

# Anthropology

In the College of Arts and Letters

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## Faculty

Frederick J. Conway, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Anthropology,  
Chair of Department  
Seth W. Mallios, Ph.D., Professor of Anthropology  
Ramona L. Pérez, Ph.D., Professor of Anthropology  
Elisa J. Sobó, Ph.D., Professor of Anthropology  
Todd J. Braje, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Anthropology  
Matthew T. Lauer, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Anthropology  
Arion T. Mayes, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Anthropology  
Erin P. Riley, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Anthropology  
(Graduate Adviser)

## Scholarships

The department offers two competitive, internal scholarship programs, the Norton Allen Scholarship and the Al Sonek Biological Anthropology Scholarship. The department also hires a small number of graduate students for a variety of graduate assistant (GA) and instructional student assistant (ISA) positions. Applications and additional information can be found on the department website at <http://anthropology.sdsu.edu/>.

## General Information

The department offers graduate study leading to the Master of Arts degree in anthropology. The Master of Arts degree in anthropology provides systematic training through two specializations; (1) general anthropology specialization, with a strong theoretical component, for students who anticipate additional work leading to the doctoral degree in anthropology, or direct placement in an academic setting; (2) an applied anthropology specialization primarily for those who plan to seek employment in the nonacademic sector. This specialization is concerned with the application of anthropological method and theory to practical problems in business, government, and other settings.

Research and special instructional facilities provided by the Department of Anthropology include laboratories for archaeology, biological anthropology, environmental anthropology, ethnology, linguistics, and world prehistory. Additional facilities available in the community include the Museum of Man, the San Diego Zoo, and various internship sites for applied research.

Students who graduate with the Master of Arts degree in anthropology in either the general or applied anthropology specialization will be prepared for a variety of opportunities, including teaching careers.

## Admission to Graduate Study

To be considered for graduate admission at San Diego State University, applicants must follow the three step process outlined below. For more detailed information regarding the admissions process, visit <http://anthropology.sdsu.edu/graduate.html>.

**Step 1: Complete the CSUMentor application by the SDSU deadline (see <http://arweb.sdsu.edu/es/admissions/grad/index.html> for dates).**

Applicants must submit the California State University application available at <http://www.csumentor.edu/> along with the \$55 nonrefundable application fee. CSUMentor will begin to accept applications October 1. Once applicants have submitted the CSUMentor application, a RedID number will be assigned and e-mailed within 3-5 business days. The RedID number will allow applicants to track the status of their application through the SDSU WebPortal at <http://www.sdsu.edu/portal>.

**Step 2: Submit official transcripts and test scores to Graduate Admissions by the SDSU priority cycle deadline (see <http://arweb.sdsu.edu/es/admissions/grad/index.html> for dates).**

After applicants have submitted the CSUMentor application and received their RedID number, applicants must send official transcripts and test scores to Graduate Admissions. Sending transcripts before submitting the CSUMentor application will result in processing delays.

Applicants must provide the following:

- (1) Official transcripts (in sealed envelopes) issued within the last year, from all U.S. colleges and universities attended. Students who previously attended SDSU need only submit transcripts for coursework completed since last attendance. Hard copies of SDSU transcripts are not required;

Students with international coursework must submit both the official transcript and proof of degree. If documents are in a language other than English, they must be accompanied by a certified literal English translation. For country specific requirements, visit <http://anthropology.sdsu.edu/graduate.html>;

- (2) GRE scores sent directly from Educational Testing Services (ETS) using SDSU Institution Code 4682. University requires that all sections (verbal, quantitative, analytical writing) of the GRE be completed;
- (3) TOEFL scores are required of all applicants, regardless of citizenship, whose native language is not English and whose preparatory education was principally in a language other than English. A minimum score of 80 is required. Scores should be sent directly from ETS using SDSU Institution Code 4682.

The above listed materials should be sent to:

Graduate Admissions  
Enrollment Services  
San Diego State University  
San Diego, CA 92182-7416

For further questions regarding Steps 1 and 2, contact Graduate Admissions at 619-594-6336 or e-mail [admissions@sdsu.edu](mailto:admissions@sdsu.edu). International applicants may contact the international recruitment office at 619-594-1847 or e-mail [intladmission@sdsu.edu](mailto:intladmission@sdsu.edu).

