

# Undergraduate study

BA (Hons) Anthropology

BA (Hons) Anthropology and Media

BA (Hons) Anthropology and Sociology

BA (Hons) History and Anthropology

# Anthropology



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This booklet outlines the Undergraduate Anthropology degrees at Goldsmiths, University of London. Please read this booklet in conjunction with our Undergraduate Prospectus; further information is available from Admissions at the contact details on page 20.

We can supply information in alternative formats for people with a visual impairment or dyslexia. Please contact Admissions on **+44 (0)20 7078 5300** or e-mail **admissions@gold.ac.uk**.

# Introducing the Department of Anthropology

## What is Anthropology?

Anthropology is the study of social and cultural processes. It is a wide-ranging discipline that addresses politics, economics, religion, and knowledge among many areas of human social life. It overlaps with neighbouring disciplines such as sociology, history, and psychology, and draws on philosophy and critical theory in shaping new interpretations of contemporary life.

Anthropology is also distinctive. The discipline was originally associated with the study of small-scale societies, once considered 'primitive', but it has long had a broader vision, and incorporated research in cities and contemporary environments, as well as rural and tribal societies. It remains a genuinely comparative discipline that reflects on universal issues – such as questions of power, ethnicity and gender identity – in diverse kinds of societies throughout the world.

Anthropology also has a distinctive method – that of intensive ethnographic fieldwork. While anthropologists use a range of techniques to gather and interpret social, cultural and historical information, ethnographic research that involves sustained participation in, and observation of, local social life is at the heart of the discipline. It provides unique insight into local perceptions of global phenomena and the ramifications of global processes at the local level.

## Why study Anthropology at Goldsmiths?

- Anthropology at Goldsmiths is an exciting, multi-disciplinary department, with specialists in a variety of areas of research not undertaken in other Anthropology departments in the UK or abroad.
- We are one of the most consistently innovative departments in Britain. Instrumental in the development of new fields and directions in the discipline, the department continues to be at the forefront of a number of areas, including visual anthropology, medical anthropology, the anthropology of development and rights, cultural politics, political economy, and the anthropology of media.
- Anthropology at Goldsmiths has above all a contemporary orientation, and contributes both to the development of the academic discipline and to the world outside it, through policy-oriented research and advocacy in a range of areas. What you learn in the classroom will be relevant in a variety of public domains – in Britain and elsewhere – as all of our teaching refers to relevant contemporary social issues.
- The department currently has 16 permanent members of teaching staff and three administrative staff. We have a large group of visiting tutors, and several research fellows working on a range of projects funded by bodies such as the Economic and Social Research Council, the Arts and Humanities Research Council, European Research Council, the Wellcome Trust, and the British Academy. We have approximately 250 undergraduate students, plus 80 Masters and 40 research postgraduate students.

- We also have close links with other departments and research centres at Goldsmiths, including the Centre for Cultural Studies, the Centre for Urban and Community Research, the Centre for Balkan Studies, Sociology, Psychology, History, and Media and Communications, and the Community and Youth Work section of the Department of Professional and Community Education.
- As a part of the University of London, Goldsmiths' students have opportunities to attend seminars and courses throughout the University's colleges and institutions, and can make use of the excellent library facilities at Senate House and fellow colleges.

We have wide ranging research links with other institutions, including: Institute for the Study of the Americas; Institute of Commonwealth Studies; Institute of Psychiatry, Kings College London; Royal Anthropological Institute; Imperial College School of Medicine; British Museum; National Maritime Museum; Horniman Museum; CNRS (in Paris); Federal University of Penambuco, Brazil; University of Nairobi; Medical Anthropology Unit at the School of Medicine, University of Oslo; Department of Sociology, University of Dar es Salaam; Department of Anthropology, University of Madras; Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Germany; Centre for Women's and Gender Research, Bergen; IDES (Instituto de Desarrollo Economico y Social), Buenos Aires; University of Brasilia; University of Bologna; Comenius University, Bratislava; University of Barcelona, University of Bucharest, and the Institute for Ethnic Studies, Ljubljana, Slovenia.

**Our areas of specialisation include:** the environment, peasantries, post-socialism, kinship, gender, animals, medicine health and the body, anthropology of science and biotechnology, visual anthropology, development and rights, representation, material and popular culture, cultural politics, neo-colonialisms, postcolonialisms, and history. Staff research interests cover many geographical regions including Latin America, North America, Africa, the Pacific, Asia, and Europe, including Britain. Please see page 19 for details of staff and their interests.

#### **Postgraduate study**

We also offer the following postgraduate degrees: MA in Social Anthropology, MA in Visual Anthropology, MA in Applied Anthropology and Community and Youth Work, MA in Anthropology and Cultural Politics, MA in Development and Rights, MA in Health and the Body in the 21st Century, and an MRes in Anthropology and Visual Anthropology, both leading to MPhil and PhD research degrees.

In the RAE 2008, our research outputs were classified as "internationally excellent or of internationally recognised quality, with good evidence of world-leading outputs across a range of specialist areas and staff submitted."

