

Department of Anthropology

Graduate Program

Georgia State University
2006-2007

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General Description

The Master of Arts (M.A.) degree program in anthropology is designed to provide rigorous training in anthropological concepts, skills, and methods. The program is dedicated to the investigation of a broad range of issues, processes, and problems that shape human social behavior and promote cultural change. The program is organized around the assumption that in order to make anthropological knowledge useful, the complexity of human problems must be understood within their sociocultural, political-economic, and historical contexts. The anthropology program utilizes Atlanta metropolitan area's resources to promote student learning, and emphasizes the study of complex society and public engagement in medical, educational, and other social service settings.

Students choose one of two tracks for graduate study depending on their career goals in anthropology. The General Program is designed for students seeking comprehensive training in anthropological method and theory, perhaps in anticipation of pursuing an academic career or to enhance training for a career in applied anthropology, emphasizing how anthropological knowledge can be applied to addressing contemporary social issues. In order to provide graduate students with training specific to their career goals, both tracks offer a thesis and non-thesis option.

The M. A. program is designed to be completed in two years. During the first year, all students in both the general and applied tracks are required to demonstrate competence in the basic theories and methods of anthropology through completion of a four-course core curriculum. This includes training in the use of qualitative and quantitative methods to develop critical perspectives on sociocultural issues. Additional coursework is completed in consultation with the faculty. During their second year, students are expected to develop their own areas of interest and expertise within the broader framework of the program. Students are encouraged to take advantage of the resources in other departments and schools at Georgia State University, and of neighboring institutions such as Emory University, Georgia Institute of Technology, the Atlanta University Center, and the Medical College of Georgia.

Requirements

A. General Program

Thesis Option (33 hours)

Non-Thesis Option (36 hours)

1. The following courses are required:
ANTH 8000 Theory and Praxis (3)
ANTH 8040 Seminar in Anthropology (3)
ANTH 6620 Quantitative Methods (3)
ANTH 6630 Qualitative Methods (3)
2. Additional 6000/8000 level Anthropology courses in area of specialization to achieve a total of 27 semester hours for thesis option and 33 semester hours for non-thesis option. Up to 6 hours of graduate courses can be taken outside the Anthropology program.
3. Proficiency in a foreign language or approved research skill.
4. Comprehensive examination.
5. Six semester hours of ANTH 8999, Thesis Research (thesis option only).
6. Thesis defense (thesis option only).
7. Completion of ANTH 8990, Research Practicum (3) (non-thesis only).

B. Applied Program

Thesis Option (33 hours)

Non-Thesis Option (36 hours)

The following courses are required:

1. ANTH 8000 Theory and Praxis (3)
ANTH 8050 Seminar in Applied Anthropology (3)
ANTH 6620 Quantitative Methods (3)
ANTH 6630 Qualitative Methods (3)
2. Additional 6000/8000 level Anthropology courses in area of specialization to achieve a total of 24 semester hours for thesis option and 33 semester hours for non-thesis option. Up to 6 hours of graduate courses can be taken as electives outside the Anthropology program.

3. Proficiency in a foreign language or approved research skill.
4. Comprehensive examination.
5. 5. ANTH 8910 Internship (3)
6. Six semester hours of ANTH 8999, Thesis Research (thesis option only).
7. Thesis defense (thesis option only).

Foreign language or Equivalent research skills. All students must show proficiency in a foreign language by passing the Graduate Foreign Language Test (a standardized exam) or by taking a reading exam through the Department of Modern and Classical Languages. An equivalent research skill from the following list may be substituted for this requirement.

Examples of courses that satisfy research skill requirement:

EPRS 8600 Computer Use in Educational Research
PSYC 8230 Program Evaluation in Community Psychology
SOC 9020 Advanced Research Methodology
GEOG 6532 Geographic Information Systems
CIS 4730 Database Management
BIOL 6744 Biostatistics (MATH 6544)

Guidelines for Graduate Advising in Anthropology

Each incoming graduate student will be assigned a temporary advisor who is a regular faculty member in the anthropology program. The role of the temporary advisor will be to advise the student regarding courses to take, and help the student choose a permanent advisor on the basis of their interests. The student must choose a permanent advisor no later than the end of the first year. This information will be placed in the student's file. The permanent advisor may be changed by the student at any time, and this must be noted in the student's file. Special status students must also have a temporary advisor, and should choose a permanent advisor by the end of the first semester in which they achieve regular status.

The Comprehensive Exam committee should be formed during the student's third semester, or when 21 credit hours which count toward the graduate degree have been completed.

The student should meet with their advisor at least twice each semester.

