

Anthropology

Course 21A

Anthropology classes introduce students to the fundamentals of cross-cultural understanding, providing the tools with which to analyze how and why people do things differently in different times and places. Cultural anthropology explores the diversity of human beliefs and practices as interactive processes that create meaning, power, and history. Anthropologists study the widest array of phenomena to uncover the ways in which people create sustainable communities as well as struggle for change.

Anthropology at MIT

Undergraduate subjects cover a wide range of topics, with special strengths in the study of the contemporary world and the social context of technology. Current offerings include bio-medical ethics and medical anthropology; identity and difference, particularly ethnic and national identities; violence and human rights; gender and family; and the supernatural, mysticism, and religion. Other subjects focus on technology and culture, including food and culture; sound, drugs, and politics; cultures of computing; and the reproductive technology of biology. The department also offers classes on social theory and research methods that prepare students for undertaking further study in anthropology or other fields, such as law, medicine, science, business, and engineering.

Undergraduate Program

Major in Anthropology

There are three options for the SB degree: a full major in anthropology, a joint major with engineering, and a joint major with science. With the aid and approval of an anthropology faculty advisor,

students design their own programs. Full majors take 12 anthropology subjects. Joint majors take six engineering or science subjects and nine anthropology subjects. On the invitation of faculty, anthropology majors may write an undergraduate thesis.

Minor and Concentration in Anthropology

Students may elect to minor in anthropology by completing six subjects forming a coherent course of study. Minor fields are designated on undergraduate diplomas. Students may fulfill the Institute's humanities concentration requirement by completing three anthropology subjects. Students design their proposals for minors and concentrations in anthropology in consultation with faculty advisors.

Contact Information

Further information may be obtained from:
The Anthropology Program, MIT
77 Massachusetts Avenue, Room E53-335
Cambridge, MA 02139-4307
Phone: (617) 253-3065
Information is also available on the web at
<http://web.mit.edu/anthropology/>.

The MIT Course Catalog contains further information on the Institute, including all graduate and undergraduate courses and programs. For details on ordering the course catalogue, please visit the MIT Press Bookstore website at
<http://web.mit.edu/bookstore/www/bulletin.html>.

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