# Introducing the degrees

We offer four undergraduate honours degrees:

- BA (Hons) in Anthropology
- BA (Hons) in Anthropology and Media
- BA (Hons) in Anthropology and Sociology
- BA (Hons) in History and Anthropology

If you do not meet the requirements for studying at undergraduate level at this stage, you may be interested in our full-time Integrated Degree in Anthropology.

## Integrated Degree in Anthropology

The first year of this four-year programme is a Foundation Year. If you successfully achieve the progression requirements, you can automatically progress to our full-time three-year BA (Honours) in Anthropology degree. If you decide to leave having successfully completed the first year, you are awarded a Foundation Certificate.

For further information, please visit [www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/pace/foundation-anthropology](http://www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/pace/foundation-anthropology).

## Entrance requirements

Please visit [www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/anthropology](http://www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/anthropology) then click on the specific pages for each of our BA (Hons) programmes for up-to-date entrance requirements. Alternatively you can refer to the latest Undergraduate Prospectus, available from the contact details on page 20. Our standard A-level requirements are grades BBB.

**Please note:** we don't assume that you have any previous knowledge of Anthropology, and applicants with arts, social studies or science backgrounds are equally eligible for admission. We welcome applications from people with a wide range of backgrounds and interests. Applicants holding alternative qualifications are encouraged to apply, although you must satisfy the General Entrance Requirements for the University of London. While we look for certain standards of academic achievement, we also treat exam results as just one part of a candidate's overall profile, and apply equal weight to personal statements, letters of reference and/or interviews.

## English language requirement

If English is not your first language, you need to obtain evidence of your English Language competence. Tests considered appropriate include:

- International English Language Testing System\* [IELTS] – pass with at least 6.5 overall and a minimum of 6.0 in the written element
- TOEFL\* score of at least 580 including 4.5 in the Test of Written English [TWE], or 237 in the Computerised test [CT] including 4.5 in the essay component, or 92 in the Internet-based test [IBT] with 23 in the written element
- International GCSE [IGCSE] English as a second language at Grade C
- Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency of English [CPE] Level 5 at Grade C or above
- Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English [CAE] Level 4 at Grade B or above
- Pearson Test of English (Academic), with a score of 68 overall, including 68 in the written element and 59 in all other elements.

\* In line with the validity period for IELTS and TOEFL results, English proficiency qualifications must be less than two years old at the time of starting the course to be valid.

For further information, please see the Undergraduate Prospectus. Alternatively, you may wish to attend one of our Pre-sessional English Language courses.

## Application and admission

For full-time study, you need to register on-line at the UCAS website where you complete a secure web-based application. For more information, please visit the website at [www.ucas.com/apply](http://www.ucas.com/apply).

You can pay by credit/debit card when you submit your on-line application (£9.00 for a single entry, £19.00 to apply to two or more universities).

## Interview policy

We normally interview mature applicants (over 21) and those who have alternative qualifications. You are usually interviewed by one or two members of staff, and may also be asked to submit samples of written work. The interview of other candidates is generally at the discretion of the Admissions Tutors.

### **Mature students**

We welcome applications from mature students. You may be admitted without GCE A-levels if you have successfully completed a recognised access course or hold other experience that may be considered equivalent to formal qualifications. You may also want to consider our Integrated Degree in Anthropology (see page 4).

### **International students**

We welcome applications from International students – those who come from outside the EU. We accept many students with international qualifications that are equivalent to GCE A-levels.

### **Part-time students**

Part-time study is a possibility on the majority of our programmes. Please contact Admissions – contact details are on page 20.

### **Credits and levels of learning**

An undergraduate honours degree is made up of 360 credits – 120 at Level 4, 120 at Level 5 and 120 at Level 6 (for more information on these levels of learning have a look at [www.qaa.ac.uk/standardsandquality/credit/leaflet.pdf](http://www.qaa.ac.uk/standardsandquality/credit/leaflet.pdf)). If you are a full-time student, you will usually take Level 4 courses in the first year, Level 5 in the second, and Level 6 courses in your final year. Part-time students also have to earn a total of 360 credits, but spread over 4-6 years.

A standard course is worth 30 credits. Some programmes also contain 15-credit half courses or can be made up of higher-value parts, such as a dissertation or a Special Subject. Information on the credit value of each course is included with the course description.

### **Teaching**

You will be taught through a combination of lectures, seminars, practical workshops, film screenings and fieldtrips. You also have tutorials, which are individual meetings with your tutor to discuss written work. Each student in the Department of Anthropology is allocated to a Personal Tutor, a member of the academic staff who provides academic and pastoral support. The department also organises a Student Mentor System, whereby each first year student group is allocated to a

second year student mentor. The student mentor provides advice on practical and academic matters.

### **Assessment**

Courses are assessed by a combination of unseen written papers, extended essays, presentations, reports and take-home papers (which are handed out on a specific date and have to be returned by a specified deadline).

