Cultural and Linguistic Anthropology
Concentration

Cultural Anthropology studies contemporary cultural processes around the world. Its primary method is qualitative ethnographic field research, grounded in long-term participant observation and interviewing, making use of audio and video recording. It is supplemented by other research techniques, including surveys and text analysis. In addition to theory, the Penn program focuses on topics of broad public interest — such as drug addiction, pharmaceutical testing, poverty and homelessness, access to health, immigration, racial and ethnic identities, violence, mass media, and modern business corporations. In preparing students for citizenship in a globalized world, the program attempts to investigate cultural differences as well as global cultural circulations.

At Penn, Cultural Anthropology is joined with Linguistic Anthropology, whose focus is language and discourse as part and parcel of cultural processes. Linguistic Anthropology adopts a semiotic perspective on language, viewing it as part of communicative processes more generally, rather than as an autonomous realm, for example, as a manifestation of brain structure. As it blends seamlessly into Cultural Anthropology, it is also concerned with other sign systems, such as clothing styles, body adornments, behavioral habits, and brands and icons, and the role these play in broader social processes.

Concentration Requirements

The concentration consists of 14 courses distributed across four Blocks.

Block 1: Foundations
Students will take ANTH 002 or 004 plus two of the following:

- Anth 001: Intro to Archaeology
- Anth 003: Intro to Human Evolution
- Anth 005: Great Transformations
- Anth 125: Anthropology of the Americas

Block 2: Methods and Theory
Students will take two of the following:

- Anth 012: Globalization and Its Historical Significance
- Anth 123: Communication and Culture
- Anth 204: Theoretical Foundations
- Anth 238: Introduction to Medical Anthropology
- Anth 303: Research Methods in Cultural Anthropology

Block 3: Regional and Thematic Topics
Students will take two of the following:

- Anth 100: Anthropology and the Modern World
- Anth 116: Caribbean Culture and Politics
Block 4: Electives

Students will take seven more anthropology courses to complete their major, as well as specialize in a particular theme. See below for more information.

These lists include the standard acceptable courses for these blocks. See the undergraduate coordinator for more information about other courses which might become available on a year-to-year basis. And of these courses can also be used as Block IV electives if not applied to the above requirements.

I.  **Block I - Foundations:** ANTH 002 or 004 and any two of the following: ANTH 001, ANTH 003, ANTH 005, ANTH 125

1.  **Anth 002: Intro to Cultural Anthropology OR Anth 004: The Modern World and its Cultural Background**

2.  

3.  

II.  **Block II – Methods and Theory:** Any two of the following: ANTH 012, ANTH 123, ANTH 204, ANTH 238, ANTH 303

4.  

5.  

III.  **Block III – Global Issues:** Any two of the following: ANTH 100, ANTH 133, ANTH 116, ANTH 218, ANTH 401

6.  

7.  

IV.  **Block IV- General Electives:** Seven courses assumed to be primarily cultural anthropology courses. Here, you can specialize in one or more themes by taking three courses in a particular theme. No more than three may be chosen from approved non-Anthropology courses approved by the major advisor.

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**Cultural Anthropological Themes**

1.  The Americas

   Anth 116: Caribbean Culture and Politics
Anth 125: Anthropology of the Americas
Anth 133: Native Peoples and the Environment

2. Mass Media

Anth 123: Communication and Culture
Anth 160: Mythology and the Movies
Anth 231: Anthropology and Cinema
Comm 422: Televised Redemption

3. Public Interest Anthropology

Anth 152: Fat and Society
Anth 184: Food and Culture
Anth 210: Death: Anthropological Perspectives
Anth 290: Multiculturalism: Theory and Practice
Anth 420: Nations, Nationalism, and Politics
Pubh 528: Ethnographic Approaches
Anth 546: Global Citizenship
Anth 547: Anthropology and Education
Anth 587: Race, Nation, Empire

4. Anthropology of Business

Anth 012: Globalization and Its Historical Significance
Anth 225: Anthropology of Business
Anth 234: Pharmaceuticals and Global Health
Anth 260: Cultures of Science and Technology
Anth 316: Anthropology of Global Labor
Anth 347: Anthropology of Corporations

5. Medical Anthropology

Anth 213: Local Biologies
Anth 234: Pharmaceuticals and Global Health
Anth 238: Introduction to Medical Anthropology
Anth 260: Cultures of Science and Technology
Anth 309: Anthropology and Psychoanalysis
Anth 437: Cultural Models and Health
Anth 441: Cross-cultural Approaches to Health and Illness
Pubh 528: Ethnographic Approaches