

# MA Anthropology and Cultural Politics

## Programme Specification

**Awarding Institution:**

University of London (Interim Exit Awards made by Goldsmiths' College)

**Teaching Institution:** Goldsmiths, University of London**Name of Final Award and Programme Title:** MA Anthropology and Cultural Politics**Name of Interim Exit Award(s):**

Postgraduate Certificate in Anthropology and Cultural Politics

Postgraduate Diploma in Anthropology and Cultural Politics

**Duration of Programme:** 1 year full-time or 2 years part-time**UCAS Code(s):** Not applicable**HECoS Code(s):** (100436) Anthropology**QAA Benchmark Group:** Not applicable**FHEQ Level of Award:** Level 7**Programme accredited by:** Not applicable**Date Programme Specification last updated/approved:** July 2017**Home Department:** Anthropology**Department(s) which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:**

Sociology; English and Comparative Literature; Media, Communications and Cultural Studies; Politics and International Relations

## Programme overview

The MA Anthropology and Cultural Politics is an interdisciplinary programme in anthropology at Goldsmiths that enables students to tailor their degree to their individual requirements through the selection of options from a number of departments. The MA provides a synthesis of cultural theory and political analysis appropriate to a wide range of issues and concerns in cultural life.

## Programme entry requirements

This program is aimed at graduates with an interest in working in Cultural Politics widely defined. A 2.1 undergraduate degree in a relevant discipline is normally required. Non-native speakers will normally have to satisfy the University of London requirements of IELTS (6.5) with a 6.5 in writing.

## Aims of the programme

This Masters degree concentrates upon providing students with concepts, methods, critical knowledge, analytical and practice skills that they need in order to analyse new situations for themselves, taking account of wider contexts. In particular, the MA Anthropology and Cultural Politics aims to provide students with a combination of theoretical and research training to enable them:

- To understand the history and development of cultural politics and anthropological approaches to debates in culture and cultural representation, positioning them in the context of the larger field of Anthropology and relating them to analytical and engaged cultural politics issues.
- To critically examine and discuss a range of research methods used in Anthropology and in adjacent disciplines.
- To understand theoretical perspectives on the politics of race, class, environment and gender.
- To critically analyse the changing contexts of Anthropology and Cultural Politics, taking account of the interactions between local and global factors.
- To develop a critical and coherent understanding of a specific cultural politics issue (through dissertation work) and to link this understanding to relevant discussions in Anthropology and the Social Sciences.

## What you will be expected to achieve

For the Postgraduate Certificate to be awarded, modules to the value of at least 60 CATS – which will normally include Anthropology and Cultural Politics and either Anthropological Theory or an option to the value of 30 CATS - will have been passed and the following learning outcomes will have been achieved:

### Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	Have a Masters Level command of the history and development of cultural politics and anthropological approaches to debates in culture and cultural representation, and the ability to position these approaches in the context of the larger field of Anthropology and relate them to analysis of and engagements in cultural politics.	All modules

<b>Code</b>	<b>Learning outcome</b>	<b>Taught by the following module(s)</b>
A2	Be aware of theoretical perspectives on the politics of race, class, environment and gender; have examined issues of imperialism and colonialism; be able to discuss relations between the 'North' and the 'South'.	Optional Modules
A3	Be able to analyse the changing contexts of Anthropology and Cultural Politics, taking account of the interactions between local and global factors.	All modules
A4	Have evaluated several theoretical perspectives relevant to cultural activism, voluntary and NGO work, anarchist, feminist and Marxist engagement, and be able to apply these approaches where appropriate.	All modules

### **Cognitive and thinking skills**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Learning outcome</b>	<b>Taught by the following module(s)</b>
B1	In possession of a range of research and argumentative skills that equip them for practical politics, NGOs, voluntary organisations and cultural activism.	All modules

### **Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Learning outcome</b>	<b>Taught by the following module(s)</b>
C1	Show that they can make convincing use of secondary data (library-based, fieldwork-based or statistical data) to develop an argument.	All modules

### **Transferable skills**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Learning outcome</b>	<b>Taught by the following module(s)</b>
D1	To survey and select appropriate primary and secondary sources for written work using library facilities.	All modules
D2	To plan, develop and produce sustained anthropological analyses of a range of	All modules

