

Department of Anthropology

Anthropology at Oberlin is a department committed to offering coursework in all four subdisciplines that make up the field of American anthropology: sociocultural anthropology, archaeology, biological anthropology, and linguistic anthropology. In addition to traditional classroom teaching, Oberlin anthropology provides a variety of other frameworks for learning, such as freshmen and upper level seminars, tutorials, supervised research, and laboratory and field research in archaeology. Anthropology is an excellent liberal arts major that prepares our graduates to go on to careers or advanced study in many academic, professional, government, and business fields. The department's record of placing students in first rate graduate academic and professional programs is excellent.

Anthropology concerns itself with the holistic study of the human condition. We offer courses reflecting the breadth of our field, encompassing language and culture, area studies (U.S., Europe, and Mesoamerica), contemporary immigration, small scale societies, human rights, prehistoric archaeology (from the earliest evidence of human culture to the rise of ancient civilizations), human evolution, anthropological methods and theory, and interpretive anthropology. We strive to give our students a broad background in anthropology while also providing ample opportunity for more advanced work. Our teaching is comparative and strongly interdisciplinary, linking as it does interests in the social and natural sciences and the humanities.

Majors in anthropology complement coursework with a wide variety of field and research experiences through participation in faculty research at Oberlin or other institutions. Each year a small number of anthropology majors is invited to enter the Honors Program. Under close supervision of a faculty member, honors students pursue original, independent research culminating in an honors thesis. In recent years, anthropology honors students have investigated topics such as experimental archaeology, Neanderthal DNA, the sacred in American oral history, tejano music and dance, AIDS in South Africa, Romani culture in the new Europe, Iranian immigration to the United States, and the Oberlin Ethnographic Collection.

Current research projects of the anthropology faculty include the politics and poetics of verbal duels in Italy, language ideologies, ethnicity and immigration in the U.S., African American ethnohistory, developmental approaches to prehistoric technology, prehistoric responses to global climate change, and identity and ethnicity in Central America. The College's excellent library and computing facilities afford our majors and honors students wide opportunities for independent research. The library contains the Human Relations Area Files, a vast compendium of cross-cultural data easily accessible for research projects.

The Department of Anthropology welcomes your inquiries and will be glad to provide any further information you may wish. Address any questions to Professor Jack Glazier, Chair, Department of Anthropology, Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH 44074-1095

Department of Anthropology Faculty

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