

Cultural Anthropology Program

3-26-2013

Please note: Students who enter the Cultural Anthropology Program in the Fall of 2013 (or later) are expected to follow these guidelines. Students who entered the program prior to the Fall of 2013 have the option of following these guidelines or the previous set of guidelines. Please note that the Department of Anthropology will be re-examining its graduate curriculum during the 2013-14 academic year, so some policies may be subject to further change in the near future.

I. Overview of the Cultural Anthropology Program

The Anthropology Program at Texas A&M University offers students training in cultural anthropology, the comparative study of human behavior, culture and society found throughout the world. Cultural anthropologists at Texas A&M draw on a wide range of theoretical perspectives and methodological techniques. They are united in the use of an interdisciplinary, comparative approach in their anthropological research of culture.

Affiliated Faculty Members. Faculty members in the Cultural Anthropology Program coordinate the Cultural Anthropology Program within the Department of Anthropology. There are seven faculty members with primary affiliation in the Cultural Anthropology Program: Michael Alvard, N. Fadeke Castor, Norbert Dannhaeuser, Travis Du Bry, Tom Green, Cynthia Werner, and Jeff Winking. One faculty member at Texas A&M has affiliated status with the Cultural Anthropology Program: Amanda Stronza (Recreation, Parks & Tourism Sciences; Adjunct in Anthropology).

Program Strengths. Although each faculty member has their own specific research interests, our program as a whole has strengths in the following areas:

- **Cultural Studies**, including folklore, performance, identity, and the politics of difference
- **Environment and Ecology**, with focus on Darwinian approaches to culture and society, evolutionary ecology, conservation, and political ecology
- **Globalization**, with focus on migration, ethnicity, tourism, and development

Geographically, our faculty conduct ethnographic research in many areas of the world, including:

- North America (Dannhaeuser, Du Bry, Green)
- South America (Alvard, Green, Winking, Stronza)
- The Caribbean (Alvard, Castor, Green)
- Southeast Asia (Alvard, Dannhaeuser)
- Central Asia (Werner)
- Europe (Dannhaeuser, Du Bry)

Regular Program Duties The program has the following tasks every year:

- 1) Elect Program Coordinator and Committee representatives
- 2) Review graduate student applications for admissions to the Graduate Program. From the pool of accepted students, make nominations for Regents, Merit and Diversity fellowships.
- 3) Review applications for graduate assistantships from students in Cultural Anthropology Program and make recommendations to the Curriculum Committee.
- 4) Review new course proposals, curriculum plans, and coordinate class schedules each semester.
- 5) Conduct annual reviews of graduate students in the Cultural Anthropology program and forward these reviews to the Curriculum Committee and the Director of Graduate Studies.
- 6) Maintain a list of graduate students in the Cultural Anthropology Program.

Periodic Duties

- 1) Provide search committee chair and recommendations for new hires to the Cultural Anthropology Program.
- 2) Provide chair for tenure and promotion cases in the Cultural Anthropology Program.

Calendar of Meetings. Faculty in the Cultural Anthropology Program will meet as needed to fulfill the tasks described above. This would typically correspond to the following meeting schedule:

September: Review Cultural Anthropology courses for the following Spring semester. This includes existing courses to be taught as well as proposed 489/689 courses.

December: Review Cultural Anthropology courses for the following Fall semester. This includes existing courses to be taught as well as proposed 489/689 courses.

January: Review prospective student applications for nominations for Regents, Merit and Diversity Fellowships, and make recommendations to the Curriculum Committee.

February: Review prospective student applications for Fall semester admissions, and make recommendations to the Curriculum Committee.

April: (1) Review applications for graduate student assistantships and make recommendation to Curriculum Committee; (2) Conduct annual review of graduate students; and (3) As needed, pick representatives for a) Coordinator of the Program who will serve as Executive Council Representative (two year term); b) Curriculum Committee Representative (two year term); and c) Diversity Committee Representative (two year term).

II. Graduate Degrees Offered by the Cultural Anthropology Program

Graduate students in the Cultural Anthropology Program in the Department of Anthropology have the opportunity to receive an M.A. and/or a Ph.D. degree. Students with a B.A. degree in Anthropology (or another field) may apply to either the M.A. or Ph.D. program. Students should

apply to the M.A. program if their ultimate intention is to only complete an M.A. degree at Texas A&M, and they should apply to the Ph.D. program if their ultimate intention is to complete a Ph.D. at Texas A&M. Students who already have an M.A. in Anthropology (or a related field) can only apply to the Ph.D. program.

