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PROPOSAL TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

TITLE OF PROPOSAL: Revised Major In Science and Letters Curriculum for Anthropology, College of Liberal Arts and Science

COLLEGE CONTACT: Ann Mester, Assistant Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

SPONSORS: Professor Paul Garber, Head; Professor Andrew Orta, Associate Head

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

This proposal amends the existing Anthropology major in three ways: renames it the General Anthropology Concentration, reduces the amount of introductory level coursework required of majors from 6 courses to 4, and adds a senior capstone requirement.

This proposal also adds an additional concentration in Sociocultural and Linguistic Anthropology.

JUSTIFICATION

The change to our existing major concentration responds to concerns about the structure of the major and accommodates the increasing role of lower-level anthropology courses in fulfilling General Education requirements. Regarding the structure of the major, it reduces a set of six course requirements that many of our majors found repetitive and time consuming. Compounded by the fact that many Anthropology majors find this discipline in their second or third year, this has meant that relatively few of our majors are able to put together a curriculum of upper level courses that provides significant depth of training in areas of interest. The reduction, by two (of six) courses, of the introductory requirements and the addition of a capstone requirement are intended to provide our majors with more flexibility in developing a concentration of study and to shift their coursework toward upper level courses culminating in a sustained capstone project. This increased flexibility for our majors also responds to the fact that many Anthropology majors wish to focus on cross-disciplinary study with second majors or minors in other units. The reduction of introductory requirements facilitates this concentration for our students. The shift of our required introductory courses to the 200 level also recognizes that, increasingly, our 100 level course offerings serve a range of other educational objectives on our campus. For instance: a number of these fulfill General Education requirements; for the past few years, the first semester of ANTH 103 Anthropology in a Changing World has been restricted to freshman and offered as part of the Global Studies Initiative. Anthropology faculty have been developing a range of 100 and 200 level courses which, in addition to serving as gateways for potential majors, reflect the relevance of anthropology to a range of curricular initiatives on our campus. Anthropology 230 (Sociocultural Anthropology), for example, is now required for a degree in Social Science Teacher Education and is among a small set of course choices for the International Studies Major. This modification of our major allows our faculty to continue to develop and teach a range of undergraduate courses, serving majors and non majors.

The new Sociocultural and Linguistic Anthropology concentration is designed for students who wish to specialize in the subfields of Sociocultural and Linguistic Anthropology. Building upon

the size of our faculty in Sociocultural and Linguistic Anthropology, this concentration will provide students with a structured exposure to a range of world areas, a range of topics in Anthropology, a course on research methods, and a capstone project experience. We require students in this concentration to take a course in at least one of the other anthropological subdisciplines and provide maximal flexibility for students to fulfill this requirement. This concentration, offering in depth training in Sociocultural and Linguistic Anthropology, will serve students interested in further study in anthropology as well as prepare students to enter into a broad range of jobs and professions requiring research, writing and analytic skills that will enable them to confront problems, issues and situations requiring cultural sensitivities and detailed knowledge of other places in the world.

BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS

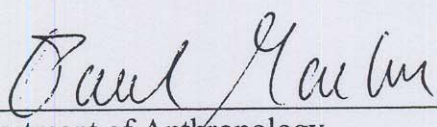
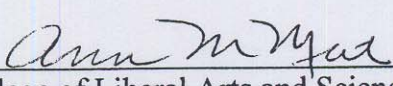
This proposal does not require any new courses. Nor does it require more courses than we are currently offering. The three most likely impacts of this change in our major are: 1) an increased enrollment in upper level Anthropology courses; 2) an increased demand for independent study courses and/or individualized course projects in upper level courses related to the capstone requirement; and, 3) increased advising work. With regard to the first impact, there is already room for growth in our undergraduate enrollments at the 300 and 400 levels. Moreover, recent growth in our faculty combined with a slight reduction in our graduate program as a consequence of budget cuts and flat budget growth in recent years mean that we are directing more faculty teaching time to courses at the 100-400 levels. As for the budgetary and staff implications of the capstone requirement, the major allows students to fulfill this in a number of ways: through independent study or honors thesis courses as well as through existing course offerings. We intend this to provide flexibility to both students *and* faculty. The major, and particularly the capstone requirement will shift some additional advising work to faculty. Anthropology majors currently work with an undergraduate advisor (a position we have staffed with qualified advanced graduate students) and with faculty mentors. The addition of the capstone requirement will likely serve to formalize these already existing advising relationships with faculty. In sum, we expect that this proposal will, on balance, have little or no budgetary and staff implications for Anthropology. This proposal will also have no direct effect on course enrollment in other departments. Nor will it have a significant impact on library or computer use.