<b>Code</b>	<b>Learning outcome</b>	<b>Taught by the following module(s)</b>
	socio-cultural phenomena to the appropriate standard.	
D3	To work independently and effectively.	All modules
D4	To communicate complex ideas clearly and persuasively in written form.	All modules
D5	To write within specified word limits and to deadlines.	All modules

For the Postgraduate Diploma to be awarded, modules to the value of at least 120 CATS will have been passed – Anthropology and Cultural Politics, Anthropological Theory and options to the value of 60 CATS. The following learning outcomes will have been achieved:

### **Knowledge and understanding**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Learning outcome</b>	<b>Taught by the following module(s)</b>
A1	Have a Masters Level command of the history and development of cultural politics and anthropological approaches to debates in culture and cultural representation, and the ability to position these approaches in the context of the larger field of Anthropology and relate them to analysis of and engagements in cultural politics.	All modules
A2	Be able to analyse and evaluate a range of research methods used in Anthropology and in adjacent disciplines such as Media Studies, Sociology, Cultural Studies and English.	All modules
A3	Be aware of theoretical perspectives on the politics of race, class, environment and gender; have examined issues of imperialism and colonialism; be able to discuss relations between the 'North' and the 'South'.	Optional modules
A4	Be able to analyse the changing contexts of Anthropology and Cultural Politics, taking account of the interactions between local and global factors.	All modules
A5	Have evaluated several theoretical perspectives relevant to cultural activism,	All modules

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
	voluntary and NGO work, anarchist, feminist and Marxist engagement, and be able to apply these approaches where appropriate.	

## Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	In possession of a range of research and argumentative skills that equip them for practical work in cultural politics, NGOs, voluntary organisations and cultural activism.	All modules

## Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	Show that they can make convincing use of secondary data (library-based, fieldwork-based or statistical data) to develop an argument.	All modules

## Transferable skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	To survey and select appropriate primary and secondary sources for written work using library facilities.	All modules
D2	To plan, develop and produce sustained anthropological analyses of a range of socio-cultural phenomena to the appropriate standard.	All modules
D3	To work independently and effectively.	All modules
D4	To communicate complex ideas clearly and persuasively in written form.	All modules
D5	To write within specified word limits and to deadlines.	All modules

For the MA to be awarded, modules to the value of 180 CATS will have been passed – Anthropology and Cultural Politics, Anthropological Theory and options to the value of 60 CATS, plus the dissertation. The following learning outcomes will have been achieved:

## Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	Have a Masters Level command of the history and development of cultural politics and anthropological approaches to debates in culture and cultural representation, and the ability to position these approaches in the context of the larger field of Anthropology and relate them to analysis of and engagements in cultural politics.	All modules
A2	Be able to analyse and evaluate a range of research methods used in Anthropology and in adjacent disciplines such as Media Studies, Sociology, Cultural Studies and English.	All modules
A3	Be aware of theoretical perspectives on the politics of race, class, environment and gender; have examined issues of imperialism and colonialism; be able to discuss relations between the 'North' and the 'South'.	All modules
A4	Be able to analyse the changing contexts of Anthropology and Cultural Politics, taking account of the interactions between local and global factors.	All modules
A5	Have evaluated several theoretical perspectives relevant to cultural activism, voluntary and NGO work, anarchist, feminist and Marxist engagement, and be able to apply these approaches where appropriate.	All modules
A6	Have demonstrated a critical and coherent understanding of a specific cultural politics issue, through dissertation work, and to have made links between this understanding and relevant discussions in Anthropology and the Social Sciences.	All modules

## Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	Demonstrate that they can produce an extended piece of written work of a high academic standard (i.e. adequately researched, clearly written, well presented and structured and following academic conventions).	Dissertation
B2	To show in-depth and critical analytical skills in exploring and/or applying concepts in extended written work.	Dissertation
B3	To apply complex theoretical ideas creatively to other texts and socio-cultural processes.	All modules

## Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	Show that they can make convincing use of secondary data (library-based, fieldwork-based or statistical data) to develop an argument.	All modules
C2	In possession of a range of research and argumentative skills that equip them for practical work in cultural politics, NGOs, voluntary organisations and cultural activism.	All modules

