

Undergraduate Academic Assessment Plan 2012 2013

Anthropology

College of Liberal Arts
and Sciences

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Program and College Name

Undergraduate Academic Assessment Plan

Introduction

Anthropology is the study of humankind. Of all the disciplines that examine aspects of human existence and accomplishments, only anthropology explores the entire panorama of the human experience from human origins to contemporary forms of culture and social life.

Anthropology is a generalizing and comparative discipline with a concern for understanding human diversity on a global scale. Anthropologists engage in empirical research with established theories, methods, and analytical techniques. They conduct field-based research as well as laboratory analyses and archival investigations.

A hallmark of anthropology is its holistic perspective—understanding humankind in terms of the dynamic interrelationships of all aspects of human existence. Different aspects of culture and society exhibit patterned interrelationships (e.g., political economy, social configurations, religion and ideology). Culture cannot be divorced from biology and adaptation, nor language from culture. Contemporary societies cannot be understood without consideration of historical and evolutionary processes.

Anthropology as an Integrative Interdisciplinary Discipline

With its holistic perspective, anthropology intersects the multiple approaches to the study of humankind—biological, social, cultural, historical, linguistic, cognitive, material, technological, affective, and aesthetic. This interdisciplinarity is integrated within anthropology as a whole and formalized in the four major subfields that compose the discipline—archaeological, biological, linguistic, and sociocultural anthropology—although many anthropologists also conduct research across these subfields.

Archaeological anthropologists are concerned with the evolution and historical changes to cultural and sociopolitical configurations, the materiality of human experience, and the stewardship and interpretation of cultural heritage.

Biological anthropologists are concerned with the physical and biocultural aspects of humans, including biological aspects of human health and well being; micro- and macro-evolutionary study of the human condition; relationships to other primates; human growth and development; pathology, mortality and morbidity; and population genetics.

Linguistic anthropologists examine the history and structure of human languages, the relationship between language and culture, cognitive and biological aspects of language, and other symbolic forms and media of communication and reasoning.

Sociocultural anthropologists are concerned with human social and cultural diversity and the bases of these distinctions, be they economic, political, environmental, biological; social roles, relationships, and

social transformation; cultural identity; cultural dimensions of domination and resistance; and strategies for representing and analyzing cultural knowledge. Therefore, anthropology transcends what are typically perceived as intellectual boundaries separating natural science, social science, and humanities.

Education for the 21st Century: The Need for Anthropology

Anthropology students, including those attending the University of Florida benefit from the holistic approach that intersects natural science, social science, and humanistic perspectives of the human condition. The spatial field of anthropology is global, and the temporal scale extends millions of years into the past, examining evolutionary and historical changes alongside concerns for our shared future.

Anthropology students become adept at understanding the cultural, biological, environmental, and historical bases for behaviors and precepts in their own and other societies. The self-reflection that results from applying the holistic approach and comparative method provides a broadened world view, one that rejects naive ethnocentrism and is more open to acceptance of other ways of living. Students develop as global citizens, aware of the world around them—their similarities, differences, and inequalities with other peoples or groups.

Anthropology students are trained in the full suite of liberal arts skills—oral and written communication, interpersonal skills, problem-solving, research, and critical thinking—needed for success in a variety of careers. These skills provide flexibility in career mobility, forming a foundation for life-long learning as employment possibilities are continually transformed.

Anthropology further provides specific training in all of the skills identified as critical to education in the 21st century:

- a. “knowing more about the world”: global literacy, sensitivity to other cultures
- b. “thinking outside the box”: creative and innovative skills, finding patterns in complex and chaotic configurations; being able to cross disciplinary boundaries
- c. “becoming smarter about new sources of information”: being able to process and critically evaluate increasingly rapid and changing information flows; understanding different forms of representation and avenues of communication
- d. “developing good people skills”: communication proficiency, especially across cultural and social difference; emotional intelligence; ability to work in teams.

Source: Claudia Wallis and Sonja Steptoe “How to Bring Our Schools Out of the 20th Century” by; a report on the New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce. Time Dec. 18, 2006 (Vol. 168, No. 5, pp. 50-56).

Anthropology undergraduate students have a variety of career options because of their broad preparation and focus on fundamental knowledges and skills. The Bachelor of Arts degree is an entree to professional careers in law, medicine and public health, urban planning, educational administration,

international relations and business, social work, and development. MA and PhD graduates are more likely to achieve positions as “anthropologists,” yet their career options are also quite open.

