



ANTHROPOLOGY

gold.ac.uk/anthropology

Undergraduate

Goldsmiths
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Anthropology at Goldsmiths is fast and contemporary. You'll focus on how Anthropology can help us understand society and our place within it, by applying it as a lens to explore everything from myth and ritual to new technologies.

Anthropology deals with a number of issues that are currently being debated in the media and other spheres of contemporary society: globalisation, migration, refugees, human rights, minorities, development, religious fundamentalism, drug policies, and the role of health care. It's the scientific and holistic study of the human species, from the politics of food to social reconciliation.

Why choose Anthropology at Goldsmiths?

We're interdisciplinary. You'll be able to look at this small but intense discipline in relation to a whole range of others, from politics and religion to philosophy and psychology.

We're offering breadth and depth. You'll delve into universal issues covering questions of power, ethnicity, and gender identity, and discover areas such as the anthropology of art. You'll also apply anthropology's distinctive ethnographic method closer to home, through fieldwork focusing on local life.

We're interested in you. You're an individual with your own particular experiences and gifts, so you'll never be just a number. Your lectures, small group seminars, practical workshops, film screenings and field trips are led by a committed and approachable team.

We're rated highly. We've been ranked top in the UK for effective teaching in the 2018 Guardian University Guide league tables for this subject, and joint 30th in the world in the QS World University Rankings by subject, 2017.

OUR DEGREES

- BA (Hons) Anthropology
- BA (Hons) Anthropology & Media
- BA (Hons) Anthropology & Sociology
- BA (Hons) Anthropology & Visual Practice
- BA (Hons) History & Anthropology
- BA (Hons) Politics, Philosophy & Economics
- BA (Hons) Religion
- Integrated Degree in Anthropology (including Foundation Year)

BA (Hons) Anthropology

3 years full-time, or 4-6 years part-time
gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-anthropology

You'll be introduced to the key issues, themes and problems that have shaped anthropological thought since the 19th century. You'll study all kinds of human society and culture, and develop an understanding of the relevance of anthropology for understanding contemporary cultural issues.

In your first and second years, you'll concentrate on key anthropological concepts such as kinship, politics, economics, ritual, world systems, and development. You'll look at the methods of studying and analysing these concepts, including the use of video, film and written texts. Over these two years you'll also study three ethnographic regions of the world in depth.

In your final year, you have the choice between completing a standard-length individual project or a longer, extended project. You'll complete this alongside your choice of advanced anthropology modules that reflect Goldsmiths' fresh approach to anthropology (see page 13).

TYPICAL MODULES

Year 1

Compulsory modules:

Introduction to Social Anthropology
Ethnography of a Selected Region I
Anthropological Methods
Ethnographic Film
Anthropology Today
Anthropology in London
Anthropological Ideas

Year 2

Compulsory modules:

Anthropology of Religion
Anthropology and the Visual I
Politics, Economics and Social Change
Ethnography of a Selected Region II
General Principles in Social Anthropology

Year 3

Compulsory module:

Individual Project

or

Extended Individual Project

Plus five or six advanced anthropology options (see page 13)

BA (Hons) Anthropology & Media

3 years full-time

gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-anthropology-media

On this degree you can combine Goldsmiths' fresh approach to anthropology and ethnography studies with media studies. You'll also develop practical skills in two areas of media practice of your choice, that could include journalism, photography, TV production, illustration, interactive media, animation, radio, and creative writing.

In your first year you'll get to know the main theories within anthropology and understand ethnography and anthropological methods and practice. For the media element, you'll be introduced to key debates in media studies, and examine the way in which 'media texts' construct meaning.

In your second year you'll consider the anthropology of religion, morals and symbolism, and explore interactions between current changing economic and political structures. You'll take options that place media within the contexts of war and conflict, finance and the economy, the changing nature of image and representation within film, television and digital cultures while completing a hands-on module in your first media practice area.

Your third year is all about designing your learning experience by choosing the thematic, regional or practical areas that interest you most. You'll complete a module in your second media practice area and choose from advanced anthropology and media options, including a supervised individual project.

