into the program and the Undergraduate Curriculum requirements.

Drawing upon the strength of Arcadia's College of Global Studies, Cultural Anthropology majors have the opportunity to study at universities around the world, including in Australia, China, Great Britain, Greece, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, South Africa, and Spain, as well as other locations. A study abroad experience is invaluable for Cultural Anthropology majors as they become ethnographically immersed in a

different cultural situation, and benefit from taking courses that reflect different perspectives on anthropology from their host university. Many students use their study abroad courses to explore ethnographic perspectives on cultural issues that are particular to that area of the world resulting in their senior theses projects.

Students are encouraged to meet with their advisers to discuss their career interests and goals. It is important to have this discussion and formulate a plan early so that the international program is integrated with required and elective courses for the major. Cultural Anthropology majors typically study abroad during their sophomore or junior years because of the senior-year focus on research and thesis. Depending on whether a student studies abroad for a year or a semester, he or she will select a course that substitutes for major requirements and electives. Studying abroad can provide students with the opportunity to take a course that is not available at Arcadia University.

Visit the University's website for Pathways to Study Abroad ([www.arcadia.edu/pathways](http://www.arcadia.edu/pathways)). Since it is important that students plan ahead for study abroad, they should consult with their advisers as soon as possible and make their intentions known to the Program Director and the Associate Dean of International Affairs.

### About the B.A. in Cultural Anthropology

- Preparation for graduate school
- Preparation for careers in government, international organizations, international business, law, and non-profit agencies
- Ability to design an individualized ethnographic concentration
- Senior research project
- Opportunities to study abroad at some of the top universities in the world

Cultural anthropology is the study of the different cultural groups, identities and practices found within the contemporary world. As the contemporary world becomes one more marked by flows of people, ideas, money and images, cultural anthropology has rigorously attempted to research how the local becomes

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globalized, and the global becomes localized. The detailed lens of ethnographic thick description of peoples' local life-worlds is a mainstay for cultural anthropology, but this ethnographic sensitivity to context and detail is nuanced by a sophisticated and theoretically informed vision of how both are affected by structural issues, especially political and economic at a global level.

The major in Cultural Anthropology provides students with an opportunity for study and experience away, either domestically or abroad, and is designed to leverage these experiences by providing a theoretically and methodologically sophisticated standing ground from which to explore, reflect upon, and share those various experiences during a two-semester capstone sequence during the senior year.

For those students who are unable to study away, the goal of the on-campus major is to provide rigorous training in ethnographic methods and anthropological theory so that graduate level training can take place. While the goal of the undergraduate program in cultural anthropology is to provide an excellent foundation for advanced study, the goal is not to be paraprofessional.

An undergraduate education in Cultural Anthropology provides a series of skills in qualitative data analysis and research design, quantitative reasoning, a stress on critical inquiry, experiential education regarding ethnocentrism, and cultural relativity. This training assists in application to other forms of graduate study such as law, economics, political science, peace and conflict resolution, social work, and public health. Students majoring in Cultural Anthropology also have found this course of study helpful in pursuing occupations in government services, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international organizations and international business.

### Requirements for the B.A. in Cultural Anthropology

(51–58 credits as listed below, plus University-wide requirements and electives to total 128)

#### Common Curriculum

(30-34 credits as listed below). Either AN120 or AN150 serve as the entering required course for the major. All other courses listed, or approved substitutes from study abroad, are required for the major.

1. Six courses in Cultural Anthropology
  - AN 120 Cultural Anthropology or
  - AN 150 The Family
  - AN 230 Reading Ethnography
  - AN 250 Ethnographic Methods
  - AN 370 Anthropological Theory
  - SO 385 Social Theory
  - AN 4XX Senior Seminar I (fall semester, Senior year, pending approval)
  - AN 4XX Senior Seminar II (spring semester Senior year, pending approval)

2. One course in Mathematics
  - MA 141 Elementary Statistics

3. Additional Requirements (17-20 credits). In addition to the common curriculum, students select three electives from courses in Cultural Anthropology, one elective from courses in development and human rights, and one elective in a history or culture of a specific area. Approved substitutes from study abroad can fill these requirements.