### **Fees**

For up-to-date information on fees, please visit [www.gold.ac.uk/costs](http://www.gold.ac.uk/costs) or see the Undergraduate Prospectus. **Please note:** fees are quoted per year.

### **Open days**

College-wide open days for all programmes across the university are held three times a year in the spring, summer and autumn. For further information on these, please visit [www.gold.ac.uk/opendays](http://www.gold.ac.uk/opendays).

Individual visits to the Department of Anthropology can also be arranged. Please contact the department on 020 7919 7800.

### **Careers and employability**

Our Anthropology programmes and courses aim to equip you with a range of specialist and transferable skills. As part of your studies, seminars and course work, you will develop skills in communication (including public speaking, developing and presenting an argument, note taking, report writing), analytical thinking, awareness of social, political and cultural processes. The particular set of skills associated with anthropology, including development of awareness of social and cultural difference, and learning to think 'outside the box', provides a good foundation for a number of career paths. Our students have been successful in a range of areas, from postgraduate research and teaching in higher education, to film making and other media careers, journalism, and museum curating, to applied or advocacy work for NGOs and development agencies. Our particular emphasis on public anthropology encourages our students to explore options in a range of practice-based and public sector career paths.



**“World-renowned lecturers deliver exciting and interesting lectures each week on a variety of topics: colonialism, religion, witchcraft, ritual, gift exchange and detailed ethnographies - to name just a few.”**

**Megan Nee**  
**BA (Hons) Anthropology**

# BA (Hons) in Anthropology

3 years full-time or 4 years part-time

Providing a comprehensive introduction to the key issues, themes and problems that have shaped anthropological thought since the 19th century, this degree offers a thorough study of all kinds of human society and culture. It emphasises the relevance of anthropology for understanding contemporary cultural issues. You will explore links between theoretical issues and ethnographic studies, enabling you to think critically about your own culture and society. We don't assume you already have a knowledge of anthropology, and welcome applications from anyone with arts, social studies or science backgrounds.

## What do you study?

In the first two years, you concentrate on basic anthropological concepts – such as kinship, ritual, world systems, and development – and on methods of studying and analysing these, including the use of video, film, and written texts. You can also study two regions of the world in depth.

In your final year you can specialise your studies by choosing a selection of option topics. Courses currently available enable you to investigate:

- The interrelationships of gender, sexuality and the body;
- International development from an anthropological perspective, including the imbalances in power relations, discourses, processes and institutions post-World War II;
- The anthropology of rights – from human rights to indigenous rights, animal rights to intellectual property rights, customary law to international humanitarian law;
- Medical anthropology – from ideas about healing to considerations of social inequality;
- Anthropological understandings of human-environment relations and their bearing on debates about environmentalism;
- Visual anthropology, encompassing practical exploration of the techniques of videomaking/photography in relation to anthropological theories;
- Key issues in the anthropology of art – such as conflicting definitions of art and aesthetics, and the politics inherent in the ownership and display of non-Western art;

- The study of urban spaces, their changing uses and how they are represented;
- Psychological perspectives in anthropology.

There's also the opportunity for individual project or dissertation work.

All courses are valued at 15 credits unless otherwise specified.

## Year 1

You take the following compulsory core courses:

### Introduction to Social Anthropology (30 credits)

This course acquaints you with some of social anthropology and its sub-fields' (political anthropology, economic anthropology, anthropology of religion and kinship) main theories. Beginning with the discipline of anthropology as a whole, both as it has developed historically, and as it has entered into the 21st century, it shows how examples from different cultures can be usefully compared. Illustrations are drawn from a wide range of sources, from traditional anthropological texts, clips from documentary films, through to some contemporary writings.

### Ethnography of a Selected Region I

This course introduces you to the role of ethnography – the documenting and analysis of a particular society and culture or socio-cultural area through fieldwork. It focuses on linguistic and cultural groupings of a particular region, which varies from year to year, but will be Africa, Lowland South America, Europe or South Asia.

### **Anthropological Methods**

This course offers an introduction to the history of anthropological theory and the changes in methodological practice over the last century. Aspects of anthropological methods covered are: data collection techniques and implications of type and quality of data; participant observation and the techniques involved, its evolution and change; analytical approaches to primary data; reanalyses of secondary sources from various theoretical vantage points; restudies of the same area by more than one ethnographer, with relevant samples drawn from the ethnographic literature; the philosophy of science; value-free social science; interaction between observer and observed; perception and 'fact'.

### **Ethnographic Film**

This course aims to encourage a critical appreciation of ethnographic film, introducing some of the growing literature on visual anthropology, and raising general issues of representation in anthropology as a whole.

### **Anthropology in Practice**

This course is an opportunity to investigate an issue or problem that has captured your imagination – an interest that you might want to develop as you progress further in your degree. It teaches you to formulate a research question, devise suitable methods, gather, organise and source data, and to construct an argument. It introduces the range of tools and resources available to you, online and elsewhere, as you begin your career as an anthropologist. It will help you to develop an original anthropological perspective, supported by secondary data and literature, on a topic that is important to you.