Requirements for Students in the M.A. Program. Students who enter the M.A. program are required to complete a Master's thesis. The full list of requirements for the M.A. in Cultural Anthropology are outlined in Table 1.

Requirements for Ph.D. Degree in Cultural Anthropology. Requirements for the Ph.D. degree differ for students who enter directly from the B.A. and students who enter with an M.A. degree in Anthropology or a related field. Students who enter the program with a B.A. will earn a non-thesis M.A. en route to their Ph.D. To do this, they must complete the course requirements described for the M.A. program as well as a comprehensive paper and defense (foreign language requirements can be met after the M.A.). The full requirements for the Ph.D. are outlined in Table 1.

Table 1. Summary of Requirements for M.A. & Ph.D. Degrees in Cultural Anthropology

Requirements	M.A. Degree (Thesis)	Ph.D. Degree (from B.A., with M.A. en route)	Ph.D. Degree (from external M.A.)
Total Number of Hours Required	Minimum 30 hours	Minimum 96 hours Minimum 36 hours for M.A.	Minimum 64 hours
Total Number of Non-Research Hours	Minimum 27 hours	Minimum 48 hours	Minimum 30 hours (for students who do not get waiver for core courses or statistics course)
ANTH 601 Biological Core	Required	Required	Required (Waiver possible)
ANTH 602 Archaeology Core	Required	Required	Required (Waiver possible)
ANTH 604 Cultural Core	Required	Required	Required
Statistics	STAT 651 required ANTH 642 recommended	STAT 651 required ANTH 642 recommended	STAT 651 required ANTH 642 recommended
Ethnographic Field Methods	Recommended	Required	Required
Grad course in folklore	Recommended	Strongly recommended	Strongly recommended
Electives in Anthropology	Minimum of 9 hours	Minimum of 21 hours	Minimum of 12 hours
Electives outside of Anthropology	Minimum of 6 hours	Minimum of 6 hours	Minimum of 3 hours
Directed Studies (685)	Maximum of 8 hours	Maximum of 12 hours	Maximum of 9 hours
Research (691)	Maximum of 6 hours	Maximum of 48 hours	Maximum of 46 hours
Foreign Language requirement	Competency in one foreign language; language hours do not count towards the degree	Competency in one foreign language; language hours do not count towards the degree	Competency in one foreign language; language hours do not count towards the degree
Degree Plan and Committee Requirements	Degree Plan Required; Committee consists of Advisor, plus two members (one Anthropology and one Outside Member)	Degree Plan Required; Committee consists of Advisor, plus three members (at least one Anthropology and one Outside Member)	Degree Plan Required; Committee consists of Advisor, plus three members (at least one Anthropology and one Outside Member)
Comprehensive	—	Review paper	—
Preliminary Exam	—	Written Exam, followed by Oral Exam	Written Exam, followed by Oral Exam
Thesis/Dissertation Proposal	Required	Required; Submitted after completing exams and confers Ph.D. Candidacy	Required; Submitted after completing exams and confers Ph.D. Candidacy
Thesis/Dissertation Requirements	Oral defense required; (see below for description of thesis)	Dissertation based on fieldwork required; Oral defense required	Dissertation based on fieldwork required; Oral defense required

Table 2. Expected Progress Towards M.A. & Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology. This is the ideal timeline. The exact order in which these requirements are fulfilled does vary.