Guidelines for the Comprehensive Examination

1. Committee

The student must form a Comprehensive exam committee of at least 3 members. The committee includes the major advisor, who will be a regular faculty member within the department. At least one of the other two members should be a regular faculty member within the department. The third member can be a faculty member from another department within the university, or a Visiting Faculty member within the department. Any member from outside the university must be approved by the Dean's Office.

2. Content

The content of the examination will reflect the general foci of the department, and the particular concentration of the student. Each student is required to take an examination on three topics: (1) Theory e.g., ethnological; biocultural; or archaeological; (2) Field or topic of interest, e.g., medical, educational, development, ethnicity, gender; and (3) context of research or practice, e.g., urban, applied, international/regional (Latin America, Africa, North America)/ Each member of the Committee may submit one or two questions for each part of the exam to the student's major advisor for consideration. The major advisor is responsible for designing the three questions to be included in the examination.

3. Timing

Students should plan to take their comprehensive exam after completing their required courses, and prior to beginning work on a thesis, internship, or practicum. Normally this would occur by the fourth semester.

4. Format

The comprehensive exam will be a take-home. The student will submit a comprehensive, annotated bibliography to his or her advisor in the beginning of the semester in which the exam will be taken. This bibliography will guide the student's preparation, and assist the faculty in the formation of their questions. The student will have one week (7 days) in which to complete the exam.

5. Evaluation

The student will submit the completed examination to his or her major advisor. The student's advisor will distribute copies of the completed exam to the other two members of the committee for input. The members of the committee will return the exam with feedback to the student's advisor within two weeks. The major advisor will arrange for a meeting with the student to discuss the content of the examination and explore its issues further. The student will be evaluated on each question, and will receive an overall grade of High Pass, Pass, Low Pass, or Fail. If the student fails, the process can be repeated once.

Thesis Option

1. Committee

The purpose of the committee is to lend guidance and expertise in all phases of thesis preparation, including organization, data collection, data analysis and interpretation, and writing. The student must form a committee of at least 3 people. The committee includes the major advisor, who must be a regular faculty member within in the department. At least one of the other two members should be a regular faculty member within the department. The third member can be a faculty member from another department within the university, or a Visiting faculty member within the department. Any member from outside the university must be approved by the Dean's office. The major thesis advisor should be selected before the thesis proposal is prepared.

2. Thesis Proposal

The proposal allows the major advisor and thesis committee to evaluate the appropriateness and feasibility of the research and provides the student with a detailed abstract and outline of the work.

The proposal should include a description of the purpose of the research, theoretical issues, review of the existing literature, hypotheses to be tested, methodological approach, and the reliability, validity and replicability of the research. There is no set length requirement, but it is difficult to imagine a well-developed proposal of less that 15 double-spaced, typewritten pages.

The thesis proposal must be approved by the major advisor and other members of the thesis committee. Students should secure approval of the proposal before working on the thesis. Once the proposal is approved and the committee formed, the student submits a final copy of the proposal to each committee member.

3. Thesis

According to guidelines of the Office of Graduate Studies of the College of Arts and Sciences, the purpose of the thesis is to “demonstrate the candidate’s ability to carry out independent scholarly research, to draw logical conclusions from the data gathered, and to present the results in a clear, intelligible, and consistent form.” A document from the Division of Graduate Studies of the College of Arts and Sciences contains guidelines for thesis preparation. Students should obtain a copy of current guidelines.

4. Evaluation

The student must orally defend the thesis before his or her committee and any other member of the anthropology faculty who wish to attend. The students may also invite others to attend. The date for the defense is arranged by the student and the thesis advisor.

Internship Option

1. Committee

The student must form an internship committee of at least 3 people. The committee includes the major advisor, who must be a regular faculty member within the department. At least one of the other two members should be a regular faculty member within the department. The third member can be a faculty member from another department within the university, or a Visiting faculty member within the department. Any member from outside the university must be approved by the Dean's office.

2. Initiation

The student should consult with the major advisor in order to identify an appropriate agency for an internship. Appropriate agencies may include federal, state, and local government offices, clinics, hospitals, schools, non-governmental organizations, private voluntary associations, and businesses. The student may be paid for the internship at the discretion of the agency. Upon approval of the major advisor, the student will register for 3 hours of ANTH 8910 (Internship) and begin working at the agency. Students may register for an additional 3 hours, but these do not count towards the degree.

3. Progress

It is the responsibility of the student to report to the Committee at least every three weeks about the progress of the internship. The major advisor is responsible for contacting the student's supervisor at the agency to assess the student's work. A minimum of 200 hours of work at the agency must be completed.