Anthropology in Action

Anthropologists conduct academic and applied research as a means to understand individual human lives within larger socio-political contexts and to ameliorate human problems. Thus the teaching research, and service facets of the discipline are central to its purpose as a department within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the over-arching mission at the University of Florida. Although traditionally they made their careers within academia, over half of new Anthropology PhDs in the US are employed in non-academic settings (government, non-governmental organizations, business firms). Anthropologists engage many different publics, including those in the private sector.

Anthropologists, both academic and applied, are engaging many contemporary issues that have global, national, and community implications for policy-making and advocacy for individuals and groups. The following few examples illustrate the interconnectedness of these issues and the need for the holistic, interdisciplinary, macro-micro, and long-term perspectives of Anthropology to successfully tackle them:

- e. Environmental Change: Ecological Sustainability, Global Warming, Water and Land Resources, Biodiversity, Anthropogenic Landscapes, Long-term Human-Environmental Interactions
- f. Health and Nutrition: Infectious Disease (e.g., HIV/AIDs), Health Care Policy, Resource Depletion and Famine, Bio-medicine, Alternative Medical Practices, Impediments (age, gender, race, class, violence, conflict) to Health Care Access
- g. Globalization: Global Economies, Sovereignty, Transnationalism, Development, Diaspora, Migration and Citizenship, Preservation of Cultural Heritage
- h. Social Justice and Human Rights: Democratization, State-Society Relations, Community Organizing, Inter-Ethnic Relations, Racism, Sexism, Cultural Minorities, Indigenous Peoples
- i. Cultural Dimensions of Civil and Religious Conflict: War, Militarism, Ethnocide, Religious Movements, Displaced Peoples

Although practitioners in other disciplines are also examining these same issues, anthropologists take into consideration how these topics and problems are embedded within material and institutional structures. We consider the worldviews, practices, and constraints of the peoples affected, and seek workable empirically-derived “bottom up” rather than “top down” solutions to local problems.

Mission Statement

Program Mission

Anthropology is the study of humankind. Of all the disciplines that examine aspects of human existence and accomplishments, only anthropology explores the entire panorama of the human

experience from human origins to contemporary forms of culture and social life. It is a generalizing and comparative discipline with a concern for understanding human diversity on a global scale. Anthropologists engage in empirical research with established theories, methods, and analytical techniques. They conduct field-based research as well as laboratory analyses and archival investigations.

A hallmark of anthropology is its holistic perspective—understanding humankind in terms of the dynamic interrelationships of all aspects of human existence. Different aspects of culture and society exhibit patterned interrelationships (e.g., political economy, social configurations, religion and ideology). Culture cannot be divorced from biology and adaptation, nor language from culture. Contemporary societies cannot be understood without consideration of historical and evolutionary processes. With this perspective, anthropology intersects the multiple approaches to the study of humankind—biological, social, cultural, historical, linguistic, cognitive, material, technological, affective, and aesthetic. This interdisciplinarity is integrated within anthropology as a whole and formalized in the four major subfields that compose the discipline—archaeological, biological, linguistic, and sociocultural anthropology—although many anthropologists also conduct research across these subfields.

Anthropology and CLAS / University Mission

Anthropology students, including those attending the University of Florida, benefit from the holistic approach that intersects natural science, social science, and humanistic perspectives of the human condition. They become adept at understanding the cultural, biological, environmental, and historical bases for behaviors and precepts in their own and other societies. The self-reflection that results from applying the holistic approach and comparative method provides a broadened world view, one that rejects naive ethnocentrism and is more open to acceptance of other ways of living. The development of these skillsets dovetails well with the intellectual core mission of both CLAS and the University of Florida. Students develop as global citizens, aware of the world around them—their similarities, differences, and inequalities with other peoples or groups. These skills closely match with the internationalization goals of the University of Florida.

Anthropology students are poised to use anthropology in any career they choose to follow, or they may choose to make anthropology their career. Anthropology students are trained in the full suite of liberal arts skills—oral and written communication, interpersonal skills, problem-solving, research, and critical thinking—needed for success in a variety of careers. These skills provide flexibility in career mobility, forming a foundation for life-long learning as employment possibilities are continually transformed.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/liberalarts/alc/Anthropology.aspx>

Existing SLOs in the 2012-13 undergraduate catalog:

Content

1. Understand the four subfields of anthropology (cultural anthropology, archaeology, biological anthropology, linguistics).
(*ALL CAPS above indicate changes to be made to UF Catalog Anthropology SLOs.)

