

ABOUT THE ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENT 2011-2012

Anthropology is the study and understanding of humans throughout time, including the effects of culture on individuals and of individuals on their society. Anthropology offers a perspective for critically analyzing culture and prepares students for multicultural career settings in the United States and abroad.

Why Study Anthropology at GVSU?

- The anthropology program regularly sponsors locally based field schools in archaeology and cultural anthropology
- Opportunities for fieldwork abroad are occasionally available with faculty
- Post-field independent research opportunities are available through the Anthropology Lab
- Our internship program offers skill-building and outreach experience in local and international communities
- The Anthropology Club is one of many ways we create a community for students to promote interests in anthropology and cultural and educational events
- The GVSU chapter of the National Scholastic anthropology fraternity is also available for interested students.
- The department offers three annual scholarships
- The anthropology department has outstanding faculty. Visit www.gvsu.edu/anthropology to meet them.

What degrees are offered in Anthropology?

The department offers anthropology B.A. and B.S. majors, a minor in anthropology, and participates in the Interdepartmental Minor in Archaeology. In addition, Anthropology contributes substantially to the General Education Program, teaching four Foundation Courses, nine Theme Courses, ten World Perspectives courses and one US Diversity course. The Anthropology Department currently has 160 majors and 60 minors (Fall 2011).

The Anthropology Department offers various opportunities for students:

1. Fieldwork, Research, and Internship Opportunities

The anthropology program regularly sponsors field schools in archaeology and cultural anthropology. Summer programs are locally based and are accessible to commuters as well as on-campus students. Students join faculty on research projects at sites ranging from local to international. Our Internship Program connects students to local and international organizations.

2. Anthropology Lab

Located in 249 LMH, the anthropology lab houses a collection of over 200,000 artifacts from more than 100 sites. Available to faculty and students for class-based and independent research, the Lab is the academic, research, and social hub of the department.

3. Scholarships and Honors Organization

The department helps students with several competitive annual scholarships. In addition, Grand Valley State University's Michigan Beta Chapter of Lambda Alpha is dedicated to promoting and recognizing scholarly achievement by students working toward degrees or minors in anthropology; or students with a strong interest and background in anthropology.

4. Anthropology Club

Open to all majors, minors and other interested students, the Anthropology Club sponsors speakers and fundraising events and participates in local, regional, and national meetings of anthropology. The club is involved in local and international community service projects. The Clubs also works with our chapter of the Lambda Alpha Honor Society.

Faculty

Dr. Elizabeth Arnold, Assistant Professor: Zooarchaeologist specializing in animals and their environment in the archaeological record. Her research uses isotope analysis to examine the mobility of domesticated herds and its affect on human settlements patterns and alliance networks; cultural resource management.

Dr. Dale Borders, Affiliate Professor: Historical archaeologist specializing in frontier settlement, agriculture and kinship. Current research involves Native American/EuroAmerican settlement and interaction in Michigan's frontier period.

Dr. Janet Brashler, Professor: Archaeologist specializing in the Eastern United States and the Middle East. She has conducted or participated in field projects in Michigan and the country of Jordan. Her current research involves sites and ceramics from 2000 years ago.

Dr. Judith Corr, Associate Professor: Biological anthropologist specializing in nonhuman primate behavior, social aging, and evolution. Research involves chimpanzees, rhesus macaques and other primate species in North and South America and in Africa.

Dr. Cindy Hull, Professor: Cultural anthropologist specializing in the Maya region of Mexico, specifically changing gender roles and culture change in Yucatan. Current research on rural Michigan farming communities; Additional research on Pohnpei Island, Micronesia.

Dr. Gwyn Madden, Assistant Professor: Bioarchaeologist with specialty in osteology, paleopathology, and mummy research. Current research focuses on excavation in Ukraine, analysis of Byzantine period skeletal remains from Jordan, and analysis of three South American mummies housed in Norway; additional research preparing Osteoware data collection system in association with the Smithsonian Institution.

Dr. Azizur Molla, Assistant Professor: Medical anthropologist and demographer, with research on water quality, family planning and maternal mortality in Bangladesh; Additional research in public health/radon in US; Expertise in research methods and Development Anthropology.

Dr. Russell Rhoads, Associate Professor, Chair: Cultural and applied anthropologist with a specialty in agricultural anthropology, migration, family and kinship, and anthropological methods. Research areas include Michigan, India, and Latin America. Current research focuses on food systems in Western Michigan.

Dr. Mark Schwartz, Associate Professor: Archaeologist specializing in Near East/Middle East, and ancient trade. Dr. Schwartz has worked on excavations in Turkey, the Middle East, and Arizona. Current research involves an archaeological excavation in Turkey.

Dr. Christian Vannier, Visiting Professor: Sociocultural anthropologist researching social/economic development and NGOs. Current research focuses on grassroots organizations in Haiti and Michigan.

Dr. Heather Van Wormer, Assistant Professor: Cultural anthropologist with expertise in archaeology and material culture; specializes in intentional communities, social memory, historical anthropology and social movements in N. Am.

Dr. Deana Weibel, Associate Professor: Cultural anthropologist specializing in comparative religions and religious movements. She also has expertise in anthropological linguistics. Her research is conducted in Europe and the U.S.

Staff

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