## Transferable skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	To survey and select appropriate primary and secondary sources for written work using library facilities.	All modules
D2	To plan, develop and produce sustained anthropological analyses of a range of socio-cultural phenomena to the appropriate standard.	All modules
D3	To work independently and effectively.	All modules
D4	To communicate complex ideas clearly and persuasively in written form.	All modules

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D5	To write within specified word limits and to deadlines.	All modules
D6	To produce an original piece of critical and creative analytic work of considerable length (10, 000 words).	All modules
D7	To explain key ethical questions involved in anthropological research and to ensure your approach satisfies appropriate professional ethical standards and procedures.	All modules

## How you will learn

**Lectures.** The compulsory and option modules use lectures of varying duration to summarise key concepts and developments in relevant debates. Students are required to read at least one set reading, which will be a common reference point for the lecture. The lecture will enable students to self - assess their comprehension, develop critical perspectives on the reading, place the reading within broader debates and the historical development of the field. The lecture will, additionally, provide a modelling of the way to summarise and critically interrogate ethnographic examples and other kinds of data. Each lecture will have a more extensive reading list which students are encouraged to explore, necessarily so if they choose to write their assignment in this area.

**Seminars.** The compulsory module and options modules employ seminars, of varying durations. Seminars provide students with practice in articulating their thoughts on complex theoretical texts and socio-cultural processes, and an opportunity to explore concepts in relation to examples and to test their ideas against and alongside others.

**Film Screenings.** Some optional modules are accompanied by film screenings and discussion groups.

**Reading Groups.** Some option modules are accompanied by a reading group. Close textual analysis of carefully chosen works will allow students to explore in greater depth a few key readings associated with the module and to further their collaborative learning.

**Workshops.** Some optional modules run student led workshops to further explore and develop ideas generated in seminars.

**Consultation and feedback hours.** Students are encouraged to visit lecturers outside class time to discuss ideas from the module and to plan essays.

**Seminars and conferences** within the Department of Anthropology as well as in other departments of the college, will complement and help enrich the students' understanding and development of ideas.

**The virtual learning environment (VLE)** is used to give departmental guidance and regulations, access to academic and other articles and links to websites.

## How you will be assessed

Modules are assessed by a variety of methods appropriate to relevant learning outcomes including: Dissertation – a thorough critical discussion of existing knowledge in a relevant area; reports; take-home papers. Options may require a presentation or production of visual material.

## Marking criteria

Mark	Descriptor	Specific Marking Criteria
80-100%	Distinction (Outstanding/ Exceptional)	A mark in the 80s or even in the 90s will be awarded in the case of really accomplished work, demonstrating high levels of scholarship and originality, although grades in the 90s should be reserved for work deemed to be outstanding and of publishable quality.
70-79%	Distinction	A mark of 70-79% is awarded when candidates show evidence of an excellent application of appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills as specified in the module learning outcomes. Typically, this involves extensive reading and grasp of questions and their context and an exceptional degree of clarity in argument and use of evidence. Knowledge and understanding will have been presented critically, with insight and independence of thought. Argument and analysis of reading will demonstrate the candidates own reasoning and be exceptionally clear, critical, well-focused and cogent.
60-69%	Merit	A mark of 60-69% is awarded when candidates show a good application of appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills as specified in the module learning outcomes. This involves consistency and fluency in discussing and evaluating reading from a range of sources and an ability to relate this reading to the assessment tasks.
50-59%	Pass	A mark of 50-59% is awarded when there is clear evidence of a satisfactory application appropriate, knowledge, understanding and skills as specified in the module learning outcomes. Typically this involves evidence of knowledge and

Mark	Descriptor	Specific Marking Criteria
		understanding where there is a limited development of ideas and critical comment.
30-49%	Fail	A mark between 30-49% is awarded when there is not a satisfactory application of appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills as specified in the module learning outcomes. There may be confusion and incoherence and unfocused comment on the literature.
10-29%	Bad fail	A mark between 10-29% is awarded when only some but not all of the learning outcomes specified for the module have been achieved. Typically a candidate in this position will not have satisfied the examiners that they have read and understood the essential texts of the module. Research involved in the writing of module work or the dissertation will be poorly organised and inadequately discussed.
1-9%	Very bad fail	A submission that does not even attempt to address the specified learning outcomes.
0%	Non submission or plagiarised	A categorical mark representing either the failure to submit an assessment or a mark assigned for a plagiarised assessment.