	M.A. Degree (Thesis)	Ph.D. Degree (from B.A.) with Non-Thesis Master's	Ph.D. Degree (direct from M.A.)
Year One	<p>Complete 18 hours of coursework</p> <p>In the first semester, confirm that provisional advisor will serve as Chair of Advisory Committee</p> <p>In the spring semester, complete an annual review form.</p> <p>Submit Degree Plan before registering for 3rd semester</p>	<p>Complete 18 hours of coursework</p> <p>In the first semester, confirm that provisional advisor will serve as Chair of Advisory Committee</p> <p>In the spring semester, complete an annual review form.</p>	<p>Complete 18 hours of coursework</p> <p>In the first semester, confirm that provisional advisor will serve as Chair of Advisory Committee</p> <p>In the spring semester, complete an annual review form.</p>
Summer One	<p>As applicable, conduct fieldwork for Master's thesis.</p>	<p>As agreed upon with advisor, conduct preliminary fieldwork and/or work on foreign language requirement</p>	<p>As agreed upon with advisor, conduct preliminary fieldwork and/or work on foreign language requirement</p>
Year Two	<p>In fall semester, complete 9 hours of coursework. Complete Master's thesis proposal, and submit committee's approval for proposal to OGS</p> <p>In spring semester, register for up to 6 hours of research hours (691) while completing thesis</p> <p>Use the semester to write the thesis</p> <p>Defend thesis at the end of the semester</p>	<p>Complete 18 hours of coursework (including up to 6 hours of Directed Study/Research).</p> <p>Form MA advisory committee and submit MA degree plan. Arrange comprehensive paper topic with advisor.</p> <p>In the spring semester, complete an annual review form.</p> <p>By end of 2nd year, you should have completed core courses in Anthropology (601, 602, & 604).</p> <p>During second semester, write and defend comprehensive paper (taking up to 3 hours of directed studies (685) or research hours (691)).</p>	<p>Register for up to 18 hours of coursework (may include some research hours)</p> <p>In the spring semester, student should complete an annual review form.</p> <p>By the end of the 2nd year, student should form Advisory Committee and submit Degree Plan to OGS</p> <p>By end of 2nd year, student should have completed core courses in Anthropology (601, 602 & 604).</p> <p>By the end of 2nd year, student should have completed foreign language requirement.</p>

Summer Two		As agreed upon with advisor, conduct preliminary fieldwork, work on foreign language requirement, and/or work on dissertation proposal. Complete comprehensive paper and exam if needed.	As agreed upon with advisor, conduct preliminary fieldwork, study foreign language, and/ or work on dissertation proposal.
Year Three		<p>Complete 18 hours of coursework</p> <p>Form advisory committee for Ph.D. and submit Ph.D. degree plan.</p> <p>By the end of the 3rd year, the foreign language requirement should be fulfilled.</p> <p>In spring semester, complete an annual review form.</p> <p>By the end of Year Three, you should have begun preparing for preliminary exams and preparing a dissertation proposal.</p>	<p>Complete any remaining coursework. Register for at least one research hour per semester.</p> <p>In spring semester, complete an annual review form.</p> <p>By the end of Year Three, you should complete preliminary exam and submit dissertation proposal to OGS.</p> <p>During Year Three, you should submit proposals for external funding.</p>
Year Four		<p>Register for up to 18 hours (may include some research hours).</p> <p>By the end of Year Four, complete preliminary exam and submit dissertation proposal to OGS. (Preliminary exams may be taken in either semester depending on progress.)</p> <p>In spring semester, complete an annual review.</p> <p>During Year Four, you should submit proposals for external funding.</p> <p>You might start fieldwork in Year Four, after completing prelims and submitting proposal.</p>	<p>Register for at least one research hour per semester.</p> <p>Conduct dissertation fieldwork. (Field research should be for a minimum of 9 months and maximum of 2 years.)</p> <p>In spring semester, complete an annual review form.</p>

Year Five		<p>Register for up to 18 research hours</p> <p>Conduct Dissertation fieldwork. (Field research should be for a minimum of 9 months and maximum of 2 years.)</p> <p>In spring semester, complete an annual review form.</p>	<p>Register for at least 1 research hour per semester.</p> <p>Dissertation Write-up.</p> <p>Dissertation Defense</p> <p>Graduation</p>
Year Six		<p>Register for at least 1 research hour per semester.</p> <p>Dissertation Write-Up</p> <p>Dissertation Defense</p> <p>Graduation</p>	

NOTE: Graduation in either track can be accelerated by the student taking more than 9 hours/semester and by obtaining summer course credits.

III. Curriculum Policies

Admissions Policy. The Cultural Anthropology Program accepts graduate students who are interested in pursuing either an M.A. or Ph.D. degree. Students may enter the program with a B.A. or M.A. Students coming from a B.A. program may apply for direct admissions into the Ph.D. program, and should do so if their ultimate intention is to receive a Ph.D. in Anthropology from Texas A&M University. Students with an M.A. in a related field should apply to the Ph.D. program. With committee's approval, such students would follow the "Ph.D. direct from an M.A track" outlined above.

In the admissions essay ("Letter of Intent"), the student should indicate their specific research interests and the faculty members with whom they would like to work. A majority vote of the Cultural Anthropology Program faculty is needed to admit a student into the Program.

Admission to the Ph.D. program does not guarantee the granting of a degree. All students are evaluated regularly and must receive satisfactory reports in order to be allowed to continue in the program. For more information, please read the paragraphs below regarding the "Annual Student Review Process" and the "Non-Thesis Master's Degree."

