

# School of Social Sciences



*Anthropologists can be found studying every corner and culture of the globe.*

*I have always been interested in history, culture and people's lives. When I was in high school, I had the opportunity to work as a translator at a refugee camp in Syria. The experience gave me a glimpse into the type of fieldwork and research anthropologists perform throughout the world, and I wanted to learn more.*

*Studying anthropology at UC Irvine has helped me to view the world through very different lenses, and my experiences thus far have been extremely rewarding.*

*-Hadia Hakim*  
Anthropology Major

## Anthropology

### What is anthropology?

When most people hear the word “anthropology,” they think bones and stones, Indiana Jones, or “primitive” people in face paint. Modern anthropology is actually comprised of four subfields: sociocultural anthropology, linguistic anthropology, archaeology, and biological anthropology. While you might be more familiar with the “primitive people” stereotype of anthropology from TV shows like “Third Rock from the Sun” or *National Geographic* magazine, you should know that anthropologists can be found studying every corner of the globe, every culture, and every time period, from ancient kingdoms to contemporary small scale societies to the shopping malls of Orange County. Anthropology is as broad as the world around us, and as diverse as the communities and cultures occupying the globe.

The anthropology department at UC Irvine specializes in sociocultural anthropology, the subfield of anthropology devoted to the in-depth study of culture. Some of our faculty also have research interests and expertise in linguistic anthropology, the branch of the field devoted to studying relationships among language, culture and society.

Sociocultural anthropology emphasizes field research. In other words, although we may use surveys or statistical data like other social scientists, we also spend a lot of time “hanging out” with the people we study, listening to them talk, attending carefully to their words, the worlds they spin from them, and the rich texture of their everyday lives. We offer courses that expose our majors and minors to the breadth of the field while demonstrating the significance of anthropology to contemporary society.

### What can I do with an anthropology degree?

As the world continues to evolve into a globalized society, understanding cross-cultural connections, ethnic and religious differences, and political and economic changes in varying parts of the world will be of key importance in all lines of work. Anthropology approaches these issues from historical, biological, linguistic and cultural perspectives.

A major in anthropology provides students with a broad background as well as intensive knowledge about subfields and geographical regions. The major equips students with communication, research and team working skills necessary for success in a wide variety of jobs in business, government and non-governmental organizations, while providing training that may lead to advanced studies in anthropology and professional schools of law, medicine and others. Many of our undergraduate majors have gone on to the very top graduate programs in the country after completing their undergraduate degree at UC Irvine.

### Topics of research in anthropology

The anthropology faculty at UC Irvine maintain expertise in the small scale societies that were once the traditional focus of anthropology while also studying global transformations in areas such as mass media, global markets, technology and government.

Using a wide range of methods to study everything from food in the Marshall Islands to new cultures of cyberspace, faculty and students work together to understand the world around us.

## Suggested curriculum for an anthropology major

### Freshman<sup>1</sup> (12 to 16 units per quarter)

Anthropology 2A  
Anthropology 2B, 2C, or 2D  
Lower Division Writing (two courses)  
General Education II or IV (three courses)  
Social Science 3A  
General Education VI<sup>2</sup>  
Electives (one or two courses)

### Sophomore<sup>3</sup> (16 units per quarter)

Anthropology 30A or 30B<sup>4</sup>  
Anthropology 10A-B-C or another series for School math requirement  
General Education II or IV (three courses)  
General Education VII (one course)  
Social Sciences Elective (three courses)  
Elective (one course)

### Junior (16 units per quarter)

Upper-division Writing (one course)  
Anthropology 120-159, 170-179 (three courses)  
Anthropology 30A, 30B<sup>4</sup>, 40-179, 180A<sup>5</sup> (four courses)  
General Education IX (one course)  
Electives (two courses)

### Senior (16 units per quarter)

Anthropology 160-169 (two courses)  
Anthropology 199-Independent Research  
Electives (roughly seven - eight courses)

<sup>1</sup>Students should move from a 12 to 16 unit work load sometime in first year, when comfortable with the change

<sup>2</sup>Language may be satisfied in high school prior to matriculation

<sup>3</sup>Considering that students need approximately 60 elective units beyond general education, school and major requirements, they should start thinking early about how to satisfy these, especially when potential minors or double majors have prerequisites

<sup>4</sup>Students are also strongly encouraged to take both Anthropology 30A and 30B.

<sup>5</sup>Students are strongly encouraged to take Anthropology 180A after they have had at least three courses beyond Anthropology 2A and 2B, 2C, or 2D.

## Opportunities in anthropology at UC Irvine

Explore the opportunities available to students interested in studying anthropology at UC Irvine.

### Honors Program

Are you looking for a challenge? The honors program in anthropology allows students to pursue exciting field research and write an honors thesis under the guidance of anthropology faculty. Learn more about the honors program and required application process online at [www.anthro.uci.edu/undergrad](http://www.anthro.uci.edu/undergrad).

### Certificate Program

In order to provide more focused training with real-world applications, the anthropology department offers five certificate programs to undergraduate anthropology majors, and one certificate program (ethnomusicology) to all undergraduates. Topics include: **economy and culture, ethnomusicology, gender studies, global studies, law and policy, and medical anthropology.**

Each certificate is designed to complement a student's coursework for the major, while providing expertise in a specific area of anthropological inquiry. Learn more online at [www.anthro.uci.edu/undergrad](http://www.anthro.uci.edu/undergrad).

### Anthropology Minors

Are you interested in anthropology but don't feel that a major is right for you? The department offers minors in general **anthropology, medical anthropology and archaeology.** Learn more about our minors and requirements online at [www.anthro.uci.edu/undergrad](http://www.anthro.uci.edu/undergrad).

## Undergraduate Counseling Office

The Social Sciences Undergraduate Counseling Office provides numerous services and special programs for undergraduate students including course planning, change of major requests, financial aid appeals, course substitutions, and information concerning honors, graduate and professional school, and careers and internships. Visit the Counseling Office online at [www.socsci.uci.edu/ugs](http://www.socsci.uci.edu/ugs) or call (949) 824-6803 today to set up an appointment.

## Academic Resource Center

A great starting point for information about academic-related endeavors is the School of Social Sciences Academic Resource Center (SSARC) where students may obtain information about internships, graduate school, and prospective careers in a number of Social Sciences related fields. Visit the Academic Resource Center online at [www.socsci.uci.edu/ssarc](http://www.socsci.uci.edu/ssarc) or call (949) 824-8322 today to set up an appointment.



*Pictured at right: Hadia Hakim, anthropology undergraduate student. Photo courtesy of Kristy Harris.*