### **Anthropology Today**

What is anthropology's role in public life? How have anthropologists, past and present, contributed to some of the most pressing debates of the day? This course examines anthropology's unique position and methodologies for exploring contemporary issues, such as environmental politics, new technologies, war, conflict, racism, cognition and the nature of social experience.

### **Anthropology in London**

How is it possible to begin to understand something as complex as London from an anthropological perspective? Is there really any kind of stable entity or 'thing' we could begin to call 'London', or actually a plurality of 'Londons' – a multitude of different forms, some of which are connected in labyrinthine ways? Does it make any sense to try and make sense of London? What would an anthropology of London need to include? How would it go about collecting the relevant information? These questions and others will be tackled through a range of field trips, sound walks, and practical documenting exercises, as well as lectures and screenings. This innovative course will take a series of direct experiences of London as the starting points for considering possible anthropological approaches to the city. It will explore the history of London at first-hand, look at its portrayal by artists, writers and filmmakers, and evaluate a range of anthropological ways of tackling its complexity.

### **Year 2**

You take the following courses:

#### **Anthropology of Religion**

The course focuses on 'classic' theories and key anthropological texts on religion, magic, myth, ritual, morality, symbolism and belief. Using ethnographic examples from various parts of the world, it looks at how religious identity is inscribed in the body, spatial and temporal orders, and at the relationship between religion and secularism, mass media and the internet, transnationalism, power and resistance.

### **Anthropology and the Visual 1**

This course provides a critical introduction to the many ways anthropologists engage with the visual, from their use of visual methodologies and analysis of representations, to their ethnographic study of everyday visual forms. Focusing on a wide range of visual media, from photography, museum exhibitions and popular representations on TV, to dress, body art, architecture and other everyday visual and material forms, the course raises issues about the significance of visibility, the politics of representation, the social life of the visual and material forms and the relationship between seeing and other senses.

### **Politics, Economics and Social Change (30 credits)**

Through ethnographic examples, this course investigates interactions between changing economic and political structures and how people organise their everyday lives in the world today. Throughout the course you use key theorists such as Durkheim, Marx and Weber, who have contributed to anthropological debates on economy and society, as well as contemporary re-evaluations of these classic debates.

### **Ethnography of a Selected Region II**

This course explores the ethnography of a specific region, which may change from year to year. Through detailed reading of ethnography, as well as films and other relevant media, major themes of anthropology such as identity, community, local and global politics, inequality and processes of social and economic change are explored.

### **Ethnography of (Post)-Socialism**

This course introduces the main issues of the anthropology of socialism, beginning with the 1917 Revolution and ending by considering the effects of the turn to a market-based system, and the new political and cultural processes, and strategies for basic survival, which are graphically documented in ethnographies, films and other accounts of post-socialism.

### **General Principles in Anthropology (30 credits)**

This course offers an intellectual history of the discipline of anthropology, focusing on how anthropologists have incorporated the work of key figures in social theory. It explores the writings of authors who endeavoured to theorise or understand 'The Other' prior to the establishment of the discipline. While historical in its approach, however, the course is self-consciously not designed in a purely chronological fashion. Rather, the course allows you to see how disparate traditions developed in parallel and to explore the level of communication (or lack thereof) between sometimes distinct and sometimes interwoven intellectual genealogies.

### **Year 3**

You take either an Individual Project (30 credits) examined by an 8,000-word dissertation or an Extended Individual Project (45 credits) examined by a 10,000-12,000-word dissertation.

Both of these courses are research projects of your own choosing and design, the topic to be agreed with the member of the department who acts as supervisor. Part-time single-honours students take either of these courses in their fourth year.

The balance of Year 3, up to 120 credits, is made up of Options chosen from the list on page 16.

# BA (Hons) in Anthropology and Media

3 years full-time

This programme emphasises issues of cultural difference, symbolism, and representation in relation to social contexts – nationally and internationally, and with a contemporary and historical scope; in particular, it looks at concepts of ‘culture’ and ‘communication’. It is an interdisciplinary degree, taught in the departments of Anthropology and Media and Communications, and explores links and areas of overlap between the social sciences and the arts.

## What do you study?

All courses are valued at 15 credits unless otherwise specified.

### Year 1

#### Anthropology

You take the following compulsory core courses: Introduction to Social Anthropology (30 credits) Ethnography of a Selected Region I Anthropological Methods (please see page 7 for course descriptions)

#### Media and Communications

You take the following compulsory core courses: Media History and Politics Culture and Cultural Studies Key Debates in Media Studies Media Texts: Interpretation and Sensation **Please note:** there are no media practice courses in Year 1.

### Year 2

#### Anthropology

You take the following courses: Anthropology of Religion Anthropology and the Visual 1 Politics, Economics and Social Change (30 credits) (please see page 8 for course descriptions).

