

The Anthropology Major at Bryn Mawr

Welcome to the Department of Anthropology at Bryn Mawr College! We are delighted you are interested in studying Anthropology and hope this packet of information will help you launch your major or minor in Anthropology and find opportunities in Anthropology at Bryn Mawr and beyond.

What is anthropology, and what can you do with an anthropology degree?

Anthropology is a holistic study of human diversity in the past and the present. It is concerned with the vast range of evolutionarily, historically, and culturally conditioned human ways of life. The anthropological lens can bring into focus the social, cultural, linguistic, biological, and material variations that characterize the diversity of humankind throughout time and space. Anthropologists incorporate perspectives from other social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences into their work, but the discipline of Anthropology unites around theory of social behavior and biological evolution.

The frontiers of Anthropology can encompass many directions: the search for early human fossils in Africa, the excavations of prehistoric societies as well as historical sites, the analysis of language use and material objects and other expressive forms of culture, or the examination of the significance of culture in the context of social life (including political and economic relations, health and medicine, migration, performance, and more).

Why Bryn Mawr Anthropology?

Bryn Mawr's Anthropology department is one of only a few liberal arts college anthropology departments in the U.S. that offers training in all of the four major subfields in the discipline of Anthropology: socio-cultural, linguistic, biological and archaeological anthropology:

- *Socio-cultural and linguistic anthropology* explore the diverse forms of social organization, cultural practices, expressive culture and language use, and understandings of the world in the present-day and their historical roots.
- *Anthropological archaeology* explores the prehistoric and historical past through examination of material culture of past societies.
- *Biological anthropology* explores human evolution, variation and adaptation in comparison with our closest living relatives, the non-human primates.

As a four-field department, we support inquiry across the subfields, and represent these connections in our classes and opportunities in the department.

Our students learn methods for studying peoples, cultures, past and present, as well as theoretical tools for critical analysis of issues at stake for humankind. We encourage students to integrate summer work and internships into their educational trajectory in the major. Many of our majors also spend a semester studying abroad and incorporate their summer and semester abroad experiences into their senior thesis.

The Anthropology major works well with minors, concentrations, and double-majors across the College, as well as pre-medical requirements.

The Anthropology major is an excellent preparation for further graduate and professional studies, as well as for a wide variety of careers that require intercultural literacy, in such fields as education, journalism, law, business, medicine, public health, or development. The rigorous training offered by our major is highly regarded nationally by graduate programs and employers.

Faculty

Casey Barrier (cbarrier@) Archaeology, North America, Agriculture and Social Change.
Susanna Fioratta (sfioratta@) W. Africa, Guinea, Political and Economic Anthropology.
Melissa Pashigian (mpashigi@) S.E. Asia, Vietnam, Medical Anthropology, Reproduction.
Maja Seselj (mseselj@) Biological Anthropology, Human Growth and Development.
Amanda Weidman (aweidman@) S. Asia, India, Linguistic Anth, Media, Performance.

Administrative Assistant

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Major/Minor Requirements

The Major in Anthropology

The major consists of 10 courses and is very flexible, allowing you to construct a program of study that suits your interests. The two introductory courses will provide a basic grounding in the four subfields of anthropology. At the 200 and 300 level, you are free to choose your elective courses, including one ethnographic area course that focuses on a particular area, region, or cultural context. Anth B303 provides a view of the history of anthropological theory and the development of the field. The major culminates in the year-long Senior Conference, in which students design and carry out their own research in any of the subfields of anthropology.

Required Courses for the Major

- Anth B101 Introduction to Human Evolution and Prehistory (offered every Fall semester)
- Anth B102 Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology (offered Spring and most Fall semesters) or Anth H103
- One ethnographic area course at the 200 or 300 level
- Four electives at the 200 or 300 level
- Anth B303, History of Anthropological Theory (offered every Fall)
- Anth B398, B399 Senior Conference (Fall and Spring of senior year)

Summer and Research Opportunities

Anthropology majors utilize skills and knowledge learned in their classes to develop and carry out research projects. Sometimes students work on a faculty member's project, but often they create their own independent studies. Anthropology majors have had success securing fellowships and funding that has allowed them to complete their work at numerous locations (both nationally and internationally). Sources of summer research support have included Bryn Mawr's Summer Science Research Fellowship, the Hanna Holborn Gray Fellowship, and the National Science Foundation's Research Experiences for Undergraduates.

Summer Internship Opportunities

Anthropology majors have been very successful at securing summer internships and fieldwork opportunities, both domestic and international, supported through the College through the Career and Civic Engagement Center, Global Bryn Mawr, the Anthropology Department's Frederica de Laguna Fund, and major national funding agencies, such as the National Science Foundation.

What can you do with a degree in Anthropology?

The Anthropology major is an excellent preparation for further graduate and professional studies, as well as a wide variety of careers that require intercultural literacy and cross-cultural competency, in such fields as education, journalism, law, business, medicine, public health, or development. The rigorous training offered by our major is highly regarded nationally by graduate programs and employers (including corporate/business; educational/museum; non-profit organizations; media/journalism; tech/design).

Some of the specific careers our graduates have gone on to include:

- Resident anthropologist at a major Silicon Valley tech company
- Pharmaceutical consultant
- Public health professionals
- Lawyers
- Doctors
- Nurse practitioners
- Doulas and midwives
- Co-founders of conservation and immigration-related NGOs
- Public policy
- Smithsonian Institution educational outreach specialist
- User experience consultant for an international gaming company
- Curator of primates at major national zoos
- Professors
- US Senate staff member
- Assistant Registrar at liberal arts college
- Reporter at NPR's Latino USA
- Social worker

Once you declare your major in Anthropology, we encourage you to work closely with your major advisor and other faculty in the department to plan your summer experiences so that you can gain experience in areas that you can build on for graduate school or the job market. It is never too early to start planning and exploring possibilities.