Anthropology

Overview

Anthropology is the exploration of the human condition. In coursework, individual study and field schools, you examine an astonishing range of human experience across space and time. Our curriculum incorporates a wide variety of themes in cultural anthropology as well as archaeology, and you can pursue a geographic specialization in Africa, the Caribbean, Europe, South America or North America. Your work will give you rich insights into our increasingly interconnected, globalized world. It will prepare you for a variety of careers, too. Our students go on to graduate school for anthropology and related disciplines, and they pursue work in higher education, business, law, human rights and many other fields.

Special Opportunities

Many anthropology majors pursue a second major or a minor in another field, drawing connections between such diverse fields as art, art history, biology, botany, economics, English, Hispanic studies, international relations and psychology. A number of students are accepted to the College’s interdisciplinary centers, where they focus on international studies, the environment or public policy. Some of our majors pursue research apprenticeships and collaborate in the formal presentation and publication of research with our faculty.

Internships and Study Away

Anthropology majors have recently completed semester-long academic programs in Australia, Brazil, China, Greece, Denmark, England, Germany, Ireland, Israel, India, Italy, Scotland, South Africa, Spain, Syria and Vietnam. Areas of research have included food security, organic farming, museum outreach and education, and heritage management. We encourage students to study abroad, pursue research-intensive field programs and deepen their secondary language competencies.

Zoe Lieb

Anthropology

Q: Why Connecticut College?
A: I was impressed by the science facilities and the Arboretum. I was drawn to a liberal arts education because I had a pretty good idea of what I wanted to do – learn from nature, grow academically, build analytical skills – but there was so much I was still waiting to figure out.

Q: Why did you decide to study anthropology?
A: After taking an introductory anthropology class and another class called “Human Origins,” I realized that anthropology was the missing link in my intellectual experience. Through the anthropology department I’ve been able to build relationships with professors of many different backgrounds, uncover connections and interests I never knew existed, and pursue my own independent study with a solid network of resources behind me.

Q: Did you study abroad?
A: I studied abroad in Queensland, Australia with School for Field Studies (SFS) in the fall of my junior year. It was probably my most formative experience yet. ... The center was 2.5km into a World Heritage Site rainforest, one of the last remaining in Australia. SFS gave me the unique opportunity to learn from the rainforest and explore the issues facing nearby rural communities. The study abroad office made going abroad a complete no-brainer: no matter your major, financial situation or other obligations, a semester abroad is within reach.
Faculty

Joyce Bennett, Assistant Professor of Anthropology
B.A., University of Richmond; M.A., Ph.D., Tulane University
Language revitalization; ethnicity and identity performance; migration; gender and sexuality

Catherine Benoit, Professor of Anthropology
B.A., Université la Sorbonne-Paris I and Paris VII; M.A., Ph.D., Ecole des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales
Medical anthropology; anthropology of space; migration and border reinforcement; African diaspora

Rachel Black, Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology
B.A. (Hon), M.A., University of British Columbia; Ph.D., Università degli Studi di Torino
Food studies; anthropology of the senses; European ethnography; economic anthropology; gender and work

Jeffrey Cole, Associate Dean of the Faculty; Professor of Anthropology
B.A., Portland State University; Cand. Mag., University of Oslo, Norway; Ph.D., City University of New York
Migration; race and ethnicity; food and agriculture; work

Anthony P. Graesch, Associate Professor of Anthropology
B.A., M.A., Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles
North American archaeology; colonialism; household archaeology; urban ethnoarchaeology; modern material culture; experimental archaeology

Manuel Lizarralde, Associate Professor of Botany and Anthropology
B.A., M.A., Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley
Ethnobotany; environmental anthropology

Christopher B. Steiner, Lucy C. McDannel ’22 Professor of Art History and Anthropology; Director of Museum Studies Program
B.A., M.A., Johns Hopkins University; M.A., Ph.D., Harvard University
African art; art market and collecting; image of the other in visual culture; offbeat museums and visionary art

Selected Courses

Ethnobotany; Environmental Anthropology; Cultivating Change; Worlds of Food; Urban Ethnoarchaeology; Experimental Archaeology; Ruins in the Forest: Archaeology of the Arboretum; Imagining Otherness in Visual Culture; Authenticity in Art and Culture

About Connecticut College

Connecticut College educates students to put the liberal arts into action as citizens in a global society. A leader in the liberal arts since 1911, the College is home to nationally ranked programs for internships, community action, arts and technology, environmental studies and international studies. Our beautiful 750-acre arboretum campus is located in the historic New England seaport community of New London, Conn.