TYPICAL MODULES

Year 1

Compulsory modules:

Introduction to Social Anthropology
Anthropological Methods
Ethnography of a Selected Region 1
Media History and Politics
Key Debates in Media Studies
Culture and Cultural Studies
Film and the Audiovisual

Year 2

Compulsory modules:

Anthropology of Religion
Anthropology and the Visual 1
Politics, Economics and Social Change
Media Production - option 1
Plus two options from:
Communications Psychology and Experience
Media Economy and Society
Culture, Society and the Individual

Year 3

Compulsory module:

Media Production - option 2
Plus four advanced anthropology modules (see page 13)
Plus advanced media options such as:
Media, Ritual and Contemporary Public Cultures
Social Media and Everyday Life
Strategies in World Cinema

BA (Hons) Anthropology & Sociology

3 years full-time

gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-anthropology-sociology

Anthropology and sociology are a pair of subjects that together enjoy a shared tradition, dealing with human behaviours in their social context yet separately offering different perspectives.

While anthropology looks comparatively at society from pre-history to the present through environmental and social relations, and culture, sociology focuses more on historical societies after the transition to modernity.

In your first year, you'll get to know the main theories within anthropology and understand ethnography and anthropological methodological practice.

In your compulsory sociology modules, you'll look at the subject's key texts and thinkers and come to understand the discipline's development and distinguishing features.

In your second year you'll choose one sociology option then take six compulsory modules: two from sociology, three from anthropology and a 'link' module that is taught jointly by both departments.

You'll consider the anthropology of religion, morals and symbolism, and explore interactions between current changing economic and political structures. In the link module, you'll become familiar with methodological and philosophical issues in both disciplines.

The link module in your third year allows you to examine how the world has changed since classical sociological theory was produced.

You'll complete a supervised dissertation in the department of your choice, or select from a range of sociology options. You'll also choose from a selection of anthropology and sociology options.

TYPICAL MODULES

Year 1

Compulsory modules:

Critical Readings: The Emergence of Sociological Rationality
Modern Knowledge, Modern Power
Introduction to Social Anthropology
Anthropological Methods
Ethnography of a Selected Region 1

Year 2

Compulsory modules:

Central Issues in Sociological Analysis
The Making of the Modern World
Anthropology of Religion
Anthropology and the Visual
Politics, Economics and Social Change
Methodological and Philosophical Issues in Sociology and Anthropology
Plus one sociology option such as:
Sex, Drugs and Technology
London
Marxism

Year 3

Compulsory module:

Theorising Contemporary Society
At least two advanced anthropology options (see page 13), plus at least two sociology options such as:
Privacy, Surveillance and Security
Race, Racism and Social Theory
Making Data Matter
Optional Dissertation

TYPICAL MODULES

BA (Hons) Anthropology & Visual Practice

3 years full-time

gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-anthropology-visual-practice

You'll be provided with a comprehensive and imaginative exploration of the field of social anthropology and receive practical training in photography, video-making and editing. This will culminate in the production of a documentary film in your third year.

In your first year, you'll take five introductory anthropology modules and your first visual practice module. You'll get hands-on training in a range of equipment and software in a laboratory environment. You'll learn how to produce digital photographic work (and moving image), use a variety of professional software packages, make high quality audio recordings, and work with sound files.

In your second year you'll be introduced to specialist topics in anthropology and take your second visual practice module. You'll become adept at producing photographic and moving images using a variety of digital technology. You'll also develop a command of software, allowing you to edit material for both web and documentary film.

Your independent film project in your third year will see you working under the supervision of a personal tutor to complete an independent investigation into an anthropologically and sociologically informed area. You'll also choose modules from a range of advanced anthropology options (see page 13).

BA (Hons) History & Anthropology

3 years full-time, or 4-5 years part-time

gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-history-anthropology

You'll explore the two disciplines that are key to understanding human life, culture and society in the past and present, considering contemporary cultural issues from an historical perspective. As a student in the Department of History, you'll also have the opportunity to undertake a professional work placement through our History at Work scheme.

Your first-year modules cover the key methods and perspectives in history and anthropology. You'll learn about the role of ethnography by focusing on the linguistic and cultural groupings of a particular region.

