



Associate professor Mei Zhan studies the evolution of Chinese medicinal practice. Photo by Daniel Anderson, University Communications.

ANTHROPOLOGY

THE DEGREE

When most people hear the word “anthropology,” they think Indiana Jones or “primitive” people in face paint. Anthropology is more than just bones and stones. It is as broad as the world around us, and as diverse as the communities and cultures occupying the globe. Anthropologists today can be found studying every corner of the globe, every culture, and every time period, from ancient kingdoms to contemporary small-scale societies to the shopping malls of Orange County.

The anthropology department at UC Irvine specializes in sociocultural anthropology, a subfield devoted to the in-depth study of culture. Faculty also have research expertise in linguistic anthropology, the study of relationships between language, culture and society.

Anthropology emphasizes field research, so while anthropologists use surveys and statistical data like other social scientists, they also spend a lot of time hanging out with the people being studied, listening to them talk, attending carefully to their words, the worlds they spin from them, and the rich texture of their everyday lives.

RESEARCH

UC Irvine anthropology faculty maintain expertise in the small scale societies that were once the field’s traditional focus while also studying global transformations in mass media, global markets, technology and government. Using a wide range of methods to study everything from food in the Marshall Islands to new cultures of cyberspace, faculty and students work together to understand and impact the world around us.

CAREERS

As globalization continues, understanding cross-cultural connections, ethnic and religious differences, and political and economic changes around the world will be important in all lines of work. Anthropology provides students with a broad background as well as intensive knowledge about subfields and geographical regions. The major equips students with communication, research and team working skills necessary for success in jobs in business, government and non-governmental organizations, while providing training for advanced studies in anthropology and professional schools of law, medicine and others. Many anthropology alumni have gone on to the very top graduate programs in the country

SCHOOL of SOCIAL SCIENCES

where I make a difference

SUGGESTED CURRICULUM FOR AN ANTHROPOLOGY MAJOR

Freshman¹ (12 to 16 units per quarter)

Anthropology 2A
Anthropology 2B, 2C, or 2D
Lower Division Writing (two courses)
General Education II or IV (three courses)
Social Science 3A
General Education VI²
Electives (one or two courses)

Sophomore³ (16 units per quarter)

Anthropology 30A or 30B⁴
Anthropology 10A–B–C or another series for
School math requirement
General Education II or IV (three courses)
General Education VII (one course)
Social Sciences Elective (three courses)
Elective (one course)

Junior (16 units per quarter)

Upper–Division Writing (one course)
Anthropology 120–159, 170–179
(three courses)
Anthropology 30A, 30B⁴, 40–179, 180A⁵
(four courses)
Electives (four courses)

Senior (16 units per quarter)

Anthropology 160–169 (two courses)
Anthropology 199–Independent Research
Electives (roughly seven – eight courses)

¹Students should move from a 12 to 16 unit work load in the second quarter of their first year.

²Language may be satisfied in high school prior to matriculation

³Considering that students need approximately 60 elective units beyond general education, school and major requirements, they should start thinking early about how to satisfy these, especially when potential minors or double majors have prerequisites

⁴Students are also strongly encouraged to take both Anthropology 30A and 30B.

⁵Students are strongly encouraged to take Anthropology 180A after they have had at least three courses beyond Anthropology 2A and 2B, 2C, or 2D.

OPPORTUNITIES IN ANTHROPOLOGY AT UC IRVINE

Explore the opportunities available to students interested in studying anthropology at UC Irvine.

Honors Program

Are you looking for a challenge? The honors program in anthropology allows students to pursue exciting field research and write an honors thesis under the guidance of anthropology faculty. Learn more about the honors program and required application process online at www.anthro.uci.edu/undergrad.

Certificate Program

In order to provide more focused training with real–world applications, the anthropology department offers five certificate programs to undergraduate anthropology majors, and one certificate program (ethnomusicology) to all undergraduates. Topics include: economy and culture, ethnomusicology, gender studies, global studies, law and policy, and medical anthropology. Each certificate is designed to complement a student's coursework for the major, while providing expertise in a specific area of anthropological inquiry. Learn more online at www.anthro.uci.edu/undergrad.

Anthropology Minors

Are you interested in anthropology but don't feel that a major is right for you? The department offers minors in general anthropology, medical anthropology and archaeology. Learn more about minors and requirements online at www.anthro.uci.edu/undergrad.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICE

The Social Sciences Undergraduate Student Affairs Office provides numerous services and special programs for undergraduate students including course planning, change of major requests, financial aid appeals, course substitutions, and information concerning honors, graduate and professional school, and careers and internships. Visit the Undergraduate Student Affairs Office online at http://undergraduatestudies.ss.uci.edu/ugs_usa or call (949) 824–6803 today to set up an appointment.

ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER

A great starting point for information about academic–related endeavors is the School of Social Sciences Academic Resource Center (SSARC) where students may obtain information about internships, graduate school, and prospective careers in a number of social sciences–related fields. Visit the Academic Resource Center online at www.socsci.uci.edu/ssarc or call (949) 824–8322 today to set up an appointment.