**Step 3: Complete anthropology Master of Arts application by the SDSU priority cycle deadline (see <http://arweb.sdsu.edu/es/admissions/grad/index.html> for dates) at <http://gra.sdsu.edu/decisiondesk>.**

The anthropology Master of Arts application requires the following items:

- (1) Statement of purpose. The statement of purpose is a very important part of the application, as it allows the faculty to assess intellectual sophistication, writing skills, clarity of purpose, and potential for success in the Master of Arts program. The statement of purpose should be limited to two to three single-spaced pages and clearly articulate intended research interests, including geographical interests (if appropriate). If research plans are not yet fully developed, clarify what topics and issues in anthropology the applicant is most interested in pursuing and propose possible contexts in which to study them. Statements should not be an extended narrative about personal history, except as relevant to research plans. Elements that would make for a strong statement include, but are not limited to: the intellectual and/or applied importance of the area of interest; a discussion of preparedness to undertake graduate level study (e.g., coursework, field schools, previous research experience, etc.); the name of at least one SDSU anthropology faculty member who would be a suitable thesis adviser and an explanation of her/his selection; and, a discussion of the compatibility of interests with the SDSU anthropology program/faculty research areas;
- (2) Copies of transcripts from all colleges and universities attended (these do not need to be sent directly from the colleges - photocopies are acceptable);
- (3) Copies of GRE (if applicable, TOEFL) test scores;

- (4) Three letters of recommendation. Applicant must provide names and e-mail of three individuals who can write a letter of recommendation on the applicant's behalf, who know the applicant well, and can evaluate the applicant's ability to perform and succeed at the graduate level. Requests for letters of recommendation will be e-mailed to the recommenders via e-mail address provided by applicant;
- (5) Sample of written work representative of the applicant's research and writing skills;
- (6) Curriculum vitae or resume.

For further questions regarding Step 3, contact the Department of Anthropology at 619-594-5527, or e-mail [anthro@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:anthro@mail.sdsu.edu).

### Admission to the Degree Curriculum

All students must satisfy the general requirements for admission to the university with classified graduate standing, as described in Part Four of this bulletin. Except under special circumstances, prospective applicants must meet the following minimum admission requirements:

- (1) Hold an acceptable baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution or equivalent as determined by the Division of Graduate Affairs;
- (2) Have attained at least a 3.0 GPA on all work leading to the bachelor's degree and subsequent post-baccalaureate coursework;
- (3) Have been in good standing in the last institution attended; and
- (4) Have a combined verbal and quantitative GRE (Graduate Record Examination) score of at least 950 on the old test (prior to August 1, 2011) or 294 on the new test and a minimum of 4.0 on the analytic essay.

Applicants who meet the minimum admission requirements but who do not have a strong background in anthropology may be admitted conditionally. Conditionally admitted students will be required to complete specified courses in addition to the minimum 33 units required for the Master of Arts degree.

### Advancement to Candidacy

All students must satisfy the general requirements for advancement to candidacy as described in Part Four of this bulletin. In addition, the department requires for either the General Anthropology specialization or the Applied Anthropology specialization that the student must:

- (1) Complete all deficiency courses (needed only if admitted with conditional graduate standing);
- (2) Complete all required coursework (except ANTH 799);
- (3) Satisfy the foreign language requirement or demonstrate upper division competency in statistics or GIS (with a grade point average of 2.5 or better) and submit a report for foreign language completion form (available on Graduate Affairs website at <http://gra.sdsu.edu/>) to the graduate adviser;
- (4) Maintain at least a 3.0 GPA in all other courses applied to the Master of Arts degree including any transfer credit;
- (5) Inform the graduate adviser to submit a program of study (POS);
- (6) Form a thesis committee;
- (7) Complete a thesis proposal and have it approved by the student's committee. Submit a thesis approval form (available on the department website at <http://anthropology.sdsu.edu>) to the graduate adviser;
- (8) Obtain human or animal subjects approval (if applicable);
- (9) Submit a signed Appointment to Thesis Committee form to the graduate program adviser.

### Specific Requirements for the Master of Arts Degree

(Major Code: 22021) (SIMS Code: 110901)

In addition to meeting the requirements for classified graduate standing and the basic requirements for the Master of Arts degree as described in Part Four of this bulletin, students must complete a graduate program of at least 33 units of graduate courses with a 3.0 GPA that include the required courses listed below for each specialization. No more than three units of Anthropology 798, Special Study, and/or three units of Anthropology 795, Internship, may be used toward satisfaction of the degree. Courses required to remove undergraduate deficiencies and those used to fulfill the language or statistics requirements are in addition to the minimum 33 units required for the Master of Arts degree in anthropology.

