

Anthropology



What is Anthropology?



Anthropology is the study of people and culture in all periods of history and in all areas of the world. Through sub-disciplines like Archaeology, Biological/Physical Anthropology, Anthropological Linguistics, and Socio-cultural Anthropology, one can investigate past and present cultures through the examination of artifacts, study human evolution and genetics, examine the nature of communication, and analyze societies and cultures. Some examples of topics studied include: the environmental impact of globalization, refugees in the Middle East and Africa, diseases and public health policy in the Ecuadorian Andes, and forensics.

Anthropology at Western

Students studying Anthropology at Western have access to the Native Language Centre, laboratory facilities, collections and personnel at the London Museum of Archaeology, and an extensive collection of fossil casts and comparative skeletal samples, including an Egyptian mummy donated by the Royal Ontario Museum. In 2008, the Anthropology Department plans to open field schools in Madagascar and Peru.

Areas of Study

- **Anthropology (Honors Specialization, Specialization, Minor)**
The study of people and culture in all periods of history and in all areas of the world.
- **Sociocultural Anthropology (Major)**
Sociocultural Anthropology is focused on documenting and understanding the social and cultural relationships of human groups. Studies focus on development, political organization, human-environment interaction, epidemiology, historical sociology, issues of ethnicity, identity, and cultural knowledge and values.
- **Bioarchaeological Anthropology (Major)**
Bioarchaeological Anthropology is concerned with how biology and culture are interrelated and studying the biological diversity and evolutionary history of humans and their close biological relatives.
- **Linguistic Anthropology (Major)**
Linguistic Anthropology examines the connection of language, culture and society.
- **Environment and Culture (Minor)**
Environment and Culture focuses on the study of cultural, social, political and economic aspects of human relations with the environment.
- **Refugee and Migrant Studies (Minor)**
Refugee and Migrant Studies focuses on the study of the movement of populations in a variety of contexts world-wide.

Sample Courses

Indigenous Peoples, Globalization and the Environment

An examination of natural resource development emphasizing the interplay between indigenous people, the state and transnational developers. Topics include: environmentalism and livelihood; land rights; corporate power and state policies; common property and community-based resource management; NGOs in environmental politics; sustainability and the greening of development.

Archaeology and World Prehistory

Students study the field of archaeology, with emphasis on the major discoveries of the discipline. Topics include: the evolution of humans, their spread throughout the world, the origins of agriculture, urbanization, and the development of early civilizations. Major archaeological sites like Olduvai Gorge, Stonehenge, Giza, Ur and Teotihuacan are discussed.

After Graduation

Anthropology graduates work in a variety of environments: museums, business, zoos, government agencies, research laboratories, ethnic and cultural organizations, art galleries, etc. Most professional anthropological jobs require a graduate degree.

Careers of Graduates

- Anthropologist (Medical, Legal, etc)
- Teacher/Professor
- Social Research Analyst
- Indigenous Rights Researcher
- NGO Consultant
- International Development Advisor
- Aboriginal Language Curriculum Design
- Endangered Language Documentation
- Cultural Resource Management/Archaeological Services
- Museum Curator/Technician



"I found the Anthropology program at Western challenging and exciting. Faculty gave considerable time to students, encouraging us to ask complex questions which provided an excellent foundation for my subsequent MA and PhD research. My time in the department, and the marvellous level of enthusiasm faculty have for students, helped me to realize that staying in academia was 'it' for me."

Elizabeth Finnis, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Anthropology – University of Guelph

"Four months after defending my Master's thesis, I was working full time for the federal government. My undergraduate and graduate work provided me with a solid base in research, writing, analysis and critical thinking. Further, anthropological training is an asset for anyone working in Aboriginal or minority communities, health, foreign aid, politics, or other areas in which interactions and relationships between individuals, groups and communities and a holistic outlook are necessary."

Maryanne Pearce, H.BA, M.A., LL.D. (candidate)

Manager, Research and Evaluation – Aboriginal Policing Directorate



For more information on the
Department of Anthropology, please visit:
<http://anthropology.uwo.ca/>