#### Media and Communications

You take the following theory and practice courses:

#### Media Theory

You take two courses from: Communications, Psychology and Experience Culture Society and the Individual Media, Economy and Society

#### Media Practice

Media Production – Option 1 (30 credits). This is chosen from seven Media Practice areas chosen by the student.

### Year 3

#### Anthropology

You select four Anthropology Option courses (see page 16).

#### Media and Communications

#### Media Theory

You are required to take two option courses from the range offered by the Department of Media and Communications. There are normally six courses offered, and these vary from year to year. The following have recently been offered for third year study: Political Economy of the Mass Media – Media and Power; Political Communications, History and Culture; Re-conceptualising Audiences; Media, Ethnicity and Nation; Music as Communication and Creative Practice; Contemporary Cultural Practice.

#### Media Practice

You take Media Production – Option 2 (30 credits)

For details on Media and Communications courses please see the Department’s undergraduate booklet, available from the contact details on page 20.

# BA (Hons) in Anthropology and Sociology

3 years full-time

Anthropology and Sociology are both concerned with human behaviour in its social context. Anthropology has concentrated on cultural difference and non-Western societies, whereas sociology has focused on industrial societies. The disciplines have started to converge, and this joint honours degree gives you a comprehensive grounding in both subjects, developing an understanding of their shared tradition and examining differences in perspective. We don't assume that you have any knowledge of anthropology, and welcome applications from those with arts, social studies or science backgrounds.

## What do you study?

All courses are valued at 15 credits unless otherwise specified.

### Year 1

#### Anthropology

You take the following compulsory core courses: Introduction to Social Anthropology (30 credits)  
Ethnography of a Selected Region I  
Anthropological Methods  
(please see page 7 for course descriptions)

#### Sociology

You take the following courses:  
Critical Readings: The Emergence of Sociological Imagination  
Modern Knowledge, Modern Power

### Year 2

#### Anthropology

You take the following compulsory core courses: Anthropology of Religion  
Anthropology and the Visual 1  
Politics, Economics and Social Change (30 credits)  
(please see page 8 for course descriptions)

And

Methodological and Philosophical Issues – this course introduces the basic issues of analytical method within anthropology and sociology with reference to philosophies of both the natural sciences and humanities.

#### Sociology

You take the following core courses:  
Central Issues in Sociological Analysis  
The Making of the Modern World

And

You also choose one Sociology option from a list (subject to availability) such as:  
Culture in Context  
Culture, Representation and Difference  
Politics, Culture and Race and Racism in Contemporary Britain  
Sexualities in Contemporary Society  
Education and Social Control  
Medicine as Culture  
Self, Narrative, Biography  
Sociology of Literature  
Sociology of Sex and Gender

### **Year 3**

#### **Anthropology**

You select two Anthropology Options (see page 16)

#### **Sociology**

You take Theorising Contemporary Society (Sociology core course) and two Sociology options (please see list below)

Or

Contemporary Social Theory and Society (Sociology core course) and one Sociology option from the range offered by the Department of Sociology, which vary from year to year:

Childhood Matters: Society, Theory and Culture

Politics, Subjects and Law

'Race', Racism and Social Theory

Researching Culture: Case Studies

Sociology of Objects

Sociology of Social Control and Punishment

Cultural Politics and Globalisation

Dance, Culture and Difference

Knowledge Science and Nature

Sociology of Action and Interaction

Space, The City and Social Theory

Vision, Truth and Knowledge

Issues In Contemporary Social Theory

The balance of Year 3 (up to 120 credits) is made up of Options chosen from both departments (see page 16 for Anthropology options). You may also choose to do a dissertation in Sociology. Goldsmiths regulations determine the exact balance of courses between the departments and these are explained carefully when you make your third year choices.

For further details on Sociology courses, please see the Department's undergraduate booklet, available from the contact details on page 20.

# BA (Hons) in History and Anthropology

3 years full-time

This degree is a challenging, critical introduction to two disciplines key to understanding human life, culture and society in the past and present. It allows you to gain a thorough knowledge of a diverse range of cultural contexts and historical periods, and encourages you to draw new connections between them. Taught jointly by the departments of History and Anthropology, the combined degree emphasises a creative engagement with processes of social change and cultural interaction.

## What do you study?

All courses are valued at 15 credits unless otherwise specified.

### Year 1

#### Anthropology

You take the following compulsory core courses:

Introduction to Social Anthropology

Ethnography of a Selected Region I

Anthropological Methods

(Please see page 7 for course descriptions).

#### History

You will take:

Concepts and Methods in History

And one of the following courses:

Religion, Peace and conflict

Dictators, War and revolution

The Nature of Humans

A Cultural History of the Self

### Year 2

#### Anthropology

You take the following two courses:

Anthropology of Religion

Anthropology and the Visual 1

Politics, Economics and Social Change (30 credits)

(Please see page 8 for course descriptions).

#### History

You choose two History options (subject to availability) offered by the Department of History, which vary from year to year.

