

Sociocultural Anthropology Course Sequence for getting into Graduate School

Introduction to the Recommended Course Sequences by Subfield

Our 35-credit minimum for the Anthropology major provides you many skills: critical reading, persuasive writing, observation and data gathering methods, qualitative as well as quantitative analyses of social & material phenomena, etc. All of these skills will help you succeed in a variety of fields post-graduation. Furthermore, you may learn all of these and more simply by spreading out your coursework across all four anthropology subfields (Archaeology, Biological Anthropology, Linguistic Anthropology, and Sociocultural Anthropology).

But, if you wish to land a position in an Anthropology graduate program, the selection committee of these programs will be examining your coursework, looking specifically for a strong interest in one of the four subfields of Anthropology.

Note that particular graduate programs *also* look for specific recognized combinations of subfields like paleoanthropology (a combination of Biological Anthropology and Archaeology) or specialization within one subfield (primatology being a specialty within biological anthropology, medical Anthropology being a specialty within sociocultural anthropology).

The graduate program selection committee will first look at your degree transcript to see if you have had sufficient training in your desired subfield. Therefore, it is wise to plan your course load for the Anthropology BA to reflect your subfield choice. Our Anthropology BA major requirements ensure that you have a well-rounded training across all four major subfields, but you can use the 5 elective anthropology courses to specialize in one or more subfields.

- If there is more than one subfield foundation course offered in the subfield you wish to specialize in (at present, this is the case for biological anthropology and linguistic anthropology), it is recommended (but not required) that you take both, as these courses are complementary in terms of content.
- If you have balanced your courses across all four subfields and still wish to get a position in a graduate program, **you can still demonstrate your depth in one subfield through your senior project**, which should be executed solidly within one subfield.

The following documents present the recommended sequence of courses for your undergraduate training in preparation for graduate school and/or specific professional job markets requiring a subfield emphasis. These documents should be used in conjunction with the Sample Plans for Anthropology Majors available here: <http://z.umn.edu/11hy>.

Particular subfield emphases may suggest that you take more credits than the minimum of 35 for the BA, but you should try to optimize your training relative to the need to graduate in a timely manner. In other words, while “more is better; most is best” may be a good motto for learning as much as you can within a subfield, both prospective employers and graduate program selection committees do look for undergraduate students graduating in a timely manner.

Remember: Here are the Anthropology BA Major Requirements:

Required credits within the major: 35. Students are required to take 4 semester(s) of any second language as well as complete the general University and CLA requirements including writing and liberal education courses.

Preparatory Courses

- ANTH 1001 - *Human Evolution*, BIOL (4.0 cr)
- ANTH 1003W - *Understanding Cultures*, SOCS, GP, WI (4.0 cr) **OR** ANTH 1005W - *Introduction to Cultural Diversity and the World System*, SOCS, GP, WI (4.0 cr)

Subfield Foundation Courses

Take at least one specified course from at least three of the four subfields:

- Archaeology Subfield:
 - ANTH3001 *Introduction to Archaeology* [SOCS] (4.0 cr)
- Biological Anthropology Subfield:
 - ANTH3002 *Sex, Evolution, & Behavior* (4.0 cr) **OR**
 - Anth3401/5401 *The Human Fossil Record* (3.0 cr)
- Sociocultural Subfield:
 - ANTH3003 *Cultural Anthropology* (3.0 cr)
- Linguistic Anthropology Subfield:
 - ANTH3005W *Language, Culture, & Power* [SOCS, DSJ, WI] (4.0 cr) **OR**
 - ANTH3015W/5015W *Biology, Evolution, and Cultural Development of Language* [SOCS, WI]

Upper-Division Training in Anthropology

- Take 2 or more ANTH courses at the 3xxx, 4xxx, or 5xxx level.
- Take 3 or more ANTH courses at the 4xxx or 5xxx level.

Senior Project

Choose one of the following two options to complete the senior project requirement.

- Option 1: Take ANTH 3913 Senior Project Planning (1.0 credit) at least one term before registering for ANTH 4013 Senior Project (3.0 credits). Honors Program students should take ANTH 4013H Senior Honor Thesis instead of ANTH 4013.
OR
- Option 2: Take an additional ANTH course of 3.0 credits or more at the 4xxx or 5xxx level.

