

Anthropology at SDSU

Welcome to San Diego State! We in the Department of Anthropology are excited that you have already expressed your interest in Anthropology and are looking forward to working with you.

Anthropology is the study of what makes us human. We have developed four approaches, called subfields, to asking questions about humanity.

- **Biological Anthropology** studies human evolution as a biocultural phenomenon, including the study of non-human primates such as monkeys and apes. Biological anthropologists also study how humans vary biologically, and how biology and culture work together to shape our lives. Forensic anthropologists apply anthropology to help identify and understand human remains.
- **Socio-Cultural Anthropology** focuses on how people understand and interact with the world, including other people. Socio-cultural anthropologists study particular cultures in detail, as much as possible by living with communities. They also compare cultural systems with each other and look at processes of cultural change and domination. **Linguistic Anthropologists** study the structure and uses of language in social interactions, including how meanings are shared and how language can reinforce or challenge relations of power.
- **Archaeology** studies human culture by focusing on objects people have made or ways they have transformed their environments. Archaeologists study the human past, from the earliest humans to ourselves today. They have developed methodologies for understanding what objects can tell us about the people that made them. Archaeologists may ask questions about long-term processes, such as the development of agriculture or the impacts of humans on the natural landscape.

Applied Anthropology is the use of anthropology to help solve problems in the world. Applied anthropologists work with communities to improve health care and education. They work in museums or park systems to interpret and explain the past. They work for business to help improve products. They help to preserve cultural heritage from destruction. They work as forensic anthropologists to help identify victims of mass violence. They work with public and private agencies to involve local people in environmental programs. They help indigenous communities to protect and revive endangered language. There is almost no end to the possibilities for applying anthropology.

More Information about Anthropology at SDSU

Check out our SDSU webpage: <https://anthropology.sdsu.edu/>

Check out our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/SDSUAnthropology

Follow us on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/anthrosdsu/>

Make sure you can access to the Anthropology "Homeroom" on Blackboard.

Preparing to become an Anthropology major

To prepare for the major, you need to accumulate 60 units (typically this happens by your fourth semester), and take the following three courses, passing them with a grade of "C" or higher:

- ANTH 101 Human Biocultural Origins
- ANTH 102 Introduction to Socio-Cultural Anthropology
- ANTH 103 Introduction to Archaeology and World Prehistory

Note that these courses will also help fulfill your General Education requirements.

Requirements for the Major

Once you become a major, our requirements include taking:

- Upper division core courses in the four subfields of Anthropology:
 - ANTH 301 Principles of Biological Anthropology
 - ANTH 302 Principles of Archaeology
 - ANTH 303 Principles of Socio-Cultural Anthropology
 - ANTH 304 Principles of Anthropological Linguistics
- Two courses in anthropological methods from the following courses: ANTH 312, 348, 355, 360, 495, 505, 520, 531, 532, 560, 561, 563; and ANTH 483, 499 and 583 with consent of the undergraduate adviser.
- 18 additional upper division units for Anthropology

See your catalog for details.

Our **Undergraduate Advisor**, Dr. Isaac Ullah, is here to answer your questions and guide you through the major; please go see him! You can reach him at iullah@sdsu.edu, and his office is AL-480. His office hours will be posted at the beginning of the Fall Semester, and these are the best times to go see him. Office hours are first-come first-served. You can also often make an appointment with him if you need to.

Our Faculty

We have a vibrant faculty who are actively engaged in research, often involving students in their work.

In biological anthropology their work includes studying human interactions with other primates, what we can learn from skeletal remains about the lives of past peoples, and how plant substances help prevent disease. Our archaeologists study in Central Asia and the Mediterranean to understand how humans moved from foraging to agriculture, in southern Arizona and the US/Mexico border region, along the California coast and the Channel Islands, as well as a variety of sites in San Diego, including the SDSU campus itself. Our socio-cultural anthropologists range widely in their work, from Pacific Islands, to Brazil, to Mexico, to San Diego itself, studying such things as how local people interact with their environment and conservation programs, how violence is played out in government relations with poor urban residents, to the impact of outmigration on communities left behind, and parents' use of cannabis to treat their children's illnesses. Our faculty are engaged in applying anthropology to help solve real problems in the world, as well as to understand what makes humans tick.

Check out our website for information about our faculty. And get to know them. Their office hours will be posted on our website at the beginning of the semester.

Association of Anthropology Students

Our undergraduate Anthropology club, the Association of Anthropology Students, is a great way to meet other students interested in Anthropology. They will be announcing their first meeting early in the semester.

Check out their website at: <http://sdsuaas.weebly.com/>

They are on Facebook as **SDSU Association of Anthropology Students** and on Instagram as **sdsu_aas**.