Critical Thinking

2. Apply the scientific approach to investigate human variation in its biological, social and cultural dimensions.
3. Draw appropriate and alternative conclusions from comparative analysis of human diversity.
4. Identify and evaluate knowledge claims from a culturally and historically relativistic standpoint.
5. Integrate different sources and types of knowledge into holistic perspectives about human variation.
6. Evaluate the significance, quality and veracity of information and apply it effectively to solve problems.

Communication

7. Articulate anthropological knowledge professionally in written and verbal form.

Revised SLOs for the 2013-14 undergraduate catalog:

Content

1. IDENTIFY, DESCRIBE, EXPLAIN, AND APPLY FACTUAL, CONCEPTUAL, AND PROCEDURAL KNOWLEDGE IN the four subfields of anthropology (cultural anthropology, archaeology, biological anthropology, linguistics).
(*ALL CAPS above indicate changes to be made to UF Catalog Anthropology SLOs.)

Critical Thinking

2. Apply the scientific approach to investigate human variation in its biological, social and cultural dimensions.
3. Draw appropriate and alternative conclusions from comparative analysis of human diversity.
4. Identify and evaluate knowledge claims from a culturally and historically relativistic standpoint.
5. Integrate different sources and types of knowledge into holistic perspectives about human variation.
6. Evaluate the significance, quality and veracity of information and apply it effectively to solve problems.

Communication

7. Articulate anthropological knowledge professionally in written and verbal form.

New/Revised SLOs, 2013-14*	Link to 2012-13* SLOs
Content	
Identify, describe, explain, and apply factual, conceptual, and procedural knowledge in the four subfields of anthropology (cultural anthropology, archaeology, biological anthropology, linguistics).	Understand the four subfields of anthropology (cultural anthropology, archaeology, biological anthropology, linguistics)
Critical thinking	
Apply the scientific approach to investigate human variation in its biological, social and cultural dimensions.	Apply the scientific approach to investigate human variation in its biological, social and cultural dimensions.
Draw appropriate and alternative conclusions from comparative analysis of human diversity.	Draw appropriate and alternative conclusions from comparative analysis of human diversity.
Identify and evaluate knowledge claims from a culturally and historically relativistic standpoint	Identify and evaluate knowledge claims from a culturally and historically relativistic standpoint
Integrate different sources and types of knowledge into holistic perspectives about human variation.	Integrate different sources and types of knowledge into holistic perspectives about human variation.
Evaluate the significance, quality, and veracity of information and apply it effectively to solve variation.	Evaluate the significance, quality, and veracity of information and apply it effectively to solve variation.
Communication	
Articulate anthropological knowledge professionally in written and verbal form.	Articulate anthropological knowledge professionally in written and verbal form.

*undergraduate catalog dates

Curriculum Map

Curriculum Map for:

Program: Anthropology

College Liberal Arts and Sciences

Key: **I**ntroduced

Reinforced

Assessed

Courses SLOs	ANT 2000	ANT 2140	ANT 2410	ANT 3514C	ANT 3620	ANT 3126	ANT 3141	ANT 3153	ANT 3162	ANT 3164
Content Knowledge										
#1	I,R,A Exam	I,R,A Exam	I,R,A Exam	I,R,A Exam	I,R,A Exam	R	I	R	R	R
Critical Thinking										
#2		I	I	I	I	R	R	R	R	R
#3			I		I	R	R	R	R	R
#4			I		I	R	R	R	R	R
#5		I	I	I	I	R	R	R	R	R
#6		I	I	I	I	R	R	R	R	R
Communication										
#7						R	R	R	R	R

Courses SLOs	ANT 3181	ANT 3241	ANT 3302	ANT 3390	ANT 3451	ANT 3515	ANT 3520	ANT 4110	ANT 4114	ANT 4266
Content Knowledge										
#1	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Critical Thinking										
#2	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
#3	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
#4	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
#5	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
#6	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Communication										
#7	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R

Courses SLOs	ANT 4274	ANT 4331	ANT 4336	ANT 4340	ANT 4352	ANT 4354	ANT 4403	ANT 4468	ANT 4525	ANT 4550
Content Knowledge										
#1	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Critical Thinking										
#2	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
#3	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
#4	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
#5	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
#6	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
Communication										
#7	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R