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Underlined courses are mandatory (or one choice to satisfy a mandatory requirement) for the Anthropology major.

Sociocultural graduate program selection committees will look to see if you have taken courses that give you competence in the following subjects:

Three courses from the Sociocultural Anthropology Theory Course Sequence:

1. ANTH1003W *Understanding Cultures* OR ANTH1005W *Introduction to Cultural Diversity & the World System* (every Fall & Spring terms)
→ ANTH 3003 - *Cultural Anthropology* (every Fall term, best taken after 1003W/1005W)
→ ANTH 4003W – *Contemporary Perspectives in Cultural Anthropology* (to be taken after 3003 and in 2nd or 3rd year)

One or more course in Ethnographic Literature:

1. ANTH 3004 – *Great Controversies in Anthropology* (every Spring term)
2. ANTH 4025 – *Studies in Ethnographic Classics* (to be taken after 1003W/1005W)

One or more courses with strong training in Ethnographic Research Methods:

1. ANTH 3005W – *Language, Culture, Power* (every Spring term)
2. ANTH 4035 – *Ethnographic Research Methods* (to be taken after 1003W/1005W)
3. ANTH 4031W – *Anthropology and Social Justice* (to be taken after 1003W/1005W or 4003)

One or more courses in Linguistic Anthropology:

1. ANTH 3005W – *Language, Culture, Power* (every Spring term)
2. ANTH 3015W/5015W – *Biology, Evolution, and Cultural Development of Language*

One or more study abroad or ethnographic fieldwork experiences (particularly in a region where you would like to work after graduation):

1. In order to have enough training in anthropological coursework to make the most of your study abroad experience, it is recommended that you study abroad in the second semester of your 3rd year or in the first semester of your 4th year. This is particularly the case if you plan to use the experience as an opportunity to gather ethnographic data. You are also encouraged to plan this study abroad with an anthropology professor before you leave. Please consult the Learning Abroad Center at the University of Minnesota (<http://www.umabroad.umn.edu/>) to investigate anthropological study abroad options.

One or more regional Sociocultural Courses:

1. ANTH 3021W/5021W – *Anthropology of the Middle East*
2. ANTH 3023 – *Culture and Society of India*
3. ANTH 3025 – *Pacific Island Societies* (to be taken after 1003W/1005W)
4. ANTH 3031 – *Altering States: After Communism* (alternate Fall terms)
5. ANTH 4045 – *Gender and Power in South Asia*
6. ANTH 4047 – *Anthropology of American Culture*
7. ANTH 4344 – *Europe and its Margins* (to be taken after one ANTH or GLOS)

One or more thematic courses in Sociocultural Anthropology:

1. ANTH 3034 – *Roots Music in American Culture and Society* (alternate Spring terms)
2. ANTH 3035 – *Anthropologies of Death* (every Fall term)
3. ANTH 3036 – *The Body in Society*
4. ANTH 3046W – *Romance and Culture*
5. ANTH 3242W – *Hero, Savage, or Equal? Representations of Non-Western Peoples in Movies*
6. ANTH 3306W – *Medical Anthropology* (every Fall term, to be taken after 1003W/1005W or SOCS)
7. ANTH 4019 – *Symbolic Anthropology* (to be taken after 1003W/1005W)
8. ANTH 4049 – *Religion and Culture* (to be taken after 1003W/1005W)
9. ANTH 4053 – *Economy, Culture, and Critique* (every Spring term)
10. ANTH 4069 – *Anthropology of Development*
11. ANTH 4071 – *Race, Culture, and Vision* (to be taken after 1003W/1005W or 3003)
12. ANTH 4075 – *Cultural Histories of Healing* (every Spring term)
13. ANTH 4103 – *Archaeologies of Colonialism*
14. ANTH 5031W – *Ethnographies of Science* (alternate Fall terms)
15. ANTH 5043 – *Colonialism and Culture*
16. ANTH 5221 – *Anthropology of Material Culture* (alternate Fall terms)

An excellent Senior Project Thesis:

1. ANTH 3913 – Senior Project Planning (every term; to be done one semester before 4013)
→ ANTH 4013 – Senior Project (every term)