Three electives in Cultural Anthropology from the following:

- AN 220 Social Issues (special topics vary)
- AN 240 Ethnographic Film
- AN 262 Myth, Magic and Religion
- AN 272 Culture, Conflict and Power
- AN 262 Myth, Magic and Religion
- AN 285 Aesthetics
- AN 320 Ritual to Theater
- AN 361 Social Change: Globalization and Culture
- IS 430 The Social Life of War: Political, Culture and Identity Process in Global Conflict

One elective in development and human rights from the following:

- PS 225 Politics of the Developing World
- SO 286 Health and Human Rights

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IS 320 Global Poverty and Inequality

One elective in history or culture of a specific geographic area from the following: All electives in modern languages have language prerequisites of 201.

HS 211 The Modern Middle East  
 HS 216 Modern East Africa  
 HS 218 Modern Africa/South Africa  
 HS 228 America as Empire  
 IS 130 The Modern Mediterranean  
 SP 205 Introduction to Spanish Culture  
 SP 206 Introduction to Latin American Culture  
 IT 205 Introduction to Italian Culture and Civilization  
 FR 202 Intermediate French Language and Culture  
 JA 202 Intermediate Japanese Language and Culture  
 GA 202 Intermediate German Language and Culture

AN 150 The Family  
 AN 262 Myth, Magic and Religion  
 AN 272 Cultures, Conflict and Power  
 AN 361 Social Change: Globalization and Culture

**Diversity** (One of the following) (4 credits)  
 SO 265 Social Inequalities  
 AN/SO 220 Social Issues

## Anthropology Courses (AN)

120

### Cultural Anthropology

(4 credits, day)  
 (3 credits, evening)

Systematic study of the customs, social organization, environmental adaptation and belief systems of primitive and contemporary societies. Considers cultural variations in technology, economy, language, families, government and religion, with a special emphasis on social and cultural change and global relations. Non-majors may substitute this course as prerequisite for other courses in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice.

150

### The Family

(4 credits, day)  
 (3 credits, evening)

Analysis of the family as a basic social institution in both Western and non-Western cultures. Exploration of various marriage arrangements, kinship, family life cycle, and issues and problems relating to societal change as it affects kinship and family structure.

220

### Social Issues

(4 credits)  
 In-depth analysis, from a social science perspective, of a substantive social issue confronting modern societies. Emphasizes pertinent social structure, values and attitudes, and the effects on the individual. Topics vary from year to year. May be repeated for credit.

230

### Reading Ethnography

(4 credits, Fall)  
 This course present students with an exploration of the genre of data presentation unique to cultural anthropology, the ethnographic monograph. Students explore the difficulty of translating 'emic' perspectives to 'etic' analysis, as well as becoming knowledgeable with the tropes of contemporary ethnographic writing. Also, students will become familiar with the ways that cultural anthropologists use contemporary

## Requirements for the Minor in Anthropology

(18–20 credits as listed below)

Students will be required to take (for 7–8 credits) AN 120 Cultural Anthropology and LB/SO 385 Social Theory. In addition to these two required courses, students must choose two Anthropology topic courses (for 7–8 credits) among those listed. Furthermore, students will choose to take either AN 220 Social Issues or SO 265 Inequality for 4 credits. No more than two courses can jointly fulfill the requirements for the Sociology major or minor and the Anthropology minor. A minimum of eight courses must be taken to receive a double minor in Sociology and Anthropology.

### Common Curriculum

Required (7–8 credits)

AN 120 Cultural Anthropology  
 SO 385 Social Theory

### Electives

**Topics** (Two of the following) (7–8 credits)

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social and anthropological theory to frame questions and provide analysis. Finally, the course explores the ethical dilemmas usually encountered and recounted within ethnographic monographs.

