The Honors Program in Anthropology

Anthropology is the study of humans, past and present. To understand what makes humans unique, the nature of our shared experiences, and the importance of our differences, anthropology draws on insights from diverse fields, including the social and biological sciences and the humanities. The anthropology degree programs give students an opportunity to learn how and why humans evolved, the current and long-term dynamics of social-environmental interaction, and how our evolutionary biological, social and cultural trajectories help us understand the meaning of being human in the past, present and future. Anthropology at ASU provides many exciting hands-on learning opportunities through laboratories and field-based courses, such as ethnographic field schools, paleoanthropology field schools in Africa, bioarchaeology and archaeology training in the field and laboratory, environmental and health studies in diverse communities and cultural and linguistic studies of peoples from hunter-gatherer camps to large urban areas. Areal foci include such diverse places as Southeast Asia, the South Pacific, Mexico, Latin America the Mediterranean Basin, southern Africa, and the US Southwest.

For more information on the Anthropology degree programs see: http://shesc.asu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-studies

Honors in Anthropology

The Anthropology faculty strongly encourages and warmly welcomes Barrett students to consider majoring in our field, given its centrality in understanding human biology, culture and society. Any Barrett student who is considering a major in Anthropology should make an appointment as soon as possible with the Honors Faculty Advisor Professor Kostalena Michelaki (kmichela@asu.edu).

Anthropology Honors Program

Sophomore Year
Sophomore year is a critical time for students to learn what opportunities are available to them to pursue thesis research in the context of on-going faculty research. In the School of Human Evolution and Social Change, Anthropology’s home, the Research Apprenticeship program links students with faculty research and fulfills the Anthropology major requirement for a practicum course. Research Apprenticeships are announced at the beginning of each semester.

- As soon as a student enters into SHESC honors they should apply for an apprenticeship.
- By the end of Sophomore year, honors students will be expected to have completed a research apprenticeship.

Junior Year
During the junior year, students need to identify and begin work on a thesis research topic. By the Spring of their junior year they need to be prepared in the conduct of research, and to have identified an Anthropology faculty mentor to work on their thesis. A list of Anthropology faculty interested in advising honors students, and their general areas of interest are provided in a pdf at: http://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/honors-opportunities-in-majors/?majors=7871
Senior Year
During their senior year students complete and defend their theses. Barrett provides many resources to support student research and to bring relevant researchers from beyond ASU to campus to engage with seniors working on honors theses.

Honors Enrichment Contracts and Access to Graduate Courses
Throughout their undergraduate program, honors students have available to them a number of Anthropology courses that provide honors contracts. A pdf listing of these courses can be found at: http://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/honors-opportunities-in-majors/?majors=7871

General information on Honors Enrichment Contracts may be found at: http://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/honors-courses-and-contracts/honors-enrichment-contracts/

In addition, some graduate seminars also accept junior and senior honors students. Lists of those courses are made available in early October and early March, in time for Barrett students to enroll in them for the following semester.

Preparation of the Anthropology Senior Honors Thesis:

- Prior to enrolling in HON 492 or 493, all students must complete a thesis/creative project information session. Students may complete this requirement by completing one of the following:
  - One of the Thesis Workshop Sessions periodically offered by Barrett
  - The on-line workshop offered through Barrett via ASU Blackboard.

These requirements are described at: http://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/thesis-and-creative-project/

- The Anthropology committee requirements are the same as those required by Barrett:

The minimum number of committee members is two (rather than three), a director and a second committee member, and only the director MUST be an ASU lecturer or tenure line faculty member.

For more information see: http://barretthonors.asu.edu/academics/thesis-and-creative-project/