

# MAJOR

# BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ANTHROPOLOGY

## DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

524 West 59th Street, New York, NY 10019 ■ New Building, 9.63.30 ■ 212-237-8286

[jjay.cuny.edu/departments-anthropology](http://jjay.cuny.edu/departments-anthropology)

### MAJOR COORDINATOR

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See all major requirements at: [jjay.cuny.edu/anthropology-major-resources](http://jjay.cuny.edu/anthropology-major-resources)

## WHAT WILL YOU LEARN IN THIS MAJOR?

Anthropology is the study of people and their cultures across the world. For undergraduates it provides unique and important knowledge and skills for professional success in culturally diverse work environments. Students learn about the different ways people think and act in life with respect to love, food, family, religion, work, sexuality, safety, communication, their relationship to the environment and its resources and the law among vastly different peoples and cultures across the globe. Anthropology students gain understanding of the ways that politics shape the economy and the economy shapes politics as well as how legal systems manage social life and the Earth's biodiversity and distribution of natural resources. We focus our study of culture on issues of crime, inequality, diversity, and justice as it is broadly conceived in all human activities.

Students in this major have a chance to get first-hand experience in urban ethnography, a way to study people by participating in and observing their lives. Anthropology majors develop their own research and collaborate with professors who have made amazing cultural explorations: accompanying police raids in Brazil's favelas; decoding storefront signs for inclusion and exclusion in gentrifying Brooklyn; following Palestinians from the West Bank to Israeli prisons; producing and directing student-playwrights' plays about sexualized violence for large audiences; engaging in democratization programs in former Soviet states through law enforcement trainings on domestic violence; charting changes in the testimony of gender-based violence survivors as they are processed by the sociolegal system; critiquing educational systems for exclusion with the aim of developing inclusive educational processes that prioritize equality in student outcomes; comparing gendered, racial and economic violence and people's creative responses to them as well as anti-racist movements across Latin America; examining the roles that coastal communities, fishers, nongovernmental organizations and scientists play in shaping ocean governance and marine resource management.

### IN THIS MAJOR YOU WILL ■■■

**Explore** cultural values, beliefs and practices, differences and similarities in human behavior, the organization of social life, and the making of cultural identity.

**Understand** global processes and local politics affecting modern cities, migration, ethnic conflict, religious diversity, activism, and lifestyle differences

**Conduct** urban ethnographic research in actual community settings.

**Learn** to write for particular audiences.

**Gain** real experience and job skills of observation, documentation and analysis needed for today's "information society" job market.

### FIRST COURSES IN THE MAJOR ■■■

**ANT 101:** Introduction to Cultural Anthropology

**ANT 208:** Urban Anthropology

**ANT 220:** Language and Culture

**ANT 210:** Sex and Culture

*"Anthropology is the most scientific of the humanities, the most humanistic of the sciences."*

*—Anthropologist Eric Wolf*

## WHAT CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS WILL YOU DEVELOP IN THIS MAJOR?

- See and reflect on given assumptions in order to defamiliarize the familiar
- Create, conduct and analyze interviews for meaning in both form and content
- Take fieldnotes in disciplined ways that will allow for thorough data collection related to how people live their social lives
- Design and conduct original urban ethnographic research
- Analyze social problems and issues informed by cross-cultural and historical perspectives
- Integrate and synthesize anthropological knowledge, understanding and research techniques

## WHAT MINOR MIGHT BE A GOOD COMPLEMENT TO THIS MAJOR?

- Gender Studies
- Human Rights
- Humanities and Justice
- Economics
- English
- Latin American and Latinx Studies

For more information about minors, go to:

[jjay.cuny.edu/academics/undergraduate-programs/minors](http://jjay.cuny.edu/academics/undergraduate-programs/minors)

## WHAT OPPORTUNITIES WILL THIS MAJOR OFFER YOU?

- Meet visiting scholars with cutting edge research on racial and social justice who participate in the Anthropology Café and Live from the Ninth Floor speakers' series
- Opportunities to participate in the creation of the annual play, [Seeing Rape](#) about sexualized violence
- Membership in the Anthropology Club
- Ongoing research opportunities with faculty, including conducting ethnographic fieldwork
- Present original research at academic conferences
- Solid foundation for employment in the public or private sector or for acquiring advanced degrees (social sciences, policy, law, public health, social work, and education)

## THIS MAJOR CAN BE A GREAT FOUNDATION FOR A WIDE RANGE OF JOBS, BUT SOME POSSIBILITIES TO CONSIDER ARE:

- Behavioral Health Programs
- Consumer Research
- Cultural Resource Management
- Disaster Relief
- Community-based Human Service
- Diversity Training
- Government Service
- Immigrant Social Services
- International Development
- Multicultural Marketing
- Policy Analysis
- Program Evaluation
- Public Interest Law
- Social Work
- Teaching

For more information on anthropology-related careers, see the Anthropology Department's "Careers" website at:

[jjay.cuny.edu/academics/academic-departments/departments-anthropology/anthropology-internships-careers](http://jjay.cuny.edu/academics/academic-departments/departments-anthropology/anthropology-internships-careers)

and make an appointment with the Anthropology major advisor, Professor Shonna Trinch, [stinch@jjay.cuny.edu](mailto:stinch@jjay.cuny.edu)