240

### **Ethnographic Film**

(3 credits, evening)

Ethnographic film explores the history and impact of documentary films made by anthropologists and the issues and ethical dilemmas involved in this type of storytelling. Classes consist of lectures, readings, screenings and discussions concerning the style and content of the major ethnographic films, and anthropological and documentary film theory.

250

### **Ethnographic Methods**

(4 credits)

This course introduces students to ethnographic methods, strategies of participant observation, interviewing techniques, the writing of field notes, qualitative research design and analysis. One of the foci of the course is on autoethnography so that the student may trace his or her own human journey from an ethnographic perspective.

262

### **Myth, Magic and Religion**

(4 credits)

This course studies human belief systems in their varied forms, the nature of religious understanding and the interplay between religious forms of life, and political structures using anthropological concepts. Consideration includes the resurgence of religious belief in modern culture. This course assumes a basic familiarity with Anthropology.

272

### **Cultures, Conflict and Power**

(4 credits)

This course examines how systems of power are established through the imposition and contestation of symbolic practices both within and between cultural groups. Beginning with an examination of how the powerless have historically used deception and feigning deference as a political strategy to confront a sovereign state, central emphasis of the course is on understanding "symbolic violence," the establishment of a sense of the "natural" to cultural constructions of identity and practice. Utilizing this notion of symbolic violence, the course investigates how the historical formulations of racial, gender and class hierarchies were developed as modern classificatory schemas of identity within the colonial context. The course ends with an

ethnographic examination of power within a contemporary ethnographic situation of cultural conflict.

285

### **Aesthetics**

(4 credits)

Through the intersection of the disciplines of Anthropology and Theatre, performance research, this course examines the dramatic aesthetic and cultural shifts that have occurred with the advent of what Jameson has called "late advanced capitalism." Starting with an examination of the decade of the '70s, this course charts the explosion of particular cultural aesthetics into worlds of entertainment, economics and politics. A significant concern of the course is for students to understand the degree to which everyday life has become a mediated reality with the concerns of marketing, hype and profitability being central to that reality.

320

### **Ritual to Theatre**

(4 credits)

This course begins by examining the place of ritualization as part of our biological heritage, and then explores the cultural uses of ritual, performance and ceremony in both informal and formal interaction from a cross-cultural vantage point. Finally, the course examines a number of avenues by which traditions of performance may be integrated into the artistic investigation of self and society.

Pending approval.

361

### **Social Change: Globalization and Culture**

(4 credits; Spring)

Designed for the advanced Anthropology student or International Business and Culture major, this course examines the recent re-territorialization of the world known as "globalization." Using a critical anthropological perspective that addresses the cultural dimensions of globalization, the course examines the organized and disjunctive social processes by which local and transnational identity have emerged.

**Prerequisite:** AN 120 or SO 261. Majors in International Business and Culture should have more than 90 credits.

370

### **Anthropological Theory**

(4 credits; Spring)

This seminar explores the historic and contemporary ways that anthropologists have used key theoretical ideas and explored complex conceptual debates in their research and writing as attempts to understand humankind. These

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ideas and debates are explored both as historically changing, often confrontational, clashes between different schools of anthropological thought around central disciplinary questions like the definition of culture, the relationship of structure to agency, the question and place of relativity, the relationship between power and knowledge, and the contemporary ethnographic location of culture and identity in a world marked by scalar processes of neoliberal globalization. While these ideas and debates express central disciplinary concerns, the course also contextualizes how these debates are often marked by and directly address broader social and historical contexts of which they are a part. A thematic emphasis of the course is on how anthropological writing is a practice of knowledge making, as well as knowledge dissemination. Through both textual analysis and their own written production, students investigate how subtle shifts in the anthropological style and voice results in different forms of anthropological knowledge.

**Prerequisite:** AN 120 or AN 150

389

### **Independent Study**

Individual research or directed in-depth reading at an advanced level devoted to specific topics in anthropology.

**Prerequisites:** Approval of the Director and instructor concerned.

4XX

### **Senior Seminar I**

(4 credits, fall)

Pending Approval

4XX

### **Senior Seminar II**

(4 credits, spring)

Pending Approval