GUIDELINES FOR UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION:

This amended major in Anthropology continues to meet all of the Guidelines for Undergraduate Education. The requirements of lower and upper level coursework, ranging from large lecture classes to smaller discussion and laboratory courses, will provide all students with challenges to read and listen intelligently, write and speak coherently, and observe and respond critically to a variety of forms of communication. The broad range of Anthropology courses, spanning the natural sciences, the social sciences and the humanities, will engage students in qualitative and quantitative thinking and a respect for evidence. In creating more opportunities for students to pursue in depth training in their areas of interest, we intend to foster curiosity and a desire to continue to learn. Insofar as the bulk of our courses deal with issues of cultural difference through discussions of other societies and of our own, the anthropology major is entirely in

conformity with the stated curriculum goals of cross cultural knowledge, tolerance and a deep understanding of our heterogeneous culture. Finally, in allowing our majors to pursue more upper level work in Anthropology, exposing them to more advanced theoretical and empirical information, we enable our majors who will go on to further training in Anthropology to develop a familiarity with cutting edge issues in the discipline. Our major also enables students who will not go on as anthropologists to develop advanced skills and competencies to apply anthropological knowledge and perspectives in a range of professional settings.

CLEARANCES:

 _____ Department of Anthropology	<u>Oct 25, 2005</u> Date
 _____ College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	<u>2/27/06</u> Date
_____ Office of the Provost	_____ Date

Proposed Effective Date: Fall 2006

STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG

Anthropology

www.anthro.uiuc.edu

The Department of Anthropology offers two major concentrations and a minor. Anthropology, which views human biology, behavior, and society (both past and present) in a cross-cultural perspective, combines scientific and humanistic interests in a modern social sciences framework. The General Anthropology concentration includes the four fields of biological anthropology (biological diversity and evolutionary history of human and nonhuman primates), archaeology (human prehistory and the organization and growth of technology and society), sociocultural anthropology (comparative study of identity and power in social contexts from hunter-gatherer to complex urban settings, with attention to contemporary global movements of peoples and diasporic social formations), and linguistic anthropology (comparative study of languages and communication). Although the student should strive for a topical and geographical balance, an

undergraduate may specialize in one of these four branches and may also study some world cultural area intensively through an area studies program.

The Sociocultural and Linguistic Anthropology concentration offers students a program of more focused coursework in sociocultural and linguistic anthropology. Sociocultural anthropology is the study of the daily lives of people around the world, both at home and abroad. Sociocultural anthropologists conduct field research to get a hands-on feel for people's lives and passions. They examine everything from beauty pageants to political protest marches, from Disney films to nuclear scientists' lab practices. Sociocultural anthropology distinguishes itself from other disciplines by its conviction that these local and personal details offer a wonderful window on the largest processes and problems of our time, from globalization to race relations and violence. Linguistic anthropology complements sociocultural anthropology with detailed attention to spoken and signed languages—their structure and use in the daily lives of people around the world, both at home and abroad. Linguistic anthropologists examine such things as the “English Only” movement in the United States, the persuasive language of advertising and politics, racism and hate speech, oral/gestural storytelling traditions around the world, communication in the classroom or at the United Nations, as well as how the way we talk creates our sense of self and reality. Because the field of anthropology presents a wide range of disciplinary perspectives on the human condition, students electing this major concentration are encouraged to select from among relevant course offerings in archaeology or biological anthropology to fulfill General Education requirements.

Anthropology is an appropriate major for those seeking a general liberal education; for those preparing for professional study and careers in law, medicine, bioscience and technology, business, or international relations, and for those planning further graduate study in anthropology. These majors prepare college graduates to enter into a broad range of jobs and professions by providing them with research, writing and analytical skills that will enable them to confront problems, issues and situations that require cultural sensitivity. College graduates with a background in anthropology thrive in social services, teaching, law, medicine, government, NGOs, business, and many more lines of work. Professional anthropologists work as research scientists and teachers in museums, universities, and archaeological surveys; as staff members in government agencies, social service programs, and business firms in which international understanding of human and social concerns is important; or as independent consultants to such agencies, programs, and firms.

MAJOR IN SCIENCES AND LETTERS CURRICULUM

E-mail: anthro@uiuc.edu

Degree title: Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences

Minimum required major and supporting course work equates to 48 hours including 33 hours of Anthropology courses.

General Education: The LAS General Education requirements are set up so students automatically complete the Campus General Education Requirement.