Recent courses have included:

Contemporary Moral Problems

Magic and Myth in Medieval and

Early Modern Europe

History of Psychiatry

Gender and Culture in Medieval Europe

Health, Healing and Illness in Africa

Reform and Renewal: Religious Life in Europe

The Cultural Meaning of Animals in the Middle Ages

Buddhist Asia: A Cultural History

Representations and Realities of Marriage:

Cultural and Historical Issues

The Eclipse of a Superpower, Britain 1868-1956

France and Germany since 1870

The Crusades, 1095-1400

The Future of Britain, British History 1900-1990

### Year 3

During your third year you take:

An Individual Project that consists of independent, interdisciplinary study supervised by staff from both departments. This is assessed by a 10,000-word dissertation.

History and Anthropology (linking course) – please see page 17.

A choice of History and Anthropology Options – you may choose to take a Special Subject History course from a wide range of subjects offered not only at Goldsmiths but also by History Departments throughout the University of London. Special Subject courses offer in-depth study using original historical sources. Please see the History Undergraduate booklet for a detailed list of History options and Colleges offering Special Subjects.

In addition to the Individual Project and Anthropology and History course, you may choose to do:

One History Special Subject and one Anthropology option

Or

Two History options and one Anthropology option

Or

Three Anthropology options (please see page 16) and one History option from the range offered by the Department of History, which vary from year to year – please see below:

Buddhist Asia: A Cultural History  
Early Modern London, 1500-1666  
History and Culture from Hume to Heidegger  
Italy since 1870  
Lived Histories: Britain in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries  
Contemporary Moral Problems  
Medical History  
France and Germany since 1870  
Gender and Culture in Medieval Europe  
History of Psychiatry

Magic and Myth in Medieval and Early Modern Europe  
Reform and Renewal: Religious Life in Europe  
The Eclipse of a Superpower, 1868-1956  
The Future of Britain, British History 1900-1990  
Medieval Latin Studies  
Representations and Realities of Marriage: Cultural and Historical Issues  
The Crusades, 1095-1400  
The Cultural Meaning of Animals in the Middle Ages  
Antonio Gramsci and Italian Politics  
Feminism, Psychoanalysis and Modernity in Britain  
Buddhist Ethics  
Social Order and the Colonial City of Hong Kong 1841-1900  
Reformation and Radicalism in Germany, 1517-55  
Enlightenment Concepts of Human Nature

For further details on History courses, please see the Undergraduate History booklet, available from the contact details on page 20.



# Year 3 Anthropology options

All courses are valued at 15 credits unless otherwise specified. **Please note:** not all these Year 3 option courses are offered every year.

All students normally choose a total of four Anthropology courses in their third year, from the following list. University regulations determine how many Anthropology courses joint honours students can take, and these are explained carefully when you choose your Year 3 options.

## Anthropology of Art

This course introduces some of the key issues in the anthropology of art. It begins with an examination of the contested concept of “art” in Western thought and questions its applicability in different cultural contexts. The course covers such issues as conflicting definitions of art and aesthetics; modes of seeing within and across cultures; creativity, inspiration and the category of the artist; the body as art; issues of gender and ideology; the politics of the ownership and display of non-Western art works; imaging nationality and ethnicity through art; primitivism and the construction of the other.

## Anthropology of Art II

An opportunity to pursue a short piece of original research on an aspect of the anthropology of art. Fieldwork in London is recommended. The course is run on a seminar/workshop model where you select your own topics and present them for discussion. Oral presentations replace essays as coursework requirements. **Please note:** this course is only available to students also taking Anthropology of Art (please see above)

## Anthropology of Development

This core course will enable you to explore the theoretical concepts underpinning development, the history of development and its institutions – from NGOs to the World Bank and IMF, while considering diverse case studies from around the world. You will also explore the historical role of anthropology’s involvement in development, as official mediators between ‘the West and the rest’ through imperial conquest, colonial administration and a post-war development industry. As a central component of the course you will critically analyse current trends that have emerged to dominate the field of global political and economic interventions and/or policies – ‘participation and empowerment’, ‘gender awareness’, ‘sustainable development’, ‘community development’, ‘NGOs’, and ‘environmental conservation’.

## Anthropology and the Environment

The course examines anthropological understandings of human-environment relations and their bearing on public discourses of environmentalism. It deals with: different ways of encountering biophysical surroundings across societies; European traditions of environmental thought and their impacts; management practices, colonialism, and cultural elaboration of the idea of nature; environmental social movements, identity politics and social justice in environmentalism.

## Anthropology and Gender Theory

This course explores the inter-relationship of gender, sexuality and the body both within western cultures and western social theory, and in a range of other cultural and historical contexts. Emphasising the ways in which the body and gender have been produced/imagined differently in diverse times and places, it focuses on both classical and current anthropological topics: the status of the body – biological or cultural; decoration, modification and transformation of bodies; distinctions between sex and gender; alternative sex and gender systems; kinship, marriage and chosen families; new reproductive technologies; identity politics and queer theory; theories of performance/practice; violence, resistance and power politics.

