Anthropology

ABOUT ANTHROPOLOGY

Anthropology is the comparative study of different ways of life. It explores an ‘insider’ perspective on interpreting human behaviour by asking questions about the human experience such as what people do, why they do it, what they mean by it, what motivates them to do it and what people value in diverse societies and cultures.

Why study Anthropology?

Anthropologists play an increasingly important role in the world, they specialise in analysing, documenting and creating social changes wherever human diversity exists. Anthropologists are able to assist in areas such as climate change, mining, social policy, indigenous issues and development aid. Anthropologists gain their knowledge through a research method called fieldwork in which they observe the lives of others by living with them, sharing their experiences and discussing their perspectives to gain and record a detailed understanding of their life and culture.

Complementary areas of study

Areas which will enhance your understanding and appreciation of anthropology are:
- Languages
- Linguistics
- Indigenous studies
- Sociology
- Music

What are some of the topics Anthropology explores?

You have the flexibility to choose what topics you want to study depending on your interests. For example in your first year you can take:
- Encountering cultures:
  - Introduction to anthropology 1
- Magic, science and spirituality

We also encourage students to take subjects offered by the Monash Indigenous Centre (MIC). In second and third year there is a wider choice, for example:
- The anthropology of international development
- Mobile worlds: Borders, displacement and belonging
- Gender, theory and society
- Interrogating racism: Indigenous Australians and the state
- Contesting laws: Heritage, culture and land
- Managing intercultural communication

How Anthropology fits into your Arts degree

You can take Anthropology units as a major, a minor or simply as elective units in your degree.

Career prospects

The skills and knowledge you will gain studying Anthropology can be transferred in roles which cross-cultural knowledge and behavioural insight is of value, and these can span across a range of industries including:
- Indigenous affairs
- Health and education
- Teaching and research
- Curating and collection work

Alumni story

Anthropologists conduct research into fascinating areas. For example, alumni Dr James Barry did his PhD thesis on Iran’s Armenian community. James’ research was dedicated to understanding the various ways in which this minority form part of the greater Iranian nation, as well as those points at which they distinguish themselves from it. After studying basic Armenian, James spent a long fieldwork period living in Tehran and mingling with Iranian-Armenians as they went about their routines.

Anthropology and travel

Anthropologists travel extensively as part of their work. In particular, they travel to areas where their expertise is required for problem-solving. In the last year, Monash anthropologists have travelled to environments in outback Australia, Indonesia, Iran, Timor Leste, and many other locations.

For more information:
future.arts.monash.edu/ug-anthropology

Location: Clayton
Available as: Major, Minor or as elective units
**Major in Anthropology**

**MONASH ARTS 2016**

Students completing a major in Anthropology must complete eight units (48 points) which comprise:

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<tr>
<th>Year 01 / Gateway Unit</th>
<th>Two first-year gateway units (12 points)</th>
<th>ATS1255 Encountering cultures: Introduction to anthropology* + ATS1203 Magic, science and spirituality</th>
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<tr>
<th>Year 02 / Cornerstone Unit</th>
<th>Two second-year cornerstone units (12 points)</th>
<th>ATS2625 Mobile worlds: Borders, displacement and belonging + ATS2378 The anthropology of international development</th>
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<tr>
<th>Year 02 / Electives</th>
<th>ATS2249 Sustainable development in South East Asia + ATS2354/ATS3354 Interrogating racism: Indigenous Australians and the state + ATS2629 Religion and spirituality in a globalising world</th>
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<tr>
<th>Year 03 / Capstone Unit</th>
<th>Two third-year capstone units (12 points)</th>
<th>ATS3376 Anthropology of human rights + ATS3634 Indigenous peoples globally</th>
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<tr>
<th>Year 03 / Electives</th>
<th>ATS3248 Field methods in anthropology and international development + ATS3717 Medicine, health and society + ATS3671 Managing intercultural communication + ATS3359 Hearing the country: studies in Indigenous Australian ethnoecology</th>
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*ATS1255 is also gateway units for Indigenous cultures and histories. Students doing majors/minors in both Anthropology and Indigenous cultures will need to complete different gateway units for each, and should see the advice of the convenor for appropriate units.*