4. Report

The Internship report should contain a description of the agency and its activities, a literature review of work by anthropologists in similar agencies, a description of typical activities engaged in by the student, problems encountered, an analysis of the experience in the context of anthropological theories and methods, and any other relevant information such as data collected.

5. Evaluation

After the internship report is submitted, the committee will provide feedback to the student about the report. The major advisor will then arrange a meeting between the committee and the student. The student will be asked to give a formal presentation about the internship and respond to any questions by the committee. The student will then revise the internship report if necessary. The internship will be given a grade of "pass" when the final internship report is accepted by the committee.

Research Practicum Option

1. Committee

Before the student is allowed to take the Research Practicum, s/he must form a Practicum Committee of at least 3 people. The committee includes the major advisor, who will be a regular faculty member within the department. At least one of the other two members should be a regular faculty member within the department. The third member can be a faculty member from another department within the university, or a Visiting faculty member within the department. Any member from outside the university must be approved by the Dean's office.

2. Initiation

Upon approval of the major advisor, the student will register for the course Research Practicum (GEOG 8990 or ANTH 8990). By the end of the 1st week of the semester the major advisor, after consulting with the other committee members and the student, will assign the student the project, which is to be completed by the end of the semester. The nature of the project will be compatible with the student's experience, academic interests and career goals. The project description must be written and placed in the student's file.

3. Progress

It is the responsibility of the student to report to the Committee at least every 3 weeks during the semester about the progress of the project. The student may use all resources available on and off campus and consult faculty members.

4. Product

The product of the project can be a report, an article, a computer program, a set of maps, or an electronic database as defined in the original project definition. Once it has been decided what the final product will be any deviations must be approved by the Committee.

5. Evaluation

The project must be completed 2 weeks before the last day of classes for that semester (one week for summer semester). This will allow time for feedback to the student before scheduling the final evaluation. The major advisor will arrange a meeting between the committee and the student during the final exam period. The student will be asked to give a formal presentation of the project to the committee. The committee will give the project a grade of "S" for satisfactory or "U" for unsatisfactory, depending on the quality of the product.

Upon failure of the first attempt, the student may repeat the course once in the following semester. In the interim, a grade of "IP" is issued. The major advisor, the committee and the student will determine whether the student should be assigned an entirely new project.

Additional Information

Transfer of graduate credit. Students who enter Georgia State University with master's-level coursework in anthropology may, with approval, receive up to 6 semester hours of transfer credit toward their elective courses. As soon as possible before beginning their coursework at GSU, they should confer with the Director of the Graduate Program regarding an evaluation of previous coursework. Since course content can vary between institutions, students seeking transfer credit should bring some documentation of the content of each course to the transfer credit evaluation. Transfer credit must be approved by the faculty advisor, graduate director, the departmental chairperson, and the Office of Graduate Studies of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Minimum academic standards. Students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 throughout this graduate coursework at GSU. Students receiving more than two "C"s or one "F" will be subject to scholastic termination.

Financial aid. The Department has a limited number of graduate assistantships for students admitted to the program. Please check with the departmental office to verify rates of pay for these appointments. Assistantships are allocated on a semester basis. Decisions are based on a) the student's academic performance, b) complementarity with faculty research needs, and c) availability of funding. The University Office of Student Financial Aid offers additional programs of support.

Anthropology Graduate Faculty

Emanuela Guano, Ph.D., University of Texas-Austin 1999, Assistant Professor. Social identity, politics of urban space, public and visual culture, anthropology of consumption, globalization and transnationalism, Argentina, South America, the Caribbean.

Kathryn A. Kozaitis, Ph.D., University of Michigan, 1993, Associate Professor. Sociocultural theory, ethnography, ethnicity, comparative social organization and cultural change, community organization, educational reform, cultural and urban applied anthropology, Mediterranean, Europe, contemporary U.S.

Susan McCombie, Ph.D., University of Arizona, 1986, Associate Professor. Medical anthropology, epidemiology, infectious disease, evolution of disease, international health, preventive medicine, Africa.

Jennifer Patico, Ph.D.

Cassandra White, Ph.D., Tulane, 2001, Assistant Professor. Medical anthropology, qualitative methods, folk models of disease, medical discourse, leprosy, Brazilian popular culture, Latin America

Frank L'Engle Williams, Ph.D., University of Massachusetts-Amherst, 2001, Assistant Professor. Biological anthropology, human evolution, osteology, primates, ontogeny, growth models, craniosynostosis, race, Belgium, and the Netherlands.

For further information on the M.A. program, contact

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IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

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Academic Assistance.....(404) 651-2291
Financial Assistance.....(404) 651-2227
Office of Graduate Studies.....(404) 651-2297

UNIVERSITY

Registrar’s Office.....(404) 651-2383
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