Policy Regarding Core Classes

1. Graduate students in the Cultural Anthropology Program must take ANTH 604. There are no exceptions to this policy.
2. Waivers for ANTH 604 may be granted for graduate students in the Archaeology, Biological Anthropology and Nautical Archaeology Programs on a case-by-case basis. Students requesting a waiver are to provide: a) evidence that a similar course was taken at another institution, b) a syllabus of this course, and c) an A or B grade for the substitute course. If a waiver is granted, the student must take an alternative course offered by a Cultural Anthropology faculty member.
3. Graduate students in the Cultural Anthropology Program may request a waiver of ANTH 601 (core course in Biological Anthropology) or ANTH 602 (core course in Archaeology) from those respective programs. Students must abide by the decisions and policies of those Programs.

General Policies and Objectives

- 1) ANTH 489 and ANTH 689 courses should only be taught with the specific intention of creating a new permanent course.
- 2) Each semester, at least one section of ANTH 210 will be taught by a regular faculty member in the Cultural Anthropology Program.
- 3) All graduate students in the Cultural Anthropology Program must graduate with some ethnographic field experience, and field research should be for a minimum of 9 months and

maximum of 2 years. It is the responsibility of the student's committee chair to make sure that this is enforced.

Annual Student Review Process. Every spring semester, graduate students in the Cultural Anthropology Program are required to submit a completed Annual Review Form and an updated copy of their vita to their advisor for review. These documents will be reviewed by the advisor and members of the Cultural Anthropology Program in order to determine if the student is making "satisfactory" or "unsatisfactory" progress towards graduation. These reviews will be placed in the student's official file. A copy of the review will be provided to the student. In cases where the advisor and committee deem that the student's progress is "unsatisfactory," the letter will specify what the student must do (including a time line) to improve their status. The student may be placed on Scholastic Probation according to university policy. Failure to follow what is specified in the letter will result in dismissal from the program. If a student receives two "unsatisfactory" reviews in a row, the student will be dismissed from the program.

Thesis M.A. Students entering the M.A. program must complete an M.A. thesis. The M.A. thesis requires original research on a topic that the student selects in consultation with their advisor. The M.A. thesis should be approximately 80-100 pages in length and must be orally presented and defended.

Comprehensive Paper. This requirement must be fulfilled for students who enter the Ph.D. program from a B.A. and serves as the "comprehensive exam" required to earn a non-thesis M.A. The paper should be 25-30 pages in length (~250 words per page), not including the reference section. The research paper should provide a comprehensive literature review of a selected topic in cultural anthropology and should be written in a form that could be published in a review journal, such as the *Annual Review of Anthropology*. This option requires a final exam, which consists of an oral presentation and defense of the research paper. The defense of the research paper meets the departmental requirement for a "comprehensive exam" outlined in the Texas A&M Graduate Catalog.

During the defense of the research paper, faculty members will discuss the quality of the research paper and student's overall progress towards the Ph.D. degree. If a student's performance in both regards is positive, the student will be encouraged to change their status to that of a Ph.D. student. If the student's performance is unsatisfactory, the student may be encouraged to pursue a terminal M.A. degree, yet be discouraged from continuing on in the Ph.D. program.

Dissertation Proposal. The student prepares a preliminary dissertation proposal. This proposal will specify the intended topic of the dissertation, theoretical framework, geographic area of field work, and methods of research. The proposal will be submitted to the committee for review and approval. The proposal should take the form of an NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (or something comparable as decided by the committee). Students will be encouraged to apply for external funding to support their dissertation research.

Preliminary Examination. An examination will be held to assess the student's knowledge and

to orally defend their dissertation proposal. This exam has both a written and oral component. The exam will be presided over by the student's advisor. The advisor and committee members will provide the written questions and oral questioning.

Dissertation. A student writes a dissertation based on ethnographic fieldwork. In the Cultural Anthropology program, the dissertation must adhere to the classic-style dissertation with multiple chapters that introduce a research question, present a theoretical framework, discuss methods, and interpret fieldwork data.

Teaching Experience. Students are strongly encouraged to develop skills and experience teaching at the college/university level by serving as a Teaching Assistant in the Department of Anthropology. Students may apply for teaching assistantships in order to acquire this teaching experience.

