

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK

Requirements

Social-cultural Ph.D. Program

For the Ph.D. in social-cultural anthropology, students must accomplish the following (in addition to the university requirements):

- 90 semester hours of graduate study (undergraduate courses, including language courses, do not satisfy this requirement)
- 7 Required courses:
 - ANTH 506 History of Anthropological Ideas
 - ANTH 507 Anthropological Directions from Second World War to the Present
 - ANTH 598 Ethnographic Research Methods
 - ANTH 601 Graduate Pro-Seminar in Anthropology
 - ANTH 602 Anthropology Proposal Writing Seminar
 - ANTH 615 Theories of Modernity/Postmodernity
 - ANTH 650 Pedagogy (one semester; a minimum of 18 hours of graduate credit is required in order to be eligible to take this course)
- Advance to Candidacy
- Complete and defend the dissertation

Requirements for candidacy (and thus eligibility for an automatic M.A.), to be completed no later than the end of the eighth semester of enrollment in the program:

- Successful completion of all required courses. Students must receive at least a B (3.0) in a course for the department to deem it successfully completed. They must maintain a G.P.A. of at least 3.0 each semester to remain in good standing.
- The approval by a faculty committee (chosen among the regular [i.e. tenured or tenure-track] faculty at Rice) of three major papers:
 - one concerning some issue of research design;
 - one concerning an issue of theory or theorization;
 - one an annotated bibliography of the substantive research relevant to the Ph.D. project.One of the first two of these papers should be written in the format and in conformity with the requirements of one of the major journals in the field.
- The committee's approval of the proposal for the Ph.D.

- For students not multilingual, the passing of an examination (requiring the translation of at least 1,000 words into English in a period of 90 minutes, with the help of a dictionary) either of the language relevant to the field or of a major scholarly language, such as French, German or Spanish.

M.A. in Social-cultural Anthropology

The requirements for conferral of the M.A. are identical to the requirements for Candidacy, but students must formally apply to the Department and the Dean of Graduate Studies in order to receive the M.A.

Terminal M.A. in Social-cultural anthropology

In rare circumstances, students entering the Ph.D. program may decide to terminate their studies with the receipt of an M.A. In such cases, they must successfully complete all of the courses required in the program. Additionally, they must submit one major paper and a thesis to a committee of three members and successfully defend the thesis.

M.A. in Archaeological Field Techniques and Laboratory Analysis

This degree program is aimed specifically at individuals who plan to do fieldwork in an African setting. The curriculum is designed to impart competence in all the elements of archaeological fieldwork, including the design of field research programs, excavation and survey techniques, laboratory analysis, database development and archiving, and curation of archaeological materials. The program stresses an anthropological approach to the investigation of the past, which will be new for African students, who study archaeology as a branch of history. A special feature is an emphasis on cultural property and heritage management issues.

Requirements for the M.A.:

30 credit hours of approved coursework (must include Anth 562, 656, 443, and 800 as indicated, plus at least one other course at the 500 level or above, 1 of the 3 special papers required for the Ph.D., and a thesis.

Coursework:

30 credit hours plus M.A. Thesis Research and writing

At least six courses MUST be drawn from the following:

Anth 201 Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
Anth 203 Human Antiquity
Anth 205 Introduction to Archaeology
Anth 210 Anthropology of Death
Anth 512 African Prehistory
Anth 545 The Politics of the Past
Anth 555 Landscape Archaeology
Anth 625 Advanced topics in archaeology (laboratory analysis, database development)
Anth 642 Museums: Theory and Practice
Anth 656 Heritage Management
Anth 658 Human Osteology
Anth 660 Advanced Archaeological Theory
Soci 398 Social Statistics

In addition, the following courses are required (9 semester hours):

Anth 562 Archaeological Field Techniques
Anth 656 Cultural Heritage and Resource Management
Anth 443 Archaeological Research design
M.A. Thesis Research and writing
Anth 800 (variable credit)

Additional requirements:

Summer excavation experience

Ph.D. in Anthropology with a Specialization in Archaeology

Students seeking the Ph.D. with a specialization in archaeology must accomplish the following (in addition to the university requirements):

90 semester hours of graduate study (undergraduate courses, including language courses, do not satisfy this requirement);

the completion of all the requirements for the M.A., excluding the requirement of a thesis;

Three research papers, at least one of which must be an original data paper; and

A dissertation proposal. Upon successful completion of all required coursework and committee approval of the research papers and dissertation proposal, students are eligible for advancement to Candidacy and the M.A.

Maintenance of Good Standing

Students are required to maintain a cumulative G.P.A. of no lower than 3.0 in order to preserve good standing in the program. In addition, students who receive a grade lower than B in any required course must retake that course.

Monitoring Progress Through the Program

Department faculty regularly assess the progress of students enrolled in their courses and regularly inform the Director of Graduate Studies of their findings. The Director will meet personally with any student judged not to be making satisfactory progress through the program in order to devise a plan for improvement. Students should constitute a Candidacy Committee of three members, at least two of whom must be regular department faculty, no later than the end of their second year of the program. The Committee will further monitor each student's progress toward readiness to undertake research for the Ph.D. The Ph.D. Committee will monitor progress beyond candidacy. In addition, all students who have not been advanced to candidacy are required to submit a self-assessment of progress to all the faculty by the last day of classes in the spring semester. A panel of faculty will subsequently convene to discuss the reports and the Director of Graduate Studies will provide a written summary of the judgments reached at the meeting.

Petitions, Appeals and Grievances

Students who wish to petition the department or the Graduate Office for extensions of deadlines or other administrative matters, or to appeal a departmental decision already made, should send the petition via email to the Director of Graduate Studies. The Director will convene a faculty committee of at least three members to consider the request.

Any student who has a conflict with a faculty member or a student colleague is first encouraged to seek to settle the conflict directly. Should this not be possible or should the conflict remain unresolved, any student may approach either the department Chair or the Director of Graduate Studies in order to file a grievance. A committee of at least three faculty who are not named in the grievance will be convened in order to consider the grievance and suggest a plan for its resolution.