In your second year, you'll investigate the 'classic' theories on religion, magic, myth, ritual, morality, symbolism and belief, then explore the interactions between changing economic and political structures in modern life via ethnographic examples. This will be alongside two free-choice history options. You can also take a module in a foreign language or take a 'related study' module - a module from another department.

In your third year, you'll explore in depth the tensions and connections between history and anthropology. Your individual project is a chance to develop your own personal interests across the two disciplines. You're free to choose from a range of history and anthropology options, including a Special Subject module, which is one you can take from another University of London institution.

TYPICAL MODULES

Year 1

Compulsory modules:

Introduction to Social Anthropology
Anthropological Methods
Ethnography of a Selected Region
Concepts and Methods in History

Plus one first-year history module from:

Dictators, War and Revolution
Religion, Peace and Conflict
Ideas and Identities

Year 2

Compulsory modules:

Anthropology of Religion
Anthropology and the Visual
Politics, Economics and Social Change

Plus two free-choice history options such as:

Nationalism, Democracy and Dictatorship in 20th-Century Eastern Europe
Modern South Asia: Disease, Medicine, Empire and Nation c.1600-1947

Year 3

Compulsory modules:

History and Anthropology
Individual Project

One or two advanced history options

And one or two advanced anthropology options (see page 13)

BA (Hons) Politics, Philosophy & Economics

3 years full-time

gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-politics-philosophy-economics

You'll gain an understanding of the world around you through Goldsmiths' unique approach to the combination of subject areas known as 'PPE'. Through a critical exploration of the core themes and ideas in politics, philosophy and economics, you'll be introduced to new approaches and viewpoints, which you'll use to challenge established political and economic policies, institutions and methods.

Our PPE programme takes you through contemporary, real-world problems so that you can hit the ground running when you start your career in public policy, NGOs, media, consulting or social innovation.

In your first year, you'll take five compulsory modules that cover the foundations of economics, philosophy, and contemporary issues in political economy. You'll then choose from The Politics of Other Cultures, World Politics, or UK and European Comparative Politics.

Your second year becomes more interdisciplinary and critical. In your economics modules you'll look at economic anthropology and explore the nature of money, property and markets. The philosophy module brings in elements of continental philosophy and critical theory. You'll also choose from a range of politics modules.

By your third year, you'll see the various connections between the separate fields of politics, philosophy and economics, and be able to combine them in critical and imaginative ways. You'll also have the chance to develop your original ideas into a dissertation of your choice.

TYPICAL MODULES

Year 1

Compulsory modules:

Introductory Economics
Problems of Ethics
Issues in Cultural and Political Economy

Plus one of these modules:

World Politics
UK and European Comparative Governance and Politics
The Politics of Other Cultures

Year 2

Compulsory modules:

Knowledge and Subjectivity
Aesthetics
Politics, Economics and Social Change

Plus a selection from:

Political Economy
International Trade
International Monetary Economics

Plus two from a selection of 15-credit politics modules

You may also apply to go on an Erasmus+ exchange

Year 3

Compulsory modules:

Global Cultural Politics
Dissertation

Options:

Three to six relevant politics module choices
Optional work placement

BA (Hons) Religion

3 years full-time

gold.ac.uk/ug/ba-religion

This degree explores critically the relationships between religion and other aspects of society as diverse as culture, communication, politics, economy, nation, education, gender, law and ethnicities. It will give you the knowledge and expertise urgently needed in international relations, local government, NGOs, charities, politics, media, corporate social responsibility, education and the arts.

Bringing together academic expertise from across the Departments of Sociology, Anthropology, and Politics and International Relations, this degree will immerse you in the interdisciplinary approaches to this influential subject.

Unlike a traditional theology or religious studies course focusing on the specifics of religious beliefs, this degree examines how religious and non-religious people negotiate the tensions and nuances of contemporary societies.

Work placements

You will be encouraged to take a work placement module in the summer term with organisations such as: think tanks, pressure groups, media, NGOs. You may also choose to work with a particular ethnic group, undertake advocacy for refugee or disability rights or work in the field of visual cultures. Your third year dissertation will be empirically based and you will be encouraged to conduct research during your placement.

