

ANTHROPOLOGY

Note: "Sociology and Anthropology" is a single academic department at Fordham, but the academic information for each subject is listed on a separate web page. Information about sociology programs is listed under sociology.

The aim of anthropology is the comprehensive study of the human condition, the origins of our species in evolutionary biology, and the development of culture and society in its many variations among ancient and contemporary peoples. Its subject matter encompasses an immense time depth and a vast spatial range, including the simplest human societies and the most complex civilizations, including modern industrial nations. Anthropology brings together many areas of scientific and humanistic inquiry, unifying and integrating knowledge about people and their perceptions of the world, and it offers a balanced perspective on the momentous cultural changes wrought by globalization that are ongoing today.

A major in anthropology is important for those who seek to understand our multiethnic society and the varieties of culture on our planet. It is a valuable asset for any work entailing contact with the public and especially for careers involving international affairs or travel. The experience with cultural diversity that anthropology provides is excellent preparation for law, business, and other graduate studies, and its biological component makes it attractive to admissions officers of medical schools. The synthesizing nature of anthropology also makes it suitable for students pursuing a double major in which anthropology is combined with other areas of the humanities and the natural and social sciences.

Program Activities

Honors and Awards

The Departmental Honors Thesis in Sociology and Anthropology is designed for FCRH and FCLC students who are interested in conducting independent research during their final year. Working closely with a faculty advisor, students plan and execute their own research, and then report the results in a substantial thesis. Students who earn a minimum grade of B on the thesis will graduate with honors in the sociology or anthropology major. Students are invited to apply by email during the spring of their junior year. Applicants must have a 3.4 overall grade point average and a 3.5 average in their major to be eligible for the program.

At Rose Hill, the department honors its seniors at the end-of-year awards ceremony, Encaenia, by bestowing the Rev. J. Franklin Ewing, S.J., Memorial Award for the best submitted essay by a graduating anthropology major. At Lincoln Center, the department also recognizes excellence in its graduating seniors with departmental honors in anthropology at its own diploma ceremony.

Internships

Both sociology and anthropology majors and nonmajors are encouraged to take advantage of the Internship Seminar offered by the department. This course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to develop skills in social analysis, policy development, program evaluation, and interpersonal relations while being of service to others in a real-life setting outside the classroom. Employment opportunities include agencies and corporations in the New York metropolitan area, ranging from organizations in the public sector, including the New York State Department of Corrections, the Legal Aid Society, and the Puerto Rican Family Institute, to organizations in the private sector such as CBS,

Merrill Lynch, and IBM. Participating students are required to take SOCI 4900 (Internship Seminar) and to spend a minimum of eight to 10 hours per week in an agency (public or private) or organization chosen to fit the individual student's interests and expertise.

Anthropology Resources

Departmental resources include Stone Age implements; ethnographic art and artifacts from Southeast Asia, the South Pacific, and Africa; a teaching collection of human skeletal material, an archive and database of colonial and early American bricks from New York City and a large collection of colonial and early American artifacts. In cooperation with the history department, the anthropology program at Rose Hill conducted the longest running archaeological excavation in New York City at the Rose Hill manor from 1985 to 2002, located on the Rose Hill campus. Artifacts from this campaign are undergoing laboratory analysis, for which students may volunteer to help.

For more information

Visit the Sociology and Anthropology department web page