

Studying Anthropology

Anthropology is the holistic study of human cultural diversity in the past and the present. It is concerned with the evolutionary processes that differentiate humans from non-human primates and the diversity of historically and culturally conditioned human ways of life. These concerns are reflected in the “four-field” approach represented by the Bryn Mawr

Department of Anthropology:

- **Socio-cultural and linguistic anthropology** explore the diverse forms of social organization, cultural practices, expressive culture, 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 and the built landscape.
- **Biological anthropology** explores human variation and the evolution of Homo sapiens in comparison with the evolution of non-human primates.

Why BMC?

At Bryn Mawr, you have the opportunity to explore these different subfields of anthropology while pursuing in more depth the topics and subfields of interest to you. Anthropologists study many different kinds of societies, from urban areas of the United States to Arctic foraging communities, ranging in focus from the dynamics of life in small-scale societies to the transnational circulation of people, commodities, and ideas.

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 and Historical Anthropology, Eastern North America, Appalachia, Agriculture and Social Change
- Susanna Fioratta (sfioratta@) West Africa, Latin America, Political and Economic Anthropology, Food and Taste
- 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 A.nth, Media, Performance
- Administrative Assistant: Darren Manley (dmanley1@brynmawr.edu) Office: Dalton 114

The Major

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 levels, 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 Biological and Archaeological Anthropology (offered every fall)
- Anth B102 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology (offered every spring) or AnthH103
- Five electives at the 200 or 300 level, including one ethnographic area course
- Anth B303, History of Anthropological Theory (offered every fall)
- Anth B398, B399 Senior Conference (fall and spring of senior year)

****Students must take three out of their five electives in the Bryn Mawr Anthropology Department.***

Opportunities

Study Abroad, Summer Internships, Field Schools!

We encourage our majors to acquire experience abroad either through study abroad, summer internships, or field schools. Our majors have studied abroad in Europe, Asia, South America, Africa, and Australia. Although courses taken abroad may only partially count for major credit at Bryn Mawr, experience from abroad enhances the major experience and can often be incorporated into the senior thesis project.

Our department keeps a list of field schools that offer instruction in ethnographic and archaeological fieldwork, available for you to consult. In recent years, our majors have done summer internships at the Smithsonian, field schools, health institutions in various countries, and with NGOs and other organizations abroad.

Anthropology in the Tri-co & at Penn

Our students may take advantage of the anthropology offerings at Haverford (Socio-cultural anthropology) and at Swarthmore (Department of Sociology and Anthropology). Students also sometimes take courses at the University of Pennsylvania for major credit.

Recently offered electives include:

- Sex, Gender, Biology and Culture
- Anthropology of Food
- The Global Middle East
- North American Archaeology
- The Everyday Life of Language
- Disease and Human Evolution
- Sensory Ethnography
- Forensic Anthropology
- Anthropology of Reproduction
- The Politics of Belonging and Exclusion in India
- Political Economy, Gender, Ethnicity, and Transformation in Vietnam
- Anthropology of Global Public Health



Students learn to sense coffee flavors and aromas in New York City as part of a 360 on "Taste."



Students on an expedition visiting the Cahokia Mounds in St. Louis, Missouri through a 360 program called "Origins of Freedom".

Anthropology at Bryn Mawr