TYPICAL MODULES

Year 1

Compulsory modules:

Modern Knowledge, Modern Power
Culture and Society
Believing and Belonging in London and the World
The Politics of Other Cultures

Year 2

Compulsory modules:

Anthropology of Religion
Philosophy and Methodology of Social Science
Sociology of Religion in the Modern World
The Making of the Modern World

Plus two sociology options

Plus two politics options such as:

Africa in the Global
Political Economy
Life: A User's Manual
An(Other) Japan: Politics, Ideology and Culture

Year 3

Compulsory modules:

Contemporary Social Theory
Dissertation

Plus four sociology or politics and international relations modules

Integrated Degree in Anthropology (including Foundation Year)

1 year (Foundation) + 3 years (undergraduate degree)
gold.ac.uk/ug/integrated-degree-anthropology

This degree is ideal if you are thinking about re-entering education after some time away from formal study.

You'll combine your passion for anthropology with the skills and confidence to progress to the BA Anthropology degree following successful completion of the foundation year.

In this foundation year you'll take two modules that introduce you to anthropology and set you up with the study skills you'll need to succeed.

Ways of Seeing

You'll examine how culture shapes the way we think about the world - and how we understand and interact with others. You'll be introduced to the history and methods of anthropology, and focus on understanding anthropological approaches to human society, culture and cultural difference.

Contemporary Issues

You'll explore the cultural dimensions of globalisation and investigate the way people see the world and interact with other cultures in the face of rapid social, cultural and technological change. You'll also examine the visual aspect of anthropology, including its uses of film and photography.

Throughout the programme, you'll receive individual tutorial support and academic guidance from the programme tutor and attend a study skills course.

YEAR 3 OPTIONS

Advanced anthropology options in Year 3

- Anthropology and the Environment
- Anthropology and Gender Theory
- Anthropology and the Visual 2
- Anthropology and the Visual: Production Course
- Anthropology of Art
- Anthropology of Development
- Anthropology of Health, Medicine and Social Power
- Anthropology of Rights
- Anthropology of Violence
- History and Anthropology
- Material Culture
- Psychological Perspectives in Anthropology
- Learning from Social Movements
- Borders and Migration
- Anthropology in Public Practice
- Anthropology of Human-Animal Relations

Anthropology and Gender Theory

You'll explore the interrelationships of gender, sexuality and the body by bringing together ideas from contemporary Western social/cultural theory (including psychoanalytic, feminist and queer theories), detailed ethnographic and historical case studies, and some classic anthropological theories and issues. In doing this, you'll explore the ways in which the body, gender and sexuality have been produced/imagined differently in different times and places. The themes you'll cover include the status of the body; sex and gender as biological or cultural; the sex/gender distinction; kinship and concepts of the person. You'll examine, in depth, various different approaches to gender, sexuality and the body, including their historical and current roles in discourses and politics of race colonialism, and resistance and power.

Anthropology of Violence

In this module, you'll look at the ways in which anthropologists have explained violence, the methodological problems of researching the topic, the complicity of anthropologists in military projects, and other issues. You'll explore the ethical and practical complexities of researching, writing and engaging with violence through anthropological sources.

Anthropology of Development

This module will enable you to explore the theoretical concepts underpinning development, the history of development and its institutions - from NGOs to the World Bank and IMF - while considering diverse case studies from around the world. You will also explore the historical role of anthropology's involvement in development, as official mediators between 'the West and the rest' through imperial conquest, colonial administration and a post-war development industry. As a central component of the module you will critically analyse current trends that have emerged to dominate the field of global political and economic

interventions and/or policies - 'participation and empowerment', 'gender awareness', 'sustainable development', 'community development', 'NGOs', and 'environmental conservation'.

Anthropology in Public Practice

This module enables you to take up a workplace learning experience designed to enhance your studies by bringing theory and 'real-life' practice together. You'll use the placement experience to test out and show your skills, values and personality traits, gain knowledge of roles and structures within a specific sector, and map out your career plans. An academic supervisor will guide you through the preparation of a research report, and seminars will allow you to share experiences and approaches with other students, and to receive guidance on how you can relate the resources of the placement to your research.