## How the programme is structured

The programme structure is shown in the tables below.

### Full-time mode

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Anthropology and Cultural Politics	AN71035C	30	7	Compulsory	1 or 2
Anthropological Theory* *Students who have a first degree in Anthropology may replace "Anthropological Theory" with an additional option module.	AN71081B	30	7	Compulsory	1 or 2
Optional modules to the value of 60 CATS. Optional modules must be chosen from approved lists.	Various	60	7	Optional	1 and/or 2
Dissertation	AN71084A	60	7	Compulsory	1,2,3

## Part-time mode

### Academic year of study 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Anthropology and Cultural Politics	AN71035C	30	7	Compulsory	1 or 2
Anthropological Theory* *Students who have a first degree in Anthropology may replace “Anthropological Theory” with an additional option module.	AN71081B	30	7	Compulsory	1 or 2

### Academic year of study 2

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Status	Term
Optional modules to the value of 60 CATS. Optional modules must be chosen from approved lists.	Various	60	7	Optional	1 and/or 2
Dissertation	AN71084A	60	7	Compulsory	1,2,3

## Academic support

Support for learning and wellbeing is provided in a number of ways by departments and College support services who work collaboratively to ensure students get the right help to reach their best potential both academically and personally.

All students are allocated a Personal Tutor (one in each department for joint programmes) who has overall responsibility for their individual progress and welfare. Personal Tutors meet with their student at least twice a year either face-to-face, as part of a group and/or electronically. The first meeting normally takes place within the first few weeks of the autumn term. Personal Tutors are also available to students throughout the year of study. These meetings aim to discuss progress on modules, discussion of the academic discipline and reports from previous years if available (for continuing students). This provides an opportunity for progress, attendance and assessment marks to be reviewed and an informed discussion to take place about how to strengthen individual learning and success.

All students are also allocated a Senior Tutor to enable them to speak to an experienced academic member of staff about any issues which are negatively impacting their academic

study and which are beyond the normal scope of issues handled by Programme Convenors and Personal Tutors.

Students are provided with information about learning resources, the [Library](#) and information available on [Learn.gold \(VLE\)](#) so that they have access to department/ programme handbooks, programme information and support related information and guidance.

Taught sessions and lectures provide overviews of themes, which students are encouraged to complement with intensive reading for presentation and discussion with peers at seminars. Assessments build on lectures and seminars so students are expected to attend all taught sessions to build knowledge and their own understanding of their chosen discipline.

All assessed work is accompanied by some form of feedback to ensure that students' work is on the right track. It may come in a variety of forms ranging from written comments on a marked essay to oral and written feedback on developing projects and practice as they attend workshops.

Students may be referred to specialist student services by department staff or they may access support services independently. Information about support services is provided on the [Goldsmiths website](#) and for new students through new starter information and induction/Welcome Week. Any support recommendations that are made are agreed with the student and communicated to the department so that adjustments to learning and teaching are able to be implemented at a department level and students can be reassured that arrangements are in place. Opportunities are provided for students to review their support arrangements should their circumstances change. The [Disability](#) and [Wellbeing](#) Services maintain caseloads of students and provide on-going support.

The [Careers Service](#) provides central support for skills enhancement, running [The Gold Award](#) scheme and other co-curricular activities that are accredited via the Higher Education Achievement Report ([HEAR](#)).

The [Academic Skills Centre](#) works with academic departments offering bespoke academic literacy sessions. It also provides a programme of academic skills workshops and one-to-one provision for students throughout the year.

## **Links with employers, placement opportunities and career prospects**

The programme is great preparation for any role that involves research and communication. Graduates have pursued opportunities in journalism, other media, policy, education and

public debate; they have also gone on to research degrees, either at Goldsmiths or elsewhere.