Minimum hours required for graduation: 120 hours

Departmental distinction: To be eligible for distinction, a student must complete 33 hours of anthropology courses (including at least 2 hours of both ANTH 391-Honors Individual Study and ANTH 495- Honors

Senior Thesis), maintain a 3.6 average in those hours and a 3.5 overall average. All candidates for distinction must submit a thesis for judgment by at least two members of the anthropology department.

Select one concentration in consultation with an adviser.

General Anthropology Concentration

All students must discuss their selection of anthropology courses and supporting course work with a departmental adviser.

HOURS

12

REQUIREMENTS

Four fields courses (student may make one substitution for 1 of the 4 required courses, choosing from the options listed in parentheses to the right of the course)

ANTH 220-Introduction to Archaeology (ANTH 105, 175, 221, 225)

ANTH 230-Sociocultural Anthropology (ANTH 103, 160, 165, 188, 209, 280)

ANTH 240-Biological Anthropology (ANTH 102, 241, 143, 249, 279)

ANTH 270-Linguistic Anthropology (ANTH 104, 271)

12

Minimum of 12 hours of Anthropology courses at the 300- or 400-level; only one of these four courses may be ANTH 499- Topics in Anthropology.

6

Electives in Anthropology (**at any level**)

3

Senior Capstone in Anthropology¹

15

Courses in related fields².

Sociocultural and Linguistic Anthropology Concentration

All students must discuss their selection of anthropology courses and supporting coursework with a faculty advisor in sociocultural and linguistic anthropology. When a course is listed under two or more categories, the student may decide which of the requirements the course should fulfill; however, it may not be used to fulfill more than one of those requirements

HOURS

6

REQUIREMENTS

Gateway Courses

ANTH 230 Sociocultural Anthropology

ANTH 270 Linguistic Anthropology³

¹ **Senior Capstone requirement:** Either ANTH 495- Honors Senior Thesis or ANTH 497- Individual Field Data Analysis; or any existing 400-level course or ANTH 399- Special Topics as an independent study, if the student works closely with the instructor to adapt it to fulfill this requirement by beginning and completing a new research/writing project relevant to the course. Can be repeated for up to 6 hours.

² **Courses in related fields.** Of these courses, at least 9 hours must be at the 300- or 400-level. Students may substitute an official minor offered by another department as long as the supporting course work, hours, and level requirements are met.

- 3 **ANTH 411- Methods of Cultural Anth**
- 12 **Ethnographic Themes and Modes of Thinking.** Four courses selected from the list maintained in the advisor's office. At least one of these courses must be at the 300-level and at least one of these courses must be at the 400-level. One of these courses may be a topically oriented archaeology or biological anthropology course⁴, or ANTH 499- Topics in Anthropology, chosen in consultation with your advisor
- 12 **Ethnographic Places** Four courses selected from the list maintained in the advisor's office. At least one of these courses must be at the 300 or 400 level. . One of these courses may be a topically oriented archaeology or biological anthropology course⁵, or ANTH 499- Topics in Anthropology, chosen in consultation with your advisor.
- 3 **Capstone Course in Sociocultural/Linguistic Anthropology.**⁶
- 12 **Supporting coursework.** Consulting closely with your anthropology faculty advisor, you should plan to take supporting course work from other departments and/or subdisciplines⁷ in anthropology that relates to your anthropological work and interests. At least three of these supporting courses must be taken in other departments. Of these four supporting courses, two should be at the 300- or 400-level.

Twelve hours of 300- and 400-level Anthropology courses must be taken on this campus.

All foreign language requirements must be satisfied.

A Major Plan of Study Form must be completed and submitted to the LAS Student Affairs Office before the end of the fifth semester (60- 75 hours). Please see your adviser.

³ Student may substitute ANTH 271- Linguistic Anthropology- Advanced Composition for this requirement.

⁴ Relevant archaeology and biological anthropology courses include ANTH 180, 221, 241, 249, 277, 447, 452, 474.

⁵ Relevant archaeology and biological anthropology courses include ANTH 107, 157, 223, 376, 450, 475, 476,

⁶ Either ANTH 495-Honors Senior Thesis or ANTH 497-Individual Field Data Analysis; or any existing 400-level course or ANTH 399-Special Topics as an independent study, if the student works closely with the instructor to adapt it to fulfill this requirement by beginning and completing a new research/writing project relevant to the course. Can be repeated for up to 6 hours.

⁷ If you have not selected a course from another subdiscipline of anthropology as part of your "Ethnographic Themes/Modes of Thinking" or "Ethnographic Places" courses, or have not taken such a course in fulfillment of General Education requirements, one of these supporting courses must be selected from course offerings in archeology or biological anthropology.