Anthropology and the Visual 2

In this module you'll creatively explore the role of visual representation in anthropology in terms of both the history of its use within the discipline, and also the potential it holds for new ways of working. You'll look at work in a wide range of media - photography, film/video, sound - and the ways in which they might be used in an anthropological context, and this will involve looking at work from outside anthropology such as photojournalism and contemporary art, as well as the work of visual anthropologists. You'll be provided with a strong theoretical base and be offered a challenging and creative view of the potentials of visual material within anthropology.



OUR STUDENTS



Megan
BA Anthropology

“World-renowned lecturers deliver exciting and interesting lectures each week on a variety of topics: colonialism, religion, witchcraft, ritual, gift exchange and detailed ethnographies - to name just a few. Followed by your chance to discuss all of these topics in seminars, it encourages you to voice your opinion and debate on something that you find stimulating and important.”

Esther
BA History & Anthropology

“Goldsmiths gave me great practice in research while letting me research what I was interested in. The tutors and lecturers I chose to discuss my courses with were very attentive to where I wanted to go and encouraged me to try out various methods of researching and of looking at things.”

Fadah
BA Anthropology & Media

“The joint Anthropology and Media degree expanded my perceptions and thoughts in ways I could not anticipate. Anthropology shaped my outlook but more importantly it changed how I interpret, assess and gather information critically, all of which are invaluable tools for journalism and media. Goldsmiths is a vibrant and enriching place.”

Hannah
BA Anthropology & Sociology

“I have been able to use much from my sociology courses as they were to do with understanding how people react to and engage with society.”

You'll take a fresher approach to the subject than the 'traditional anthropology' taught at other institutions.



Anthropology can help us understand society and our place within it.



Anthropology at Goldsmiths has been ranked top in the UK for effective teaching in the 2018 Guardian University Guide league tables for this subject.



You'll look at anthropology from a contemporary perspective, which means that what you learn in the classroom will be relevant in a variety of public domains, in Britain and elsewhere.

You'll have the skills to succeed across a range of areas:

- Film making and other media careers
- Journalism
- Museum curating
- Applied or advocacy work for NGOs and development agencies
- Postgraduate research and teaching in higher education

Our particular emphasis on public anthropology encourages you to explore options in practice-based and public sector career paths.

Thinking outside the box and on your feet

Being a 'thinking graduate' from Goldsmiths means you'll have the transferable skills that will set you up for success across any sector and any role. These skills include:

- Communication (including public speaking, developing and presenting an argument, note taking, report writing)
- Analytical thinking
- Awareness of social, political and cultural processes
- Awareness of social and cultural differences



Career journey
Terri (BA Anthropology & History, 2011), Collections Information Officer, Science Museum

"I always feel proud to say that I graduated from Goldsmiths.

Studying anthropology and history furnished me with the critical thinking and drive to pursue a career in the museum and gallery sector.

Undertaking an interdisciplinary course was a great option for me. I loved how the pulse of Goldsmiths ran on critical core theories through all subjects and eventually I got to grips with how anthropology and history complemented each other while also being independent studies.

Since graduating in 2011 I have pursued a career working in numerous museum and gallery roles at Tate and the National Maritime Museum, and I am now a Collections Information Officer at the Science Museum. In this role I organise the loans for exhibitions, predominantly

working on the museum's photography gallery Media Space.

The community and reputation of Goldsmiths as an institution helped me to embrace all aspects of my course, London life and the wider art world. This rich and stimulating environment, combined with my own desire to examine and reassess our shared experiences from different perspectives, incited the co-founding of my blog, The Ministry of Curiosity (theministryofcuriosity.blogspot.co.uk). The blog attempts to publish perspectives from behind the scenes at London's museums, to report on issues which affect the museum and museum staff such as cuts in funding, and to dismantle people's preconceived notions about museum work.

Thanks to my blog I regularly present sessions to museum professionals of all ages at Museums Association and Collection Trust conferences. When you study at Goldsmiths there is no going back, you learn it's ok to question, challenge and critique life, art, politics and knowledge. It changes your perspective for life."

Watch Goldsmiths graduates talk about how their experiences at university have given them a real advantage in their career: vimeo.com/channels/career