## **Anthropology and the Visual 2**

This course explores the role of visual representation in anthropology in terms of both the history of its use within the discipline, and also the potential it holds for new ways of working. It looks at work in a wide range of media – photography, film/video, performance – and the ways in which they might be used in an anthropological context, and this will involve looking at work from outside anthropology such as photojournalism and contemporary art, as well as the work of visual anthropologists.

## **Anthropology and the Visual: Production Course**

This is a practice-based course in which you explore the techniques of video-making/ photography and produce a short film or photographic project. Please note: this course is only available to students also taking Anthropology and the Visual 2 (please see above)

## **The Anthropology of Rights**

This course encourages you to critically engage with the rights discourses that underpin development agendas in the contemporary world. You will consider the historical evolution of rights discourses, the institutions that have been established to uphold rights, the language of Human Rights found in international law, as well as the concept of rights as understood by development organisations, governments and multilaterals (such as the UN). You will analyse the cross-cutting – and often competing – claims made in the name of, for example, gender and child rights, indigenous rights, intellectual property rights, animal and environmental rights, customary law and bioethics. You will therefore have the opportunity to explore the concept and discourses of rights in relation to numerous contemporary social issues (such as natural disasters, constitutional reform, war crimes tribunals, environmental disputes and gender politics), and consider the purchase of the rights concept (and its limitations) within development discourses and practices, as well as in relation to patterns of governance and social justice.

## **Gender Theory in Practice**

This course will examine the growing literature on development with special reference to gender issues. We consider the historical effects of various forms of gender bias in the development of three regions: Africa, Latin America and the Indian subcontinent. You will address the legacy of colonialism on gender and examine recent development issues, which have had differential impact on men and women: the green revolution, migration, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, import-substitution, industrialisation and structural adjustment policies. The course will also look at certain global issues including the structures of development policy, planning and implementation as well as urbanisation, feminisation of poverty, and the new International Division of Labour. The second part of this course consists of group presentations by students.

## **Health, Medicine and Social Power**

An introduction to key areas of medical anthropology, ranging from ideas about healing to social inequality and the ‘new biology’. The course addresses issues of biomedicine in the UK alongside alternative therapies and explanations of health/illness in different parts of the world, and approaches to the political economy. Specific sessions include the application of medical anthropology, ‘new’ diseases and technologies.

## **History and Anthropology**

Anthropology has for a long time had a troubled relation with history. Nineteenth century evolutionism was replaced by the insistence of synchronic, site-specific studies. But with time, history became an issue again: the growing interpenetration forced by colonialism, capitalism and the world wars questioned the radical cultural difference on which synchronic studies were based. Inevitably, history and historical change have become the heart of anthropological theory. A number of questions and dichotomies on historical continuities and changes have emerged, both at a theoretical and at a more empirical level, like the relation of structure and agency, and the place of consciousness and historicity in relation to historical events; but also the formation of a global culture versus the persistence of local cultures and the meaning of ideas such as ‘modernity’, ‘Capitalism’ and the ‘West’.

### **Indian and Peasant Politics in Amazonia**

This course looks at Amazonian societies from pre-history to the present – indigenous, peasant, colonial, developmentalist – and includes discussion of modern social movements (Landless Peoples Movement) as well as classic themes of Levi-Strauss's 'world on the wane', human ecology and extractivist economies.

### **Knowledge, Science and Technology**

What do we know and why? How do our methods of knowing and testing that knowledge change over time and across cultural and social contexts? This course explores the social study of science and technology. Focusing in particular on the rise and spread of European techno-science, the course asks what laboratories, technical artifacts and knowledge practices can tell us about the construction and influence of so-called 'modern' societies in the world as well as the conduct of social science, especially anthropology.

### **Myth and Ritual**

There was a time when myth and ritual were seen as products of the childhood of humankind, before Science came along and disenchanting everything, a time when people languished (or gloried, depending on one's point of view) in a kind of poetic consciousness. Nowadays, anthropologists tend to assume myth and ritual are aspects of all human societies, our own included; what they can't agree on however is why. What is it that myth and ritual actually do? Are they ways of resolving existential dilemmas? Or reflecting on the fact they can't be resolved? Are they ways of establishing unquestionable authority? Forms of artistic self-expression? Media for political action? Or some combination of these? This course will explore some of these questions, by way of (hopefully colourful and interesting) concrete case studies.

### **Psychological Perspectives in Anthropology**

The course, which is both historical and thematic, is focused around a number of key scholars from the past and in the most contemporary literature who have attempted to bring a psychological dimension into Anthropology (or the Social Sciences more generally). It therefore focuses around various issues; personality, language, madness and cognition, and conceptions of the self to examine the relationship between the self, human agency and the social context.

