

**The Department of Anthropology
Social Sciences Element**

**General Education Program
Pacific Lutheran University**

Framing Language and Program Goals

Anthropology as a discipline tries to bring all of the world's people into human focus. Though anthropology does look at "stones and bones," it also examines the politics, medicines, families, arts, and religions of peoples and cultures in various places and times. This makes the study of anthropology a complex task, for it involves aspects of many disciplines, from geology and biology to art and psychology. Anthropology is composed of four fields. Cultural or social anthropology studies living human cultures in order to create a cross-cultural understanding of human behavior. Archaeology has the same goal, but uses data from the physical remains of the past cultures to reach it. Linguistic anthropology studies human language. Biological anthropology studies the emergence and subsequent biological adaptations of humanity as a species.

General Education Element Description

Investigating Human Behavior, Culture, and Institutions

The social sciences investigate individual and collective human behavior, and the history, development and variation of human culture and institutions. To assure exposure to a wide variety of social science concepts, theories, and methods, students must select at least two courses chosen from different disciplines.

Anthropology: studies human cultural and biological similarities and differences from prehistory to the present.

General Education Element Learning Outcomes

The student will learn to understand and appreciate the similarities and differences in human cultures over space and time. They will be challenged to put aside their ethnocentrism in order to understand how other people perceive and use the world in ways often different than their own. This requires that students learn about a number of specific cultures as well as analyzing different topics throughout the world.

If appropriate, particular course outcomes (e.g., PHED 100, PSYCH 101, SOCI 101)

While most students will select 102, 103, 104, or 210 for this requirement, some may wish to challenge themselves with the topics or area foci of the 300 level classes.

Anth 102,103, 104

Students will:

- know and use anthropological concepts;
- have experience writing anthropologically;
- be able to think critically;
- know the major perspectives of anthropology (linguistic, cultural, archaeological, biological);

- appreciate the diversity of humans in space and time;
- appreciate the effects of social race, class, and ethnicity on human life;
- know how to find anthropological literature on topics relevant to class work (articles, ethnographies, research projects);
- apply anthropological concepts to specific cultures;
- develop an integrated research paper using professional sources; and,
- recognize theory and method in the anthropological literature.

Anth 300 level courses (330-349 focus on Specific Cultural Areas while 350-398 focus on Specific Topics Examined in a Global Context)

Students will:

- develop anthropological research topics;
- read and use scholarly literature;
- research and analyze data in a more extensive research paper utilizing anthropological method and theory;
- develop oral presentations;
- be able to understand a culture area, including the similarities and diversities in it; and,
- be able to look at a cultural topic in a large number of cultures throughout the world.

Alignment to the ILOs

Critical Reflection

- Select sources of information using appropriate research methods, including those employing technology, and make use of that information carefully and critically.
- Consider issues from multiple perspectives.
- Evaluate assumptions and consequences of different perspectives in assessing possible solutions to problems.
- Understand and explain divergent viewpoints on complex issues, critically assess the support available for each, and defend one's own judgments.

Expression

- Communicate clearly and effectively in both oral and written forms.

Valuing

- Articulate and critically assess one's own values, with an awareness of the communities and traditions that have helped to shape them

- Recognize how others have arrived at values different from one's own, and consider their views charitably and with an appreciation for the context in which they emerged.
- Develop a habit of caring for oneself, for others, and for the environment.

Multiple Frameworks

- Recognize and understand how cultures profoundly shape different assumptions and behaviors.
- Identify issues and problems facing people in every culture (including one's own), seeking constructive strategies for addressing them.
- Cultivate respect for diverse cultures, practices, and traditions.