Courses SLOs	ANT 4552	ANT 4554	ANT 4586	ANT 4740	ANT 4823	ANT 4824	ANT 4956	ANT CAPSTONE
Content Knowledge								
#1	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	I,R,A (Exam)
Critical Thinking								
#2	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	A
#3	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	A
#4	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	A
#5	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	A
#6	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	A
Communication								
#7	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	A

Assessment Cycle

Assessment Cycle Chart

Assessment Cycle for:

Program: Anthropology

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Analysis and Interpretation:

June-August

Improvement Actions:

Completed by September 1

Dissemination:

Completed by October 1

SLOs	Year	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16
Content Knowledge							
#1		X	X	X	X	X	X
Critical Thinking							
#2		X	X	X	X	X	X
#3		X	X	X	X	X	X
#4		X	X	X	X	X	X
#5		X	X	X	X	X	X
#6		X	X	X	X	X	X
Communication							
#7		X	X	X	X	X	X

Methods and Procedures

SLO Assessment Matrix

The SLO Assessment Matrix is new for the 2012-13 Academic Assessment Plans. We have populated the matrix to the extent possible with the information we have available. Please complete the matrix.

Assessment Method - For each SLO, please enter the assessment method you are using – exam (course, internal, or external), project, paper, presentation, performance, etc.

Measurement – list the measurement procedure you use for this outcome. It can be a faculty-developed rubric with the minimum acceptable level identified, an exam score and the minimum passing score, or other measurement. **Required for 2012-13: Include at least one example of a rubric used to assess an SLO.**

SLO Assessment Matrix for 2012-13

2012-13 Student Learning Outcome	Assessment Method	Measurement Procedure
Identify, describe, explain, and apply factual, conceptual, and procedural knowledge in the four subfields of anthropology (cultural anthropology, archaeology, biological anthropology, linguistics).	Exam	Exam score
Apply the scientific approach to investigate human variation in its biological, social and cultural dimensions.	In class paper or exam	Rubric
Draw appropriate and alternative conclusions from comparative analysis of human diversity.	In class paper or exam	Rubric
Identify and evaluate knowledge claims from a culturally and historically relativistic standpoint.	In class paper or exam	Rubric
Integrate different sources and types of knowledge into holistic perspectives about human variation.	In class paper or exam	Rubric
Evaluate the significance, quality and veracity of information and apply it effectively to solve problems.	In class paper or exam	Rubric
Articulate anthropological knowledge professionally in written and verbal form.	Capstone Coursed	Rubric

There are no centralized tests or exams for anthropology majors, for example, that students would take to be licensed to 'do' anthropology upon receiving their BA. Rather, our major comprises 16 credits (five courses) of 'core' classwork that students are encouraged to take prior to/or coupled with their enrollment in major elective coursework (18 credits). Students are free to choose those elective courses depending upon their interests and their academic goals.

In each of the five core classes, we plan to monitor students who identify themselves as 'apy' majors, based on four select questions per term per course. This will provide quantitative data about the success our majors achieve in terms of learning major concepts and principles in the discipline. This will provide a direct and quantifiable assessment of our students. A second direct assessment we aim to develop (Fall 2012) is a 1-credit on-line capstone course, to emphasize SLO #7, "articulate anthropological knowledge professionally in written and verbal form". Although many of our courses reinforce core anthropological concepts, it is difficult to harness particular courses, because many of our students choose not to take courses that others choose to, depending upon their subfield of interest, for example. Thus, our capstone course would provide the means to assess what our students have learned about anthropology prior to graduation with a BA in Anthropology.

Other courses and anthropology electives, although many incorporate assessments and tests of topical material, offer a grade as the only measure of success for the student. All anthropology majors must earn a 'C' or better for major credit within CLAS. Thus, many of our courses, although they reinforce core concepts, provide indirect assessment of student success in the major, while our core classes provide direct assessment. Further, the anthropology capstone would offer indirect assessment in the student's final semester.

Assessment Oversight

The undergraduate coordinator, with the assistance of the Chair and the Department's Undergraduate Education committee are involved in clarifying and implementing the SLOs for their effectiveness and utility to meet the requirements of SACS accreditation. Fall/spring faculty meetings are a venue to discuss efficacy of established SLOs.

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