IV. Courses Offered by the Cultural Anthropology Program

Undergraduate Courses Offered by the Cultural Anthropology Program

ANTH 205	Peoples and Cultures of the World
ANTH 210	Social and Cultural Anthropology
ANTH 229	Introduction to Folklore
ANTH 300	Cultural Change and Development
ANTH 314	Agrarian Peasant Societies
ANTH 324	Music in World Cultures (offered through Performance Studies)
ANTH 335	Cultures of Central Asia
ANTH 340	Folklore and the Supernatural
ANTH 403	Anthropology of Religion
ANTH 404	Women and Culture
ANTH 410	Anthropological Theory
ANTH 424	Introduction to Human Evolutionary Ecology
ANTH 430	Applied Anthropology
ANTH 434	Human Evolutionary Ecology II: Reproduction & Parenting
ANTH 440	Studies in Globalization: Afro-Atlantic Religions
ANTH 445	Studies in the African Diaspora: Global African Popular Culture
ANTH 445	Studies in the African Diaspora: Caribbean Modernities
ANTH 489	Culture and Evolution
ANTH 489	Ethnographic Studies of Hunter-Gatherer Societies
ANTH 489	Anthropology of Globalization
ANTH 489	Agriculture & Society in Mexico: Past and Present
ANTH 489	Anthropology of the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands

Undergraduate Courses Offered by Cultural Anthropology Faculty Members

Michael Alvard

ANTH 201	Introduction to Anthropology
ANTH 205	Peoples and Cultures of the World
ANTH 210	Social and Cultural Anthropology
ANTH 424	Introduction to Human Evolutionary Ecology
ANTH 489	Culture and Evolution
ANTH 489	Ethnographic Studies of Hunter-Gatherer Societies
<u>N. Fadeke Castor</u>	
ANTH 210	Social and Cultural Anthropology
ANTH 440	Studies in Globalization: Afro-Atlantic Religions
ANTH 445	Studies in the African Diaspora: Global African Popular Culture
ANTH 445	Studies in the African Diaspora: Caribbean Modernities
<u>Norbert Dannhaeuser</u>	
ANTH 205	Peoples and Cultures of the World
ANTH 210	Social and Cultural Anthropology
ANTH 300	Cultural Change and Development
ANTH 314	Agrarian Peasant Societies
ANTH 410	Anthropological Theory
ANTH 430	Applied Anthropology
<u>Travis Du Bry</u>	
ANTH 430	Applied Anthropology
ANTH 489	Agriculture & Society in Mexico: Past and Present
ANTH 489	Anthropology of the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands
<u>Tom Green</u>	
ANTH 229	Introduction to Folklore
ANTH 340	Folklore and the Supernatural
<u>Cynthia Werner</u>	
ANTH 210	Social and Cultural Anthropology
ANTH 335	Cultures of Central Asia
ANTH 404	Women and Culture
ANTH 430	Applied Anthropology
<u>Jeffrey Winking</u>	
ANTH 205	Peoples and Cultures of the World
ANTH 210	Social and Cultural Anthropology
ANTH 434	Human Evolutionary Ecology II: Reproduction & Parenting

Graduate Courses Offered by the Cultural Anthropology Program (by course number)

ANTH 604	Cultural Method and Theory
ANTH 609	Culture and Evolution
ANTH 622	Folklore Forms and Methods
ANTH 623	Folk Narrative
ANTH 630	Human Evolutionary Ecology
ANTH 640	Anthropological Ethics and Professionalism
ANTH 641	Applied Anthropology
ANTH 650	Ethnographic Field Methods
ANTH 689	Quantitative Ethnographic Methods

Graduate Courses Offered by Cultural Anthropology Program Faculty (by faculty member)

Michael Alvard

ANTH 609	Culture and Evolution
ANTH 630	Human Evolutionary Ecology
ANTH 650	Ethnographic Field Methods

Norbert Dannhaeuser

ANTH 604	Cultural Method and Theory
ANTH 641	Applied Anthropology

Travis Du Bry

ANTH 641	Applied Anthropology
ANTH 689	Anthropology of Globalization
ANTH 689	Agriculture & Society in Mexico: Past and Present

Tom Green

ANTH 622	Folklore Forms and Methods
ANTH 623	Folk Narrative

Cynthia Werner

ANTH 640	Ethics and Professionalism in Anthropology
ANTH 641	Applied Anthropology
ANTH 650	Ethnographic Field Methods

Jeffrey Winking

ANTH 630	Human Evolutionary Ecology
ANTH 689	Quantitative Ethnographic Methods