### **Urban Anthropology**

As we enter the third millennium, the percentage of urban dwellers exceeds 50% of the world's population. The sub-field of urban anthropology was born as ethnographers followed rural migrants to cities; but at the beginning of the 20th century, the emergence of anthropology as a professional discipline was intertwined with a fascination with the urban locus across a wide range of arts and social sciences. Through historical and ethnographic perspectives this course considers the changing use and valorisation of different urban spaces at different times; how cities are represented; ideas of order and disorder, of public and domestic places, of control and resistance through carnival, informal economies and kinship networks. The course covers both third-world and Euro-American cities, and supplements theoretical discourses and ethnographies with films and novels.

# Staff and their research interests

## **Professor Catherine Alexander BA MPhil PhD**

Economic; state institutions; privatization; property rights; public/private sector interfaces; urbanisation; architecture; waste management.

## **Dr Monica Bonaccorso MPhil PhD**

Kinship, Gender and Sexuality; Anthropology of Media; Anthropology of Science and Medicine; Bioethics; Health Human Rights; Europe; East Africa.

## **Professor Rebecca Cassidy BA PhD**

Gambling; betting shops; the gambling industry; luck, skill and money. Class, gender and kinship; horseracing/breeding; the bloodstock industry; training and performance; human animal relationships; domestication; Britain.

## **Professor Sophie Day BA MA PhD**

Britain, particularly London; the Himalayas; medical anthropology, HIV and other infectious diseases; spirit possession; sex, gender, kinship; politics of work; concepts of time.

## **Dr Victoria Goddard BSc PhD**

Mediterranean anthropology, particularly Italy; Latin America, particularly Argentina; gender and kinship; nation and citizenship; work and the informal sector.

## **Dr David Graeber MA PhD**

The nature of power; value theory; the principles of direct democracy and direct action; anthropology and anarchism; the history of debt.

## **Dr Casey High MA PhD**

History and memory; violence; indigenous rights and development; political anthropology; cosmology; gender; Latin America/Amazonia; Ecuador.

## **Dr Mark Lamont BA MA PhD**

Age-set formation; generation; death and funerals; self-help movement and Pentecostalism; Kenya and Tanzania.

## **Dr Massimiliano Mollona MSc PhD**

Economic institutions and organisations; value and labour; trade unions; technology, personhood and the state; urban; visual; Britain; Brazil.

## **Professor Stephen Nugent BA PhD**

Brazilian Amazon; peasant economy; cognitive anthropology; anthropological theory; visual anthropology.

## **Dr Frances Pine BA MPhil PhD**

Socialism, postsocialism and Europe; kinship, gender and generation; movement and migration; work; deindustrialisation; memory, life stories, narratives.

## **Dr Roger Sansi-Roca MA PhD**

Anthropology of art, material culture and religion; Brazil and the Black Atlantic; Europe.

## **Dr Alpa Shah BA MSc PhD**

South Asia, Jharkhand; adivasis and indigenous movements; the state and political anthropology; revolutionary movements and violence; democracy, development and environment; migration.

## **Dr Emma Tarlo BA PhD**

Clothing, textiles, identity politics, urban anthropology, contested histories and critical events.

## **Dr Sari Wastell MA PhD**

Legal anthropology; social theory; war crimes prosecutions; post-conflict societies and 'transitional justice'; temporal idioms and time politics; African governance; The Hague, Bosnia, Swaziland and Euskadi (The Basque Country).

## **Dr Chris Wright BA MA PhD**

Visual anthropology; photography; visual culture; aesthetics; film; ethnohistory; Solomon Islands.

## **Support Staff**

### **Mr Hugh Macnicol**

Departmental Administrator

### **Mr Sam Kelly**

Postgraduate Secretary

### **Ms Rebecca Bath**

Departmental Secretary

### **Dr Ricardo Leizaola**

Visual Resources Officer

## **Joint degrees' staff**

For details of the staff from the Departments of Media and Communications, Sociology and History, please visit each Departments' web pages at [www.gold.ac.uk](http://www.gold.ac.uk).

# Contact us

Once you have read this booklet and the relevant sections of the Undergraduate Prospectus, if you have any specific queries, please phone the Department of Anthropology on +44 (0)20 7919 7800, e-mail [anthropology@gold.ac.uk](mailto:anthropology@gold.ac.uk).

If you have any admissions questions, or you would like a prospectus or booklet, please contact us as follows:

## **Admissions Office**

tel +44 (0)20 7078 5300

fax +44 (0)20 7919 7509

e-mail [admissions@gold.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@gold.ac.uk)

Prospectus hotline: tel +44

(0)20 7919 7537 (24 hours)

We can supply information in alternative formats for people with a visual impairment. Please contact Communications and Publicity on +44 (0)20 7919 7971 or e-mail [ext-comms@gold.ac.uk](mailto:ext-comms@gold.ac.uk).

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## Our Mission

We offer a transformative experience, generating knowledge and stimulating self-discovery through creative, radical and intellectually rigorous thinking and practice.

**Goldsmiths**

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Goldsmiths, University of London  
New Cross, London SE14 6NW  
+44 (0)20 7919 7171  
[www.goldsmiths.ac.uk](http://www.goldsmiths.ac.uk)