#### General Anthropology Specialization

(SIMS Code: 110940)

1. Anthropology 601, 602, 603, 604 (with no less than a grade of B). Only classified students may enroll in these courses;
2. One of the following methods courses: Anthropology 501, 505, 508, 520, 531, 583 (Paradise Lost), Latin American Studies 601;
3. Anthropology 797 (3) Cr/NC/RP;
4. A minimum of 12 units of coursework numbered 500 or above from any department (with a maximum of nine units outside of the anthropology department) determined in consultation with the student's thesis adviser;
5. Anthropology 799A, Thesis (3) Cr/NC/RP.

#### Applied Anthropology Specialization

(SIMS Code: 110910)

1. Nine units selected from Anthropology 601, 602, 603, 604 (with no less than a grade of B). Only classified students may enroll in these courses;
2. Anthropology 605 (with no less than a grade of B);
3. One of the following methods courses: Anthropology 501, 505, 508, 520, 531, 583 (Paradise Lost), Latin American Studies 601;
4. Anthropology 795, Internship in Anthropology (3-9) Cr/NC. Only classified students may enroll;
5. Anthropology 797, Research (3) Cr/NC/RP;
6. A minimum of nine units of coursework numbered 500 or above from any department determined in consultation with the student's thesis adviser;
7. Anthropology 799A, Thesis (3) Cr/NC/RP.

As a requirement for the Master of Arts degree, all graduate students must present their thesis research as an oral examination with all committee members present. Only Plan A, requiring the thesis, is permitted for the Master of Arts degree in anthropology.

## Courses Acceptable on Master's Degree Program in Anthropology (ANTH)

Refer to *Courses and Curricula and Regulations of the Division of Graduate Affairs sections of this bulletin for explanation of the course numbering system, unit or credit hour, prerequisites, and related information.*

### UPPER DIVISION COURSES

#### ANTH 501. Primate Behavioral Ecology (3)

Prerequisite: Anthropology 301.

Ecology and behavior of nonhuman primates to include history of primate ecological research, feeding ecology, predation, demography and dispersal, reproduction, conflict and cooperation, conservation as well as contemporary primatology.

#### ANTH 505. Human Osteology (3)

Two lectures and three hours of laboratory.

Prerequisite: Anthropology 301.

Identification of individual bones and teeth; sex, age, and racial variation; stature reconstruction; continuous and discontinuous morphological variations; paleopathology. Training in observations, measurements, and analyses.

#### ANTH 508. Medical Anthropology (3)

Prerequisite: Anthropology 303.

Socio-cultural ecology of disease, medical health beliefs and practices in cultural context, and complexities of health care delivery in pluralistic societies.

#### ANTH 510. Environmental and Ecological Anthropology (3)

Prerequisite: Anthropology 303.

Ecological thinking in anthropology with focus on relationships between human environmental and ecological systems in tribal, peasant, and industrial societies. Cultural aspects of how and why human societies have maintained or undermined their ecosystems.

#### ANTH 520. Ethnographic Field Methods (3)

Prerequisite: Anthropology 303.

Problems and techniques of field work in ethnographic and social anthropological research; field work projects conducted using various qualitative and quantitative research techniques. Students work with informants in various settings.

#### ANTH 529. Urban Anthropology (3)

Prerequisite: Anthropology 303.

Urban adaptations of past and present societies. Descriptive topics and applied concerns regarding urban origins, migrations, kinship, ethnicity, stratification, and change. Ethnographic examples drawn from Western and non-Western societies.

#### ANTH 531. Methods in Applied Anthropology (3)

Prerequisite: Anthropology 303.

Anthropological concepts and methodologies to solve human problems in both western and non-western societies through intervention, community development, impact assessment, and cultural communication.

#### ANTH 532. Anthropology of Development and Conservation (3)

Prerequisite: Anthropology 303.

Anthropological perspectives on design, implementation, and assessment of development projects and conservation initiatives in "Third World." Interlinkages between resource exploitation, underdevelopment, and local autonomy; and political and ethical dilemmas faced by anthropologists involved in projects.

#### ANTH 533. Race, Ethnicity, and Identity (3)

Prerequisite: Anthropology 303.

Theories and practices of race, ethnicity, and identity from a cross-cultural and anthropological perspective. History of race in US and other regions, focusing on how identities are constructed around concepts of difference.

