

# ANTHROPOLOGY

## Undergraduate Study

MIT's Anthropology Program introduces students to intensive studies in such areas as environmental politics and social dimensions of climate change; class and economic inequality; food studies; medical anthropology; cultures of science and technology; gender, sexuality, race, and family; and migration and nationalism.

Excluding Independent Study, Thesis, and Special Subjects, the Anthropology curriculum is divided into six topic clusters that provide depth on related topics:

- 21A.00, 21A.01, and 21A.157 are core subjects.
- 21A.100 to 21A.199 address general issues related to culture, politics, and identities.
- 21A.300 to 21A.499 examine bodies, health, and the environment in global and local settings.
- 21A.500 to 21A.599 focus on science, technology, and media in various institutional, economic, and political contexts.
- 21A.800 to 21A.899 focus on research methods in Anthropology.

For additional information about undergraduate study in anthropology (<http://web.mit.edu/anthropology/undergraduate/subjects.html>), visit the website.

Students taking a concentration in anthropology should enroll in 21A.00 Introduction to Anthropology: Comparing Human Cultures, 21A.01 How Culture Works, or 21A.157 The Meaning of Life, and two other subjects. Anthropology subjects qualify for several interdisciplinary concentrations, including those in Women's and Gender Studies, Latin American and Latino/a Studies, and Science, Technology, and Society.

### Bachelor of Science in Anthropology (Course 21A)

The undergraduate program leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science in Anthropology (Course 21A) (<https://catalog.mit.edu/degree-charts/anthropology-course-21a>) provides a thorough grounding in cultural anthropology.

Majors learn about the concept of culture and the processes by which humans make meaningful transactions, the nature of ethnographic fieldwork, and the connections between anthropology and the other social sciences. Majors study the theories explaining human behavior as well as the range of methods anthropologists use to analyze empirical data. Students can focus on particular geographical areas, including Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America, or North America, and on such issues as immigration, multiculturalism, environmental justice, medicine, globalization, religion, social media, cultures of computing, or food cultures.

The anthropology student comes to understand that the hallmark of the discipline is the comparative study of human societies. Emphasis

is on understanding diversity and the importance of the concept of culture in explaining that variety, as well as on learning about the universals of behavior that may underlie diversity.

### Joint Degree Programs

Joint degree programs are offered in anthropology in combination with a field in engineering or science (21E, 21S). See the joint degree programs (<https://catalog.mit.edu/schools/humanities-arts-social-sciences/humanities/#undergraduatetext>) listed under Humanities.

21A.00 Introduction to Anthropology: Comparing Human Cultures, 21A.01 How Culture Works, or 21A.157 The Meaning of Life is strongly recommended as a preliminary subject for all anthropology degree programs.

### Minor in Anthropology

The Minor in Anthropology consists of six subjects arranged into two tiers as shown below. Students create individual programs with the help of the minor advisor to ensure that they gain a coherent understanding of the methods, approaches, and some of the results of the discipline.

Tier I		
21A.00	Introduction to Anthropology: Comparing Human Cultures	12
or 21A.01	How Culture Works	
or 21A.157	The Meaning of Life	
Tier II		
With approval of the minor advisor, select five subjects (not to include 21A.00 or 21A.01 or 21A.157) <sup>1</sup>		54-60
<b>Total Units</b>		<b>66-72</b>

<sup>1</sup> Examples of five subjects with a unifying theme are: Anthropology of Science, Medicine, and Technology (21A.311, 21A.407 (<http://student.mit.edu/catalog/search.cgi?search=21a.407&style=verbatim>) or 21A.410 (<http://student.mit.edu/catalog/search.cgi?search=21a.410&style=verbatim>), and three subjects from 21A.500 (<http://student.mit.edu/catalog/search.cgi?search=21a.500&style=verbatim>) - 21A.520 (<http://student.mit.edu/catalog/search.cgi?search=21a.520&style=verbatim>); Gender (21A.103[]), 21A.111[], 21A.141[], 21A.143[], and 21A.504[]); or Culture and Identity (21A.104, 21A.111[], 21A.130[], 21A.150, and 21A.155).