## **The requirements of a Goldsmiths degree**

All taught postgraduate degrees have a minimum total value of 180 credits and involve one calendar year of full-time study. Some programmes may extend over more than one calendar year and, when this is the case, they have a higher total credit value. Programmes are composed of individual modules, each of which has its own credit value. Part-time students normally take modules to the value of 90 credits each year. If a programme has a part-time pathway, the structure will be set out in the section “How the programme is structured” above. Normally, all modules are at level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications.

More detailed information about the structure and requirements of a Goldsmiths degree is provided in the [Goldsmiths Qualifications and Credit Framework](#).

### **Modules**

Modules are defined as:

- “Optional” – which can be chosen from a group of modules
- “Compulsory” – which must be taken as part of the degree

### **Progression**

Some programmes may require students to pass specific modules prior to completion of the dissertation/major project (or equivalent). Additionally, where a programme of study extends beyond one calendar year, students may be required to pass specific modules in their first year of study before progressing to the second year. Where this is the case, these requirements will be set out in this Programme Specification.

### **Award of the degree**

In order to graduate, students must successfully complete all modules specified for the programme, as set out within the section “How the programme is structured” above.

### **Classification**

Final degree classification is calculated on the basis of a student’s mean average mark (based on credit value) across all modules on the programme.

Masters degrees are awarded with the following classifications:

Distinction – 70%+

Merit – 60-69%

Pass – 50-59%

More detail on the [calculation of the final classification](#) is on our website.

## **Interim exit awards**

Some programmes incorporate interim exit points of Postgraduate Certificate and/or Postgraduate Diploma, which may be awarded on the successful completion of modules to the minimum value of 60 credits or 120 credits respectively. The awards are made without classification.

When these awards are incorporated within the programme, the relevant learning outcomes and module requirements will be set out within the “What you will be expected to achieve” section above.

The above information is intended as a guide, with more detailed information available in the [Goldsmiths Academic Manual](#).

## **Programme-specific rules and facts**

### **Intermediate Awards**

PGCert: Students who successfully complete modules to the value of 60 CATS, which must include the module “Anthropology and Cultural Politics”, may exit the programme with the award of a PGCert.

PGDip: Students who successfully complete modules to the value of 120 CATS, which must include the modules “Anthropology and Cultural Politics” and “Anthropological Theory”, may exit the programme with the award of a PGDip.

### **Progression Requirements**

First year part-time students are normally required to complete successfully “Anthropology and Cultural Politics” and “Anthropological Theory” before proceeding to their second year of study.

## General programme costs

In addition to your tuition fees, you will be responsible for meeting standard costs associated with your study. Find out more information at [gold.ac.uk/programme-costs](http://gold.ac.uk/programme-costs).

## Specific programme costs

In addition to these standard costs, you will also be expected to meet some costs which are specifically related to your programme, which are set out below:

**Field Trips:** Some modules will include field trips to museums or sites within the greater London area. Students are expected to cover the costs of their local transportation. On occasion, field trips may be taken to venues which charge admission, however these are always optional.

**Field Work:** Some students may decide to undertake fieldwork as part of their final individual project or dissertation. Students who do so are responsible for their own travel and accommodation costs.

**Work Placements:** Students undertaking a placement or practice-based module off-campus are responsible for their own transportation and subsistence costs while on placement.

## How teaching quality will be monitored

Goldsmiths employs a number of methods to ensure and enhance the quality of learning and teaching on its programmes.

Programmes and modules are formally approved against national standards and are monitored throughout the year, such as in departmental committees, a variety of student feedback mechanisms and through the completion of module evaluation questionnaires. Every programme has at least one External Examiner who reviews comments annually on the standards of awards and student achievement. External Examiner(s) attend Boards of Examiners meetings and submit an annual written report.

Modules, programmes and/or departments are also subject to annual and periodic review internally, as well as periodic external scrutiny.

Quality assurance processes aim to ensure Goldsmiths' academic provision remains current, that the procedures to maintain the standards of the awards are working effectively and the quality of the learning opportunities and information provided to students and applicants is appropriate.

Detailed information on all these procedures are published on the [Quality Office web pages](#).