#### ANTH 536. Gender and Human Sexuality (3)

Prerequisite: Anthropology 303.

Constructions of gender and sexuality from anthropological perspective. Social constructions of body, norms, deviance, and medicalization of sexuality.

#### ANTH 537. Anthropology of Childhood (3)

Prerequisite: Anthropology 303.

Childhood in diverse cultural settings; evolutionary, biosocial, and health-related aspects of childhood; social and cultural uses of idea of childhood; enculturation and children's relationship to material culture.

#### ANTH 540. Contemporary Cultures of Mesoamerica (3)

Prerequisite: Anthropology 303.

Utilizing ethnographic data to explore growth shifts in development of contemporary cultures of Mesoamerica from precontact to today. Countries may include Mexico, Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Panama.

#### ANTH 582. Regional Anthropology (3)

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Study of societies in a major geographical region of the world such as Africa, the Arctic, East Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, North America, Oceania, or South Asia. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. May be repeated with new content. Maximum credit six units.

#### ANTH 583. Topical Anthropology (3)

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Study of a major subdiscipline such as political anthropology, economic anthropology, social anthropology, psychological anthropology, cultural ecology, applied anthropology, anthropological genetics, or environmental archaeology. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. May be repeated with new content. Maximum credit six units.

#### ANTH 596. Topics in Anthropology (1-3)

Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

Advanced topics in anthropology. May be repeated with new content. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Limit of nine units of any combination of 296, 496, 596 courses applicable to a bachelor's degree. Credit for 596 and 696 applicable to a master's degree with approval of the graduate adviser.

### GRADUATE COURSES

#### ANTH 600. Seminar (3)

An intensive study in advanced anthropology. See *Class Schedule* for specific content. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master's degree.

#### ANTH 601. Seminar in Biological Anthropology (3)

Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing.

History, theory, and current research in biological anthropology. Key literature from core topical areas such as primatology, paleoanthropology, human biology, bioarchaeology, and skeletal biology.

#### ANTH 602. Seminar in Archaeology (3)

Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing.

History and theory in archaeological data collection, analysis, and interpretation.

#### ANTH 603. Seminar in Ethnology (3)

Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing.

History and theory in ethnology stressing the significant literature on such topics as cross-cultural comparison, structural-functional analysis and description, personality and culture, and sociocultural change.

#### ANTH 604. Seminar in Linguistics (3)

Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing.

History and theory of linguistics stressing the significant literature on such topics as cultural cognition, descriptive linguistics, lexicostatistics, and transformational analysis.

#### ANTH 605. Seminar in Applied Anthropology (3)

Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing.

Use of anthropological theory and methods in solving contemporary social problems. Contemporary ethnographic examples from differing regions of the world reviewed to understand complexity and locally specific variables that must be addressed in proposing interventions and solutions.

**ANTH 621. Seminar in Topical Anthropology (3)**

Prerequisite: Twelve upper division units in anthropology.

Study of a major subdiscipline such as political anthropology, economic anthropology, social anthropology, psychological anthropology, cultural ecology, applied anthropology, race and variation, or environmental archaeology. Maximum credit six units applicable to a master's degree. May be repeated with new content. See *Class Schedule* for specific content.

**ANTH 795. Internship in Anthropology (3-9) Cr/NC**

Prerequisites: Classified graduate standing and consent of instructor.

Students assigned to various government and private agencies in which anthropological theory can be applied. Supervision shared by department supervisor and on-the-job supervisor. Maximum credit nine units; three units applicable to a master's degree.

**ANTH 797. Research (3) Cr/NC/RP**

Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing.

Independent investigation in the general field of the thesis.

**ANTH 798. Special Study (1-3) Cr/NC/RP**

Prerequisite: Classified graduate standing.

Individual study directed toward the preparation of a paper on a specific problem. May be repeated with variable content, with a maximum credit of three units applicable to a master's degree.

**ANTH 799A. Thesis (3) Cr/NC/RP**

Prerequisites: An officially appointed thesis committee and advancement to candidacy.

Preparation of a project or thesis for the master's degree.

**ANTH 799B. Thesis Extension (0) Cr/NC**

Prerequisite: Prior registration in Thesis, 799A, with an assigned grade symbol of RP.

Registration required in any semester or term following assignment of RP in Course 799A in which the student expects to use the facilities and resources of the university; also student must